

Housing the Sunday School.

The Rev. N. Friberg, Diocesan Organiser for Sunday Schools, Dunedin, recently gave a lecture on the above subject, from which we make the following extracts:—

A recent issue of the *Sunday School Chronicle* of London, England, tells of a great commission appointed by the Sunday School Union for the express purpose of considering structural improvement of modern Sunday school buildings. Nothing practical seems to have resulted, but the attempt is not a day too soon, for out of the Sunday school, we are told, there come four-fifths of the additions to our congregations by confirmation or conversion, yet throughout the country, probably not over one-fourth of the Church's time, workers, or money is devoted to Sunday school work.

Marion Lawrence, the U.S. Sunday School expert, writes in his well-known book:—"I have been told of one fine church recently completed, whose audience room will accommodate a thousand people, while its Sunday school will accommodate less than 200. Unless that church changes its attitude towards its Sunday school work, it will probably see the day when its Sunday schoolroom will be large enough for the church service."

Every essential of a good church building can be secured without extravagant expenditure of money. Extravagance and parsimony in church buildings are both sins of the first magnitude. Where parsimony furnishes the chief hindrance we should remember that such conditions do not usually result from lack of money, but from lack of conscience.

There is no reason why a church building should be less suitably arranged for the work done in it than a factory, or a well-ordered kitchen in our homes.

STEPS TO SECURE A NEW BUILDING.

First Step: Realise the need.—Until there is a general recognition of the fact that a new building is a necessity, it is almost useless to proceed further.

Second Step: Create the sentiment.—There will be heard such expressions as these:

New buildings cost money!

The present building has done good service for many years!

Wait until times are better!

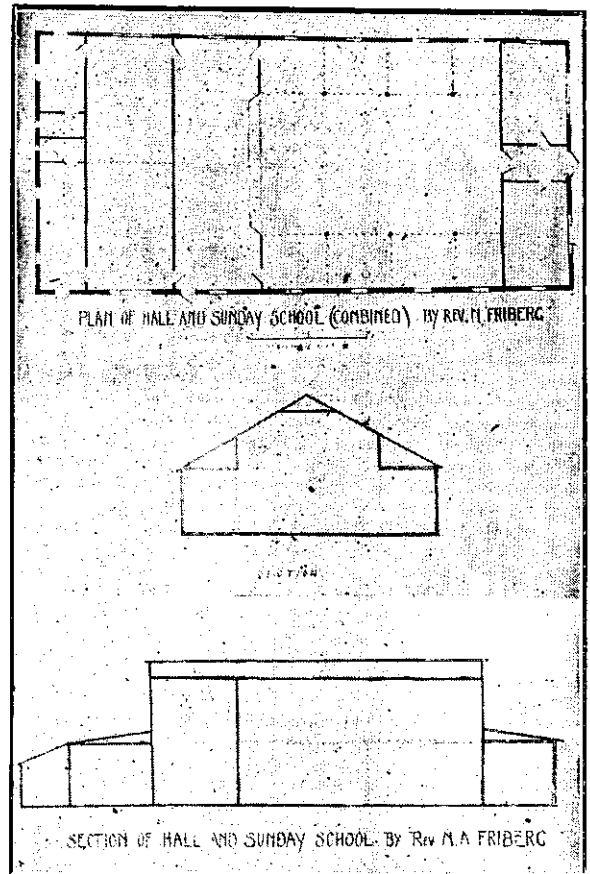
(a) Very clearly must it be shown that the Sunday school can do much better work and be of greater help to the church if properly housed and equipped.

(b) Begin a nest-egg as an *educational influence*. The ever-present fact—even among the penny-saving Sunday school scholars—that a *new* building is "in the air," hastens the day of its appearing.

Third Step: Decide tentatively, and appoint a Building Committee. Since it is a Sunday school building that they are considering, the committee should be very much alive to the interests of the Sunday school. It will be time well spent if some

of the members of this committee visit a few up-to-date buildings, where new and valuable ideas may be caught and put to practical use.

Fourth Step: Engage an architect.—Probably more blunders are made at this point than at any other in the whole range of church building. Many building committees make costly mistakes erecting great monuments to their own lack of wisdom; giving point to Prof. McCabe's witty saying: "You can pay off a mortgage, but you cannot remove a regret." Give the architect his proper place and treat him as you would your lawyer or your



Plan and Section of a Sunday School, by the Rev. N. A. Friberg.

physician. Lay before him all the conditions entering into the matter and trust him to bring about the right result.

Fifth Step: Decide cost and plans.—Since church buildings abide for many years either as a joy or an eyesore, it is better to defer building temporarily than to put up a makeshift; and if it be decided to begin with only a portion, the completed building should be planned to adequately meet the needs of the date of completion.

Sixth Step: Get the money.—Do not begin definite operations until sufficient funds have been secured or pledged to warrant the step. Churches should transact business in a businesslike way. It may be well to issue a sort of prospectus, stating briefly the needs of the school and the purpose of