



Issued for the 2nd
Sunday in the Month
Founded 1890.

THE
Lyceum Banner

A MONTHLY RECORD
OF LYCEUM WORK AND PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. A PAPER FOR
THE LYCEUM, THE SOCIETY, AND THE HOME.

Official Organ of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

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A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

VOL. XI.

FEBRUARY, 1901.

NO. 122.

THE HOLIDAY VISIT.

BY VIRGO.

CHAPTER II.

On her return home it was with difficulty that she kept her mind calm enough for the preparation of her lessons, and when her younger brothers asked her the meaning of this? or the way to spell that? what rule to work this sum by? or was Christopher Columbus a Portuguese or an Englishman? try as she would her manner was sharp and her tone irritable, and instead of the kind and obliging and willing help she usually tried to give them in their difficulties, she found herself advising them to get a dictionary, to try first one rule and then another, and not hinder her, etc.,—her vexation on hearing “how disagreeable Lucy is to-night,” come from Gus, as he got up to reach a dictionary, hearing as he went three different ways of spelling the word given by one and another, causing much laughing, Lucy meanwhile blaming herself and reasoning, why didn't I tell him; it would not have taken so long as to say what I did say? I will tell him now. And thereupon she spelled the word.

“Thank you Miss Grumpy, I've got it in the dictionary now.”

Lucy was tempted to answer again, but she thought in time.

Their mother, Mrs. Stevens, observed this little scene and well knew that there was some cause for all irritability, which nothing but sympathy and love can remove. When the books were laid aside and the little ones had gone to bed, Percy went to the piano, Mrs. Stevens laid down her sewing, drew Lucy to her side with a loving kiss, carefully avoiding any reproach for her hasty manner towards her brothers, fearing it might check the outburst which she knew must follow, and thus hide from her the cause.

“Well, Lucy, and so you break up on Thursday. A joyful day that! no more study or school for five weeks.”

“Oh! I like study and school, but I don't like Mrs. Wilson.”

“Why, my daughter, you should dislike none of God's people, besides you are setting up the conditions for some one to say the same to you. What has Mrs. Wilson done to vex you?”

“She told Bertha that all mediums were wicked people.”

“You see she does not know any, and unthinking people

are generally loud in their condemnation of that they do not understand.”

“Then Mrs Wilson must be a wicked woman.”

“It does not follow that unthinking people are wicked ones. Mrs. Wilson speaks as she has been taught and so far is justified.”

“But how can she be just in speaking ill of those she does not even know?”

“She belongs to a narrow creed of religionists whose ministers teach that all who believe anything contrary to what they teach must suffer eternal damnation, therefore, you see, she believes she is right in calling mediums wicked from her own point of faith.”

“And do mediums speak against the Church and her ministers?”

“I am afraid there are mediums as well as ministers, who, lacking ‘that charity which thinketh no evil,’ often forget that the mission of the preacher is not to condemn, but simply to set people thinking in order that they may be capable of judging themselves, leaving their neighbours the same work to do for themselves. The mistake lies here. Till within a hundred years ago the masses of the people could not read and write, even among the well-to-do it was the exception to find a family who could read, write, and work the first four rules in arithmetic. They had to go to church or chapel to hear the Bible read, for only the rich and learned could understand Latin, the tongue the Bible and prayers were then read in. Men then had to be content with the explanation their ministers gave them. Even after William Tyndall translated the Bible into English it was too dear to be in general use, this gave the clergy power to teach or suppress as much as they chose, for the people knew no difference. Now that the Bible Society gives us a cheap Bible in English, and the nation compels everyone to be educated, men and women can think for themselves on religion as they do on everything else, instead of depending for salvation on what the minister says, or on what was written in a book long ages ago, so long indeed, that no one knows who wrote it, or when. They find it wiser for ‘every man to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling,’ in God's sight, not man's. This has brought many opinions about religion, hence many sects, but as there is only one God His Spirit actuates all those sects, and no one of them has a right to say, ‘I am right, you are wrong,’ ‘I am good, you are wicked,’ ‘I am following God, you are following the Devil.’ Every sect which aims at the development of man's spirit over his body will take him to heaven, and there are people at God's right hand from among Idolators, Mahomedans, and Buddhist, as well as from among Christians.”

“Then, Mamma, it does not matter what religion we are?”

(To be continued.)

OUR BLUEBELLS' PAGE

CONDUCTED BY

FLORA BELLE.

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

I have had such a funny letter, and it was signed "A Forest Fairy," the post mark was Bournemouth, but whoever it came from I cannot make out! I do not know any one in that place, but Ted says no doubt it is somebody who reads the LYCEUM BANNER, which I suppose it must be? Of course there are no fairies now, though I think it is nicer to believe that there is, for I do like "Grimms Goblins" so much. Ted says never mind what you like, tell the Bluebells what the letter is about. So I suppose I had better do so. The letter reads like this, I had better copy it, father says. Well, I will do so.

JANUARY 17th, 1901.

MY DEAR FLORA BELLE,

Do you not know me of course, and I only know you by reading about the BLUEBELLS GUILD, which I like very much indeed. The rules you give us are just the thing for children, for I like to see them cultivate gentleness, kindness and good behaviour. Other people have similar guilds, and I am sure Spiritualists will welcome one for themselves. I am a Spiritualist, dear, and am very happy to hear from my spirit friends through another little girl, like yourself. She is my eldest daughter, and I think she must be like you. I think your brother Edward must, also, be a nice boy, for I like boys very much, especially good, manly ones, dear. I see you say that no payments are to be made by the members, but who is to pay for the cards? It will be too bad to make you, or the Editor do so, and as you do not say no one is not to give you anything will you let me send you five shillings towards their cost? I send you a Postal Order, dear, for that amount, and I hope you will accept it. I shall continue to read your letters every month, and you may hear from me now and then. With much love and every wish for the success of your little guild, I am your sincere friend,

A FOREST FAIRY.

Now is not that a nice letter? We all think so, Father, Mother, Ted and I. So I at once wrote to the printer to ask him how much he would print our Guild Cards for, and he said he would do them nicely and cheaply for me, and would let me know in time to have them ready for the next issue of the BANNER. So I expect they will be ready to go with the papers next month.

I was getting bothered about how to get the cards done, for only three days before I received three post cards, two from Leicester, the first from Roy Roberts, and the second from Stanley Roberts, saying "please make me a member of the Bluebells Guild," while the third came from Annie Holden, of Seedley, so their names are the first ones to be received. Now a beginning has been made I fancy we shall soon have a lot more come in, which will be very nice, wont it? Ted wants me to have a book and put all the names down in it, and I think I will. Father has just looked over my shoulder, and he now says he will buy me one, which is very kind of him, isn't it? I am sure I shall soon have a lot of Bluebells all over the country now.

You remember I told you last month we had a little spirit friend whose name is "Wild Flower," and that she would write something for my page sometimes? Well, she has done so, and I will give it to you now.

WILD FLOWER'S MESSAGE.

Once there was a beautiful garden filled with many rich flowers. There were many trees as well, and beautiful paths, too. When the sun shone on it all it was a lovely place to wander in, and the perfume of the flowers was most delicious to inhale. There was one spot that the gardener had cleared for the purpose of planting some new flowers in, and roses and lillies and geraniums were planted, and a beautiful border of box was put round the spot. Right in the centre a fountain had been made, and a creeping vine was planted by its side. The flowers all grew up together, and looked beautiful when in bloom. In the course of time the vine began to grow, and as it was not so bright as the flowers, it became cross at the attention the visitors paid them. To be sure that he got noticed the vine made mighty efforts to spread away from the basin of the fountain and thrust himself among the flowers. But the gardener seeing that he would choke up the flowers pruned him, and turned him to the fountain, that he might twine around the basin and add to its beauty. This angered the vine, and he sulked for many days, until one day he saw a stranger growing by his side, and at first he would have nothing to say to it, but presently he gave it a surly good morning, and later they got to talking about the unkindness of the gardener, who had trimmed him so badly. Then the stranger said he was afraid that the gardener would pull him up altogether, for gardeners did not like him at all among flowers, for the newcomer's name was Deadly Nightshade! He did not like flowers, either, so presently they both agreed that they would do their best to get among the flowers and be sure that people saw and admired them. This they proceeded to do for a while, and many people said they looked very nice. But the gardener seeing the harm they were doing said he should pull them both up, which he did, much to the astonishment of the flowers, who at first thought the two looked very nice. But after they were gone, and the flowers felt so much better afterwards, they thought the gardener knew best, and were contented. The vine was taken to a corner of the garden, where there was an old wall, and after getting over the vexation of being moved from the beautiful flowers, he set to work to cover the rough bricks, and did it so well that everybody admired him, but the Deadly Nightshade was thrown into the fire and burned.

Wild Flower say there is a nice Moral to her little message, and she would like my Bluebells to write to me and tell me what they think it is? Will some of you try to make it out?

There is a knock at the door, I wonder who it can be? Someone is coming into the room, why! I declare, if it isn't the Editor! I must put this away until he is gone! What sharp eyes he has! He said, well Flora, are you writing your letter? Of course, I had to say yes, then the tiresome man wanted to see it! I let him do so, and when he had read "Wild Flower's" message he smiled, and said it was very good, and he thought he understood her allegory, he called it, (Ted said it was more like a parable, whatever that is,) but the Editor said, now Flora, if you will say that to any reader of the Message who sends in the best explanation I will send a Postal Order for One Shilling and Sixpence, you may do so. There now, that's what I call kind, and if you will, any of you, write to the BANNER I am sure the Editor will keep his promise. (Certainly, EDITOR.) We had a nice talk about the cards, and the Editor said he would pay what they cost over the present sent to me by "A Forest Fairy," so that is all right now, and the cards will be printed.

Ted says I had better stop now, or I shall be filling the paper, which is silly, for it would take more to do so than I could write in a week. But I think I will take his advice this time, and leave off here.

With all good wishes to all, I am your ever loving sister,

FLORA BELLE.

Members of the Guild.

No. 1. Roy Roberts. No. 2. Stanley Roberts.
No. 3. Annie Holden.

THE LIBERTY GROUP

[Under the above heading it is proposed to publish each month a special article or essay for the use of the Liberty Groups in Lyceums. Original articles are invited. It is hoped our young men and young women will contribute to the Group, or participate in any discussion that may arise out of articles published in it.—EDITOR.]

THE ENGLISH CHRISTIAN ERA.

By ROBERT LEWIS, St. Paul's Lyceum, Bradford.

Christianity, which has achieved such a world-wide popularity, was introduced into England about the latter end of the first century. Whether it owes its introduction to Peter or Paul the historians have failed to obtain any definite information. Although this great popularity has been attained, the methods that have been resorted to for its attainment have furnished England with most of the darkest annals throughout her history. The first record of Christian martyrdom that we possess occurred during the Roman period, when St. Alban, the first British martyr, died for the Christian cause only a few years previous to the reign of Constantine the Great, who encouraged the teachings of Christianity considerably.

After the withdrawal of the Romans, and the invasion of England by the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons, all traces of

Christianity became almost extinct, owing to the civil wars that ensued and the great immoralities of the invaders, which caused the ancient Britons to greatly deplore the loss of Roman rule. In the year 596 A.D. the Christian cause began to revive, and, gradually, the heathenism of the Saxons was superseded by the teachings of the Christians. It was during the Saxon reign that the Anglo-Saxon Bible, the book that is considered infallible by the theologians, was placed in every church throughout England. It was also during this period that the Culdees, the first religious denomination that disregarded, and therefore became strong opponents to, the cause of Romanism, suffered unrelenting hostility until the cause of Rome predominated.

One of the greatest stains in the history of the Anglo-Saxons is the enormous amount of slavery that prevailed. Even Pope Gregory, through whose instrumentality the predominance of Romanism was achieved, is not exempted from this degrading charge. In the slave markets of Rome English youths were purchased to expound the doctrines of Romanism. But this project failed, consequently St. Augustine, with forty monks, was despatched from Rome, until finally the cause of Rome triumphed. The Roman ecclesiastical reign extended throughout the Norman, Plantagenet, Houses of York and Lancaster, and Tudor periods, until Henry VIII. denied the supremacy of the Pope. The Norman period, which continued for eighty years, is memorable because of the historical cry of "Down with the Normans," while also it was a period during which the most diabolical and inhuman tortures were perpetrated, tortures which caused the poor sufferers to exclaim that "Christ and His saints slept!" The Plantagenet period is also noted for the prime and decay of the Feudal system, a system that compelled the inhabitants to fight the battles of the lords of the manors instead of paying their full rent in cattle, corn, or money. The principal features of the reign of the Houses of York and Lancaster respecting my subject were the rising of the Lollards and the execution of William Lautre. The rising of the Lollards was occasioned by the extreme measures imposed upon them by the State, and the amount of slavery that was still prevailing. The project of the Lollards was the abolition of the slavery, and the redress of the grievances that they had experienced; but the King, whose anger had been aroused, thwarted their desires, and, consequently, the chief, Sir John Oldcastle, was burned as a heretic.

In the year 1400 one of the most infamous and dreaded laws, instigated by the Church, was sanctioned by the King, implying that all persons who refused to renounce their so-called errors respecting religion were to be handed over to the Sheriff, whose duty it was to exterminate them, and thereby assist to keep the people under the subjection of Catholicism. Under this dreadful Act William Lautre, whose manly conscience would not condescend to this subjection, was burnt in public, after having been denuded of all priestly authority. The Tudor period has supplied us with evidence of the growth of Protestantism, the revival of Catholicism, and the establishment of the English Church. During the progress of the memorable Reformation the King wrote works in support of the doctrines of Romanism, but was replied to both forcibly and fearlessly

by Luther, who had denounced all connections with Romanism. After supporting the claims of Catholicism, Henry VIII. finally resolved to deny the supremacy of the Pope, and make himself the head of the English Church. This ambition was achieved in 1534, the Parliament conferring the title with its privileges upon the King. Thus the link that hitherto bound England to Rome was severed and a tyrannical king placed at the head of the ecclesiastical body. One of the measures of the King that created great discontent, but enriched him to the extent of £161,000 per year, was the suppression of monasteries. This action occasioned an insurrection, and 40,000 men, under the generalship of a gentleman named Aske, endeavoured to reinstate Romanism, but failing to meet with success, the leaders of the rebellion were executed. The revival of Romanism at a later period was the signal for the atrocities of Smithfield. During three years, 288 men, women, and children were consigned to the flames because of their adherence to Protestantism, while thousands suffered in less degrees. The predominancy of Romanism on this occasion was only short lived, being again superseded by Protestantism in consequence of the ascension of Queen Elizabeth to the throne of England. These two great systems, striving for supremacy by unchristianlike principles, have degraded rather than ennobled their respective denominations. During the Irish rebellion of 1641 40,000 Protestants were massacred by the Romanist party, which body created great discontent throughout the whole of Ireland until suppressed by Cromwell. It was during the reign of this notable character that the freedom of religion was proclaimed, but the principles of this grand proclamation were disregarded after his death. The Scotch Presbyterians suffered unrelenting persecution, and the antagonism between the great rival religions again prevailed; but was suppressed in favour of the Protestants, whose predominancy was thoroughly achieved in 1701 by an Act of Parliament that included that all sovereigns of England should be Protestants. Following this was the separation of the Methodists from the English Church, and the abolition of slavery, for which the English Government paid £20,000,000 as compensation to slave-owners for the release of 800,000 slaves. Although the error of the past cannot be erased from history, the undaunted courage of the Reformers may be commemorated by our determination to work for the ennobling of humanity and the progress of the world.

PRESENTATIONS TO AN AMBULANCE MAN.—Mr. Charles Brierley, a young and very energetic worker in the Spiritualistic cause, left Oldham on Tuesday January 29th, for service as an Ambulance Man in South Africa. Being a member of the Bartlam Place Lyceum, and the Vice-President of the Spiritual Temple Society, both sections gave him some beautiful presents, including a Morocco bound "Lyceum Manual," as a mark of their esteem. We are sorry to lose him, even for a short time, but we realise the noble work he has before him of alleviating the sufferings of both Briton and Boer, and that he will return safe and well is the wish of his Oldham Friends.—FRANK SHAW

Officers' Department.

The Educational importance of Lyceum teaching is a matter of serious concern with all Conductors and Leaders. One of the difficulties encountered is the need of lessons that can be used by the Lyceum, to be introduced by the Conductor, who shall invite the opinions and ideas of all the members, commencing with the youngest groups. The following outlines of topics are presented with the hope that they may prove helpful, and at the end of each outline will be found the numbers of appropriate selections from the *Lyceum Manual*, as indicated by the figures appended. Invocations are also introduced. Sufficient matter is presented to last until after the next issue of the BANNER, so that conductors can study the lessons a week in advance of their use. Suggestions will be welcomed from all Conductors and leaders of Groups.—ED.

Outline Lesson Scheme for Lyceum Sessions.

Compiled by the Editor.

INVOCATION.—Dear Angel Guides and Councillors we ask thy presence here this day, that we may be illumined by the light of thy wisdom, and vivified by the warmth of thy love. Inspire us we pray thee with noble thoughts, and bless us with thy care and comforting. The way of life is hard, and its path strewn with stones, help us to bear its burdens and rise triumphant over its trials and sorrows. Help us to grow more like unto thee, oh! beloved of our hearts, and lead us to realise that the supreme power is indeed all good and all wise. Thus may we come into closer relation with the great power, with thee and each other. Amen.

SUBJECT.—THE NEW CENTURY.—OUTLINE.—In the order of time the new century has come.—In the order of life new centuries commence with each day—mans life is rounded by days, weeks, months and years.—In each period let us do something to make the next one brighter and better for all.—We need more true manliness and womanliness.—How can we secure such.—By avoiding servile obedience to custom.—By standing boldly for the truth wherever it comes from.—By being prepared to face the consequences of our honest opinions.—By using the good that all past centuries have handed down to us.—By profiting from the discoveries, knowledge and possessions of the past and present.—Thus may we adorn the new century.—As Spiritualists let us do our part in our Lyceums for the present and the future.—(S.C., I. G.C., 110, M.R. 202.)

INVOCATION.—Almighty Spirit of the universe we approach thee with no abasement of mind or soul, but with the true humility whereby we acknowledge thy supremacy. We are grateful for the gifts bestowed upon us through the laws of our being, which thou hast established, for as we obey them do we come into fellowship with thee. We desire that fellowship to grow in very truth, so that we may come nearer to thee, be uplifted in our souls, and brought into closer union with each other in love and brotherhood, to the end that thou may be made increasingly manifest in the lives, thoughts and actions of thy children everywhere. Amen.

SUBJECT.—PROGRESSION.—OUTLINE.—Nothing in nature is at rest—All things live—The atom is ceaselessly active—Construction and destruction follow each other in the universe—Cause, effect and ultimate are the true trinity of God's movements—Humanity as a part of the universe is also constantly active on the physical, mental, moral, and Spiritual planes—The evolution of nations and individuals is the consequence of the eternal law of progress—It is an error to suppose that progression does not commence until we enter the next life—It is working here and now—The seed, the flower and the fruit show it to be so—As do infancy, youth, manhood and age—Death is another form of our progression—By it we ascend to higher conditions of form, life and experience—Spiritualism teaches that progression is God's method of unfolding the Universe and all therein contained. (S C 30, G C 126, M R 211.)

INVOCATION.—Let us uplift our minds to the contemplation of the mysteries of life, that we may be further enlightened as to the works of the Supreme Mind. Let us strive to attune ourselves to the Infinite and so catch for the welfare of our souls some of its divine melodies. We know we are but as children, and that we say and do many childish things, but we wish to grow in wisdom and knowledge and so fit ourselves to receive the wise teachers whom we ask again to assist us in our search for truth to day. We would join hands with them, and beseech that they lead us into the flowery paths of goodness and

truth, and so help us to become more like unto them, and with them draw nearer to the Universal Mind. May the dear Angels bless us according to our needs day by day. Amen.

SUBJECT—MENTAL SCIENCE—OUTLINE—As a man thinketh so is he—Mind is the supreme power in man and the Universe—Right thinking leads to right doing—Our thoughts send out vibrations to the spiritual ether—Such vibrations affect others—Hence the importance of thinking purely and nobly—Personal magnetism is one of the means by which our thought influences are propagated—Our mental forces need cultivation and direction to enable us to accomplish our desires—Will power, intelligently directed over our own persons, will help us to modify sickness, pain, mental distress and evil thoughts—It will enable us to calmly face any trouble that may assail us, and also to treat wisely those who strive to hurt us in mind or soul—Weak wills succumb to trials—Strong ones rise above the afflictions of life—Great is the power of mind. (S. C. 25 G. C. 129 M. R. 235.)

INVOCATION—Oh! Thou, who art the Lord of Life and the Master of Death, we give the praise for the changes and vicissitudes Thou hast ordained we shall pass through. In rejoicing for Life we thank Thee for Death, which is the gateway to larger life. We rejoice to know that we shall meet our loved ones gone before, when we too enter the Home eternal that by thy Laws awaits us over there. May the good Angels of that life be with us now to enable us to see that thy wisdom prevails at all times, and may our eyes be opened to realise the great truth of immortal life more and more clearly day by day. Amen.

SUBJECT—WHY WE DIE—OUTLINE—There is no 'Death' in God's wide world—What seems so is but eternal change—The infant dies in the child, the child in the youth, and the youth in the man; and the Spirit man rises from the dissolution of the material man—Each 'Death' leads to a further unfoldment and manifestation of the eternal Egg—The grain of corn 'dies' that the green ear may appear—The green ear dies that the golden grains may be born—Death is the bridge between two sets of activities—A change of states but a continuation of being—Human life is the individualisation of the immortal entity—When that has been accomplished earth has done her work and transfers her results to the next plane of her labours—Dying is not a 'curse,' it is in harmony with Law—it is a blessing for all—We fall asleep that we may wake into a higher state. (S. C. 28, C. C. 138. M. R. 207.)

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

NO. LXXXIV.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the B.S.L.U. experienced a very pleasant surprise at its last meeting, held January 5th, 1901, in the form of a donation to the Union of 5,000 copies of "Reminiscences," (published at 2/- each) by our esteemed President, Mr. Alfred Smedley of Belper. This munificent gift was unconditional, and without reserve. Of course, the committee was delighted to be the recipient of such a splendid gift on behalf of the Union, and passed a very hearty vote of thanks to the generous donor for his very handsome present. The book is illustrated, and full of good, interesting incidents, and astonishing spiritual phenomena. All Lyceums are to be given an opportunity to increase their funds by being supplied at 18/- per dozen, carriage paid. These, when sold, will bring a profit of 5/9 to the Lyceum fund. If Lyceumists are in earnest they can dispose of 24 copies at each Lyceum, amongst their own officers and members of the society. All orders should be sent to me, and postal orders made payable at Hanging Heaton,

A FEW Lyceums have sent the amount collected for the "Daisy Dimple," or Lyceum Home, at Blackpool. It is the desire of the Executive to open the Lyceum Home in the coming spring, and to this end all who have any money for it are cordially requested to send it to me as early as possible, so that all arrangements can be made. I hope to publish a list of each Lyceum's subscription at an early date.

* * *

ALL contributions are now due, and Lyceums are unfinancial until they are paid. This renders them not entitled to be supplied with "Lyceum Manuals," or other books, at members' special cheap prices.

* * *

WILL all conductors please see that their statistical returns are duly signed and sent in at once, so that they can be prepared for the press?

* * *

I AM pleased to inform my readers that the Lyceums at Middlesboro', Middleton, and Todmorden have joined the Union. The remainder are cordially invited to follow their example. All financial members are allowed to share full benefits, and be represented at the Conferences.

THE JUNIOR SPIRITUALISTS' CLUB.—At the regular meeting of the above on Tuesday evening, February 23rd, a paper on the following topic was read by Miss Porter, the hon. treasurer of the Club:—"Why should the English people be the best recipients of modern Spiritualism?" Having chosen this subject for debate, I find myself somewhat embarrassed how to express myself upon such a weighty question. In the first place the English mind is eminently practical, and that is the reason proof is so clamorously demanded. Secondly, having had their proof, Englishmen then turn their proof upside down and declare it a fraud, or fraudulently obtained. But, still, when the ground has been well turned up and left open to the frost as well as the sunshine, they then gather in their crop of Spiritual truth with vigorous earnest labour. For though the English mind is essentially religious, the people who are convinced by the philosophy alone are few, and even those are more convinced by the logical deductions they draw from the facts put before them than the actual philosophy. Therefore, seeing the practical character of the people, I contend it is the best groundwork to build the truths of Spiritualism upon, for the grand teaching of the Spirit "Know thyself," thine own powers, makes masters of us all; and it is an accepted fact in all lines of life that he who is master of himself is the best teacher of others, and can rule the world. I therefore consider the English people, with their sturdy, self-reliant character, is the best stronghold for Spiritualism. I am sure when once the mind of the people is set thinking the great difficulty of early teaching will be wiped away, if I may judge by myself, who, having been set thinking, am now a Spiritualist, and were I to live as long as did the Queen, or longer, I should be a firmer Spiritualist than I am now.

THE LYCEUM BANNER

FEBRUARY, 1901.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

A Munificent Gift To the Union. Elsewhere our esteemed Union Secretary announces the most generous gift to the Union made by our honoured President, Mr. Alfred Smedley, of Belper. It comprises an entire edition of his deeply interesting "Reminiscences," consisting of 5,000 copies of the work. This is equal to putting £500 into the possession of the Union, and is far and away the greatest gift that has ever been bestowed upon Lyceum work. One cannot avoid feeling stirred with deep emotion at such an instance of generosity, with a feeling of gratitude, indeed, which will no doubt also arise in the minds of all our readers for such a beneficent act. On behalf of the entire Lyceums of this country, and also, we feel sure we may add, of the Union also, the BANNER tenders publicly the deepest thanks of all to our President for this most valuable present; and the lasting good that it will be the means of helping the Union to accomplish for our work will be a fitting memorial to our dear friend's disinterested and generous action. It is a work peculiarly valuable to Lyceumists, telling as it does, clearly and ably, of some of the most wonderful phenomena that ever occurred in this country, and so affording the rising generation of lyceumists a knowledge of the facts upon which Spiritualism rests, and on which their fathers took their stand in the early days of our noble cause. We on earth rejoice, while our dear ones in the Summerland will share our pleasure in the kindly deed. Let us all do our part now, by speedily selling the books, and so enabling the Union to reap the benefit from this memorable benefaction.

Our New Constitution. At the May Conference the Lyceumists of Great Britain will be asked to pass upon a new Constitution for the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, truly an important topic. But too much constitution is not desirable. For business purposes order and regulation are necessary, but the creation of a centralized authority would be inimical to that spirit of freedom which it is the aim of true Lyceum teaching to foster. As the Union offers substantial financial advantages to Federated Lyceums it is proper that it should lay down the manner in which those benefits may be taken advantage of. Beyond that care is needful in all that is done. The question of the relation of Lyceums to Societies is not yet settled so far as the Lyceum movement is concerned; while the relative positions of the Union to Lyceums and Societies, and to the National Federation, still demands very serious attention. Friction between this triangular relation must be avoided, but the permanence of the Union must be secured, and its efficiency as a working body, labouring for the good, not only of the Federated Lyceums,

but of all Lyceums, must be sustained, and if possible increased.

No Desire to Anticipate. The BANNER has no desire to anticipate what will be done regarding the foregoing matters. Nor does it wish to fall into the impertinence of discussing a document that is still *sub judice*. Yet there are one or two points that may properly be mentioned. One is the constitution of a Lyceum. At the present time the order of forming a Lyceum can be taken from the "Guide" of Andrew Jackson Davis, or the "Guide" of Hudson and Emma Tuttle, or the "Manual" of Britten, Kersey and Kitson. The two first set out the Lyceum in Groups with certain names attached to them. The last named makes no suggestion on this point. But if a Lyceum is to mean the same thing in all places, surely uniformity in forming it, and working it, is not objectionable? Possibly the requirements of British Lyceums may not fall in with the suggestions of our Founder, of those in Tuttle's "Guide," yet to have some following Davis, others modifying his suggestions, and still others following the Newcastle system, of using flowers to name the Groups with, and yet others using a combination of all the methods, leads to a jumble of plans that is to say the least confusing. At present the BANNER simply calls attention to the matter so that our officers and members may think it over, and make up their minds by May as to whether a uniformity in the names of Groups and of officers is desirable or not? That all Lyceums in the Union should conform to a general plan of naming Groups, officering Lyceums, and obedience to whatever constitution for their own working is agreed upon, seems to be but common sense?

The Question of a Union Secretary. Every reader of this month's BANNER will receive a copy of a Circular issued by the Executive concerning the appointment of a permanent secretary to the Union. For years past we have seen the time would come when such an appointment would be an imperative necessity, and have frequently urged the matter on our readers' attention. The Conference last May accepted the principle involved, and instructed the Executive to take it in hand and see what could be done. The present circular, then, is the logical result of that mandate. We are not at all concerned as to whom may be appointed to the position, but be it man or woman, the work will be arduous, and must be done with completeness, as well as with zealously. Whether it will be that the results of the Appeal will be sufficient to secure the full or only the partial services required we cannot of course say? Any way the Conference must decide to whom the appointment shall fall. On so important a matter the public decision of a public body is the best safeguard against any suspicion of favouritism on behalf of the present or any other possible incumbent. All we now ask is a liberal response to the appeal sanctioned by the representatives of the Lyceums by open vote in the last conference, so that adequate effect may be

given to a proposal essential to the further success of the Union, and ratified by all Lyceums connected therewith.

To Our Secretaries.

Just a word to our hard working Secretaries. The BANNER tries to do its best to accommodate you all by inserting the reports you send it, but at times we find ourselves hard pushed to find room for all you send for publication as is the case again this month. We have never charged you for inserting a single report, nor shall we do so, but if you can condense them and keep them well within, say, 100, words, you would confer a great favour upon us. Our greatest difficulty arises at this time of the year, when there are so many concerts and entertainments, the reports of which are largely taken up with the names of individual performers. Never mind the items sung, recited, or played, be content to send us the names of the performers only, and, as the long-haired man said to the barber, "cut it short," even then! And when you have any advertising to pay for remember the BANNER and give it a share of your patronage in return for the publicity it so ungrudgingly has always given to one and all. If your report should happen to get cut down don't write scolding letters to the Editor; poor man, he has worries enough without that! But try to think he is doing his best, and neither slighting you nor favouring some one else. A word to the wise is enough.

ITEMETTES.

THE January edition is all sold!

THE Lesson Outlines are resumed this month.

THERE are a few outstanding accounts due last December. Kindly remit.

READ Mr. A. W. Orr's letter regarding the Britten Memorial. Who will follow the three good examples shown therein? What they have done others can do.

I wish you a Bright New Year, and trust you may be long spared to continue your labours in the cause you so ably represent.—Harry L. Westerly, Huddersfield.

Do not miss reading Our Bluebell's page, nor Aunt Editha's interesting contribution. Join each section and receive one of their pretty cards post free.

I AM delighted with the appearance and Contents of the LYCEUM BANNER. May its circulation continue to grow.—Alfred Kitson.

CURIOUS, but true! Two Alfreds are officers of our Union. Each good men and true, sort of modern Alfreds the Great, eh? Why, certainly!

THE LYCEUM BANNER in its new dress looks distinctly inviting and is most certainly a great improvement upon former issues.—The Two Worlds.

HEATON AND BYKER.—This Lyceum is progressing so satisfactorily that it has had to open a new Group, which has been named the "Thistle" Group. We congratulate the workers,

For kindly help our thanks are due to our honoured Founder, for \$1.00, and to Mr. Mason, of London, for 2/-. The cordial good wishes accompanying these gifts made them doubly welcome.

I must congratulate you on the improved condition of the BANNER, it is a credit to you. I like the new style very much and hope you will have a larger circulation.—Thos. H. Wright, Sowerby Bridge.

This useful children's monthly (The Lyceum Banner) commences the new century with several marked improvements which should make it even more acceptable than in the past to the workers and children in Spiritualist Lyceums throughout the land.—Light.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The next meeting of the above Council will be held in the Lyceum, Queen St., Wakefield, on Saturday, March 9th, at 3-30, Tea at 5 and Social at 7.—E. ROBINSON, Sec.

S.E. LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—On Saturday, February 16th, the quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Bartlam Place Horsedale Street, Oldham, at 3 o'clock prompt. A Public Tea Party and Social will be given by the Lyceumists.—FRANK SHAW Sec.

THE first three copies of "The Keystone," edited by Mr. T. O. Todd, have reached this office. The price is one penny, the contents varied, the form different to any other of our journals. We hope our friend will reap the due reward of his enterprise. There is room for the best at all times.

ALLOW me to congratulate you and your staff upon the excellent get up of the BANNER this month (January). That its sale may increase until it even exceeds that of the "Daily Mail" is the new century wish of yours faithfully, J. Hargreaves, Blackburn. [Amen, Eds.]

THE LYCEUM BANNER starts its eleventh year with new paper and new type, making it distinctly superior to the issues which have hitherto been the delight, not only of Lyceumists, but of those who have grown to man's estate. Mr. Morse deserves well of the Lyceum movement for the time and money he must have expended in providing it with an organ; and we hope the improved BANNER will receive such a measure of support as will fully compensate its publisher for the work and expense it represents.—"Psyche."

The BANNER thanks its English contemporaries for their kindly greetings to the new issue of the new century. Let brotherly love continue.

THE BRITTEN MEMORIAL.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of subscribers will be held at the TWEEDALE RESTAURANT, Market Place, off Market Street, Manchester, on Tuesday, the 19th of February, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Trustees hope that all Subscribers who can, will be present on the occasion, A. W. ORR, Hon. Sec.

THE GOLDEN GROUP

FOUNDED 1890.

CONDUCTED BY AUNT EDITHA.

MOTTO :—LOVE, TEMPERANCE, PURITY.

Membership.—Membership in the Golden Group is open to all who belong to a Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum.

Special Notices.—Aunt Editha will be glad to receive short letters from members of the Golden Group upon anything they think would interest the Group.

Rules.—I. That I will endeavour to be kind and loving to all human beings, and ever a living thing. II. That I will try to be temperate in all things, and strive to abstain from using intoxicants and tobacco. III. That I will not use profane or vulgar language.

Certificates.—A Certificate of membership will be issued free of charge to all who join. Give your name to the Conductor, or Secretary, of your Lyceum and request that it be sent to AUNT EDITHA, c/o Editor of the "Lyceum Banner," and you will be duly enrolled a member, and the certificate sent you in the next month's Banner sent to your Lyceum. All names of members will be published in the Lyceum Banner every month.

OUR FEBRUARY ASSEMBLY.—No. CV.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,

LIKE many more, I find, I was greatly surprised when the new BANNER for last month arrived, for the Editor had carefully kept his secret as to his intentions. But if astonished, I was also delighted at the neat and bright appearance our dear old BANNER presented. The return to the smaller print has given us all so much more room that the paper now contains nearly twice as much as it used to, so I am sure it will be more popular now than ever before. I am sure we all owe the Editors our best thanks for all they do, not only for this Group, but for the entire Lyceum work as well. Perhaps Auntie knows something more about the labour, and the sacrifices that have been made to keep the BANNER floating, than many who read my letters each month, though some people think that it is a profitable thing to the editors! Well, all I can say is that those who think so had better try to start another Lyceum paper and see how it pays! [Never mind, Auntie. We do not complain that some only look at the matter from a commercial point. Some people never think any one can do anything without a selfish motive animating them. One friend once took the trouble to show that we were doing very well out of the BANNER, but subsequent experience served to show the friend he did not know quite so much as he thought he did!—Eds.]

I have just read the "proof" of my Letter, and find that the Editor has put in the above Note, so I will cut out the rest I had said, and feel sure that all true friends of the BANNER will do their utmost to support it in the future, as in the past.

Well, now, about our February Assembly: It was held as usual and well attended, too. The ordinary business was soon finished, and we then held a Reading Box session! What is that? I hear you say. Well it is like this, dears: I had cut out of some papers a number of little pieces,

and these were all put into a box, in the lid of which a hole had been made, and the members were invited to come up to the desk and dip in the box and take out one slip, and read it to the Assembly, and after it was read any one was at liberty to make any remarks upon it that they liked. It proved so interesting that we decided to have it quite often.

Previous to this portion of the programme we had a solo sung to us by Mabel French, "Summer Land," which is song No 312, in "The Manual," and so sweetly was it sung that Mabel had to sing another, and she then gave us "Shoulder to Shoulder," No. 398, in "The Manual," singing as sweetly as before.

The Box was then placed on the table, and the first draw was made, and the following selection fell on Benny West:

THE COURTESIES OF HOME.

Life would be a far more agreeable thing for many of us, says Margaret E. Sangster, if home politeness were more assiduously cultivated. We know how brutal the frankness of home can sometimes be; how sensitive natures bleed and suffer because of the wholly inexcusable candor of criticism which takes to itself license in the safe privacy of the domestic circle.

We vex our own
With look and tone,
Though we love our own
The best.

How are we to know that we do love them best if we never take pains to show it by small acts of attention, by gentle words, by open demonstration? "I never knew that my father cared for me at all," said a young girl, pathetically, unaware of the sadness of her speech, "till, once when I was very ill and they thought I was dying, I heard him sob behind the curtain." There is far too much taking love for granted in many a home.

The general opinion was that it was all too true, and that one good thing about Lyceum teaching was that it helped us all to be more loving to each other, which is, of course, one of the objects of the GOLDEN GROUP, as well.

The next selection was a slip entitled:

SINS OF THE TONGUE.

Elsie sat reading an old-fashioned fairy story. It was about a beautiful maiden. She was as good as she was fair, and from her lips pearls, diamonds and rubies fell when she spoke. But an evil witch got the maiden in her power, and changed the precious stones into frogs and toads, and other hideous creatures.

"Come play tennis, Elsie," cried Arthur, running in. "I'm tired," said Elsie; "I'd rather read."

"Such stuff!" cried Arthur, looking over his sister's shoulder. "I'd be ashamed to be a girl and think such things are true."

"They're truer than you think, Arthur," she said.

"That rubbish?" he asked, but a little more respectful in tone.

"Yes," said mamma. "Of course, no little girl or boy believes in witches who can change pearls and diamonds

into frogs and lizards. But there are evil spirits that get in children's hearts and work as much mischief. I have two little children myself, and I know. Sometimes their words are like sweet flowers to me. That's when the good fairies, Love, Sunny Temper and Unselfishness, have been working in the gardens of my children's hearts. But some times the words change, and make my poor heart sick. Then I know that Bad Temper, Witch Crosspatch, and Sprite Selfishness have been at work. Their magic is ugly, and I know it well."

"That's just a Sunday school lesson," said Arthur.

"Isn't it true?" asked mamma.

"Too true, I guess," he admitted.

"Yes," said Elsie, "it's truer than these stories. Come on, I'll play tennis, Arthur!"

This led to quite a long talk in which nearly all had a part. One member said his father would not let him read Fairy tales, as he thought they were nonsense. Another said his sister was always reading them, and he liked to do so, for it helped him to think over lots of things much better than before. Another said that he did not want to go to the Spirit world to find evil spirits, for there were many on earth, and he thought that Drink was about the worst of them all. Indeed, so many had something to say that when the time arrived for closing, all had not spoken who wished to, so interested were they in this subject. It was voted a splendid idea, and I was asked who started it, so I had to tell them it was Master Johnny who had suggested it to me, at which there was much clapping of hands, and the young gentleman in question blushed furiously at the "fuss," as he called it, that was made over so simple a thing!

Do not forget that all Certificates of Membership are now sent free of charge. It is a handsome card in two colours, with the house at Hydesville printed upon it, which is the place where Modern Spiritualism first commenced in 1848.

As ever, with all good wishes, Lovingly yours,

AUNT EDITHA.

PENDLETON, Cobden Street.—Annual tea party and distribution of prizes on New Year's Day; a very large number assembled. The prizes were presented in a kind and impressive style by Mr. Will Phillips. Mr. James Jackson presided. We also had tableaux vivants and waxworks, interspersed with songs and recitations. Mr. Barrett managed the limelight arrangements. After the young children were dismissed the elders indulged in dancing until a late hour. A happy and memorable day, everything passing off in a creditable manner.

WARRINGTON.—Thanks are due to the many friends who helped us with our Lyceum party, which took place on Wednesday, January 2nd. During the evening recitations were given by Lily Dodd, Emma Dolphin, Sydney Pearson, and Leonard Davies; whilst Miss A. Furness and Miss Gertie McCollom favoured us with songs, as did Thomas Dobson and Mr. A. Grimshaw. A very enjoyable evening was then closed with a laughable sketch in which the following took part, Misses Ada and Annie Furness, K. Dutton, M. Knox, L. Gallop, and Messrs. C. Knox, F. Knox, J. Dutton, and B. Foster.—W. MASSEY.

THE MONTHLY RECORD

NOTICES TO SECRETARIES.

Secretaries are cordially invited to supply reports of the doings of their Lyceums for the Monthly Record. The same must reach us NOT LATER than the 28th of each Month to ensure insertion in the ensuing number. Short reports have preference

Announcements of forthcoming events will be inserted free in the Itemettes column, but if specially displayed or containing detailed particulars, they will be charged as advertisements

All alterations of orders, or addresses for parcels, must reach us on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month to receive attention. Failure in this matter often causes annoyances and delays that we cannot avoid

BIRMINGHAM, Masonic Hall.—When Mrs. Green last visited Birmingham she offered to give prizes to the scholars who were most proficient in various subjects. They were awarded on December 16th as follows:—"Recitation prizes, Misses E. French and F. Knight; for having made most progress, Louie Hands, Willie Webb, Edith Clements, Willie Clements, and Alfred Jenkinson. Miss Elsie Webb had not missed for fifteen months, and received the attendance prize. A prize was also awarded to Violet Webb, being the youngest member. On Sunday, January 6th, we held our quarterly session at the Masonic Hall. We had a new departure in the musical accompaniment to the hymns. Mrs. Deakin played the piano, and Messrs. Preece and Adams the violin. The service was very ably conducted by Mr. E. Wall. Recitations were also rendered. The "Garland" group is steadily improving in singing. On Friday, January 11th, our annual tea party and social was held. The crowning event of the evening was a comic sketch entitled "Sammy Sou's Soothing Syrup." Mr. Frost shows admirable talent as a reciter. We are indebted to Mr. Rooke, Mrs. Vann, Miss Holden, and Mrs. Preece for having given toys, etc. We had a very large attendance, 150 being present. Upon leaving each child was presented with an orange and a mince pie.—A. J. Preece.

BIRMINGHAM, Bloomsbury.—The following particulars are extracted from the annual report, issued at the end of November last:—Members on the register, 46, decrease, 11; attendance, 1501, decrease, 143; officers' attendance, 61, decrease, 1; of the whole Lyceum, 28, decrease, 3'2. This shows a further falling off of a serious nature, notwithstanding that the Manual has been more closely adhered to, and the Lyceum has been kept strictly within the control of the Spiritualistic Society. The balance-sheet shows a turnover of £18 as against £23, the B.S.L.U. visit last year accounting for the difference. A good stage has been added to the assets, and the adoption of caro

singing brought in £1 10s., and is likely to become a source of permanent revenue. The year has been rendered important by the controversy raised by Mr. Hodson on the question of spiritual dominance. This matter was brought to an issue by a proposal to amalgamate with the Birmingham Lyceum. The question was harmoniously discussed, and a special sub-committee was appointed to bring all the issues under closer criticism and move amendments to the B.S.L.U. constitution at the forthcoming conference. In view of the decrease of the average attendance it has been decided to adopt the lines of Mr. Hodgson's proposals for the coming year to give them a trial. On Saturday in Christmas week we held what has become our happiest gathering of the year. Many beautiful costumes were donned by our leaders. A Christmas tree presented by Miss Martineau (niece of the great Harriet—a powerful educator) was unloaded by our dear friend Mrs. College to our little ones' high delight.—Y. BROWNE, Hon. Sec.

BRADFORD, St. Paul's Spiritual Church.—On Saturday, January 12th, Mr. Albert Wilkinson, of Nelson, the "Excelsior" lanternist, gave an excellent lime-light lecture to a very fair audience, "A Trip to Paris," concluding with various cinematograph pictures, including the calisthenic exercises, which were heartily appreciated by the audience. On Sunday night, January 13th, he gave the illustrated service entitled "Little Minnie," which was very highly appreciated. On the Monday night he repeated "The Trip to Paris," etc., pictures, which was very well attended by many who were entire strangers to our movement. Mr. J. J. Morse's lecture takes place on February 7th, which he gives free of all cost to the Church in aid of our purchasing fund.—J.H.S.

BLACKBURN, Northgate.—Readers of the BANNER will have seen that the above Lyceum has recently been opened, and it is with pleasure that I send in the first report. Up to the time of writing we have only been opened fourteen weeks, but we have now on the register 84 Lyceumists and officers, and our members are rapidly increasing week by week. The average attendance for January (two sessions) is 58. Financially we are doing well. At the year end, our balance sheet showed an income of £5 7s. 3d., with expenditure £2 3s. 8d., leaving a balance of over £3. We have since, by a social and supper, nearly realised another £3, out of which we have purchased (a second) three dozen "Manuals." Now that we have a good supply of "Manuals" our next object will be to start a piano fund. In closing let me sound a word of praise to the officers, one and all, for the excellent manner in which they have worked together.—T.E.H., Secretary.

DARWEN.—On Christmas Day a most successful "At Home" was held. The room was artistically decorated and presented a very pleasing appearance. Games of all kinds were indulged in, and a first-class concert was given by the Lyceumists. The Lyric Band was in attendance, and rendered several selections of music. The "At Home" was financially and

otherwise a success. A tea and entertainment was held on New Year's Day, the tea being served by the male members of the society. The Minstrel Troupe supplied an excellent entertainment, each item of which was performed in a very able manner. There was a large audience, who thoroughly appreciated the efforts of the entertainers.—B.H.

GATESHEAD.—On Thursday, January 3rd, the annual treat was given to our Lyceum children, when the children, leaders, and parents gathered for a night's enjoyment. A very substantial repast was provided, to which every one did justice, after which a short concert of songs, recitation, etc., was given by A. Middleton, F. Nichols, Mr. Homes (of Blackpool), J. Jenkins, and selections on the piano by Miss Dixon. After the concert the rest of the evening was spent in dancing and games.

HUDDERSFIELD, Brook Street.—On Boxing Day, December 26th, 1900, Brook Street Society held a tea party and entertainment. The Lyceum provided the entertainment, which proved a success. On Thursday, January 3rd, 1901, an "At Home" party was given by Mrs. Entwistle in aid of the society's funds. The hall was transformed into a huge drawing-room, being very prettily decorated. 103 visitors assembled, and spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening, the result of the party being the sum of £4 7s. od. to hand over to the society. Our principal officers for the current year are:—Conductor, Mr. Jos. Briggs; treasurer, Miss E. Entwistle; musical director, Miss Smith; and secretary, Harry L. Westerly.

IN MEMORIAM.—FUNERAL OF A SMETHWICK LYCEUMIST.—On Sunday, the 13th January, the mortal remains of Eleathea Osborne, aged nine years, were interred at the Uplands Cemetery, Smethwick, Birmingham. Mr. John Venables and Mr. Finley officiated, and the service in the chapel was attended by a large body of Spiritualists, and practically the whole of the Lyceum children. The service at the grave side was very impressive, and was witnessed by a large number of strangers, some of whom were evidently deeply impressed by the simplicity and impressiveness of the proceedings. Eleathea Osborne had been a member of the Smethwick Lyceum for some three or four years, and, although so young, she tried to be a little worker, thereby showing that she took an interest in the proceedings, and tried to do her best in helping forward the work of our Lyceum movement. Feeling reference and sympathy were made by the guides of Miss Smith at the public circle, at Smethwick, on the Sunday following the funeral, at which the grandmother and two of the sisters were present. Much sympathy is felt for the parents in their sorrow, as it is only a few months ago that a younger child was taken to its home in the Summerland.—H.E.K.

LIVERPOOL.—The John Lamont C.P.L. held their first annual Tea Party, Concert and Dance on the 15th of January at Daulby Hall (through the kindness of the lessee, Mr. John Wilkinson), and it was in

invited to occupy the chair afternoon and evening, in order to appeal to the parents, which I gladly did, the same being fully appreciated by the Lyceum officers.—December 14th. Heywood.—I am pleased to report that they maintain their former standard of excellence, and have improved in numbers on the male side since my last visit.—December 23rd. Ashton.—I am sorry there was no increase in numbers since my last visit. Late start. Responses fair. This Lyceum needs more energy and devotion to the work in hand. Mr. A. Kitson was the speaker for the day, and made an excellent appeal on behalf of the children. I tried my best to second his efforts and assisted with phenomena afternoon and evening.—A. BURTON, D.V., B.S.L.U.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.

On October 14th I visited Leicester (Queen Street). Nice open session and good attendance. Singing, reciting, and marching satisfactory. —October 28th.—I visited the Bloomsbury Lyceum, Birmingham, in the morning, where they possess plenty of musical ability and should prove a boon to the neighbourhood. I went to the Masonic Hall in the afternoon, but sorry to find no Lyceum. [It meets at Broad Street corner.—Ed.]—I visited Nottingham (Cobden Hall) on November 11th, when there was only a small attendance, but Master Clarke read an excellent essay worthy of being repeated in every Lyceum.—November 18th.—I had the pleasure of visiting the Smethwick Lyceum, where there was a grand harmonious session (crowded). I feel much good will be done in the near future as the result of such an array of leaders (who are evidently bent on progress) when difficulties of accommodation are overcome.—December 9th.—I visited Derby (Midland Road) at the anniversary, which was a decided success, the children taking part in all the services of the day in an intelligent manner.—December 16th.—I visited Walsall, where I found a very good attendance in a nice hall, with plenty of room. I can predict a bright prospect is in store if full advantage is taken of the possibilities. May each Lyceumist feel the responsibility and necessity of embracing such golden opportunities, and the self-sacrifice thus exhibited will be crowned with abundant success. I hope that the time will speedily come when more Lyceums will have better environments and conditions improved for the development of spiritual gifts, but this can only be brought about by individual effort and that charity which suffers long. I trust that the physical exercises with cheerful bright music will not be neglected in any of the Lyceums.—J. BOLTON.

LONDON.

During the quarter I have visited the following places:—Wells Street, Stratford; Manor Park, and Masonic Hall, Camberwell. At Wells Street Mr. Wrench, the conductor, takes a great interest in children. He informed me that they have given up doing physical exercises because some of the parents and children objected to it. At Manor Park they have only just opened not exactly a Lyceum. There are two young men who have taken the matter in hand. When I visited they went through some nice plain exercises of learning the little children to sing. I shall be

more informed as to the method of work when I have visited them again. I next went to Masonic Hall, Camberwell. There is a very nice room here, and with care and attention this Lyceum can be made one of the best in London. The Lyceum conductor is a young lady well able to fill the position, and the children went through with the exercises very nicely. There ought to be many more as regards numbers, as it is a fine hall.—M. CLEGG.

TYNESIDE.—I have been unable to visit our Lyceum since September, when I visited the one at Heaton, and was pleased with the increase of scholars and improvement. I have written letters to North Shields, South Shields, Pellon, Blyth, and Monkwearmouth Societies, asking them to form Lyceums, but have had no replies. I would very much like to resign my office of D.V. if I can find some one to take it up, as I cannot do it as it should be done owing to my employment. J. W. SECKER, D.V.

“LYCEUM BANNER” LETTER BOX.

THE BRITTEN MEMORIAL.

DEAR EDITORS.—I have been watching with keen interest in every issue of your paper for some token that the offer made by Mr. Venables to give £5 if the Lyceums throughout the country would raise £100 for the Britten Memorial Institution, but I am sorry to say that the matter has not been taken up so warmly as its importance to our movement fairly warrants. Still there are some Lyceums which have shown a very practical form their desire to participate in the work of providing the £100 which Mr. Venables mentioned, and as their names have not appeared in the Lyceum Official Organ I beg that you will allow me space for their announcement, viz:—

The Bolton (Bradford Street) Lyceum ... £1 1 0

The Smethwick Lyceum 1 0 0

The Blackburn (Freckleton Street) Lyceum 0 5 0

These three Lyceums have shown what can be done, and perhaps others may be inclined to emulate their example and prove that they, too, are desirous of helping to win for the Memorial that £5 note which Mr. Venables will be very glad indeed to give as a mark of appreciation of their loyal spirit and earnest effort in support of the cause. Could a combined effort be arranged do you think? We all do so much better when there is a bond of sympathy uniting us, and if this unity of effort could be established there would be little difficulty in raising the £100.

If every Lyceum would, through its leader, send you a postcard undertaking to raise say 10/-, or 20/-, by the end of March, I think we should be getting within measurable distance of that £5 note—and I should like to get hold of that piece of paper! Wouldn't it be fun?

You would kindly find space for the insertion of the names of the Lyceums and the amounts they agreed to collect, for your sympathy is with all that tends to help forward our movement of Modern Spiritualism—Crying pardon for writing so long a letter, I am, faithfully yours,

A. W. ORR, Hon. Sec. B.M. Fund.
15, Moorland Road, Didsbury.

every way an admirable and an unqualified success. Nearly 300 children and friends were present. The tea was prepared by the following ladies:—Mesdames S. S. Chiswell, J. Kilby, J. Duke, T. Henry, J. Watts, J. G. Thacker, J. Last, Woods, Preston and the Misses Chiswell, Grundy, K. and J. Newman, Duke, Harrison and Henry. The gentlemen made first-class stewards, with Mr. E. A. Keeling as the chief. The concert was the most enjoyable ever heard in the hall, the following being the artistes:—Misses E. Henry, Daisy Bell, Minnie Ford, Nellie Harrison, Messrs. E. A. Keeling, A. Crowther, E. Roberts, R. Rimmer, R. Phillips, Mr. John Mullen, (a magnificent basso) and Mr. Frank Clarke, humourist. Mr. Chris Bern and Mr. Reginald Mountfield fairly charmed and captivated the children and friends with their selections. A Christmas Tree 10 feet high, presented by Mr. Edwin Roberts, decorated by Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Last, and covered with Dolls, Toys and Presents made and presented by Mrs. Harrison, Miss Harrison; Mrs. Chiswell; the Misses Ward, Mrs. Hopley and other ladies and children, was the centre of attraction, and when Father Christmas arrived in person and handed presents from the Tree, and fruit to the children, the scene was delightful in the extreme. A very large contingent was present from the Bootle Society and Lyceum, accompanied by the President (Mr. James Norton) and the Secretary (Mr. J. J. Parr,) with many friends from the Britten Hall, Birkenhead, and Tranmere, and Rock Ferry Societies. Mr. G. H. Bibbings was in the South on propaganda work or he would have been amongst us. Dancing and games were kept up until 2 a.m. when the happy company dispersed thoroughly tired out but delighted with the success of their first effort. Great credit is due to the Secretary (Mr. Arthur Crowther,) the Treasurer (Mr. F. Hopley) Mr. A. Ward, and to the Committee for their excellent arrangements.

S. S. CHISWELL, Conductor.

MANCHESTER, Tipping Street.—Annual children's tea party on Saturday, January 5th, 1901, when a very good muster of children, parents, and friends assembled. After tea everybody was in very good humour for the distribution of prizes, when two special prizes were given to Miss Lena Sims and Miss Hetty Dempster for getting all the possible attendances in; these prizes were given by Miss French and Mr. Firth. Afterwards some fun for the children, in the shape of competitions of skipping ropes, dances, egg and spoon races, three-legged races, and all kinds of games we could think of, with a good supply of oranges given at intervals. A very enjoyable night's entertainment, for which our children look forward each year.—GEORGE VERNON, Sec.

OLDHAM.—On Christmas Eve we had an enjoyable social. On Christmas Day we had our annual party, and a splendid entertainment consisting of songs, solos, recitations, dialogues, etc. On New Year's Eve we had another social, and on Saturday, January 5th, we had our Lyceum tea party and prize distribution by Mr. Wheeler, when I am proud to say twenty-

seven of our Lyceumists received prizes. On Saturday, January 19th, we had with us Mr. A. Wilkinson, lanternist, of Nelson, who gave us a splendid lantern entertainment and cinematograph pictures of the calisthenics. On Sunday, January 20th, open session, marching, calisthenics, and gold and silver recitations gone through very creditably, Mr. Wilkinson giving us some encouragement. In the evening we had a pictorial sacred lantern service entitled "Little Minnie," also spirit photos, etc., a very pleasant evening being spent.—FRANK MELLOR, Secretary.

DISTRICT VISITORS REPORTS.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.

October 7th.—Dearnley opened half-an-hour earlier on learning of my visit. I was much pleased with their conduct throughout. Marching and calisthenics creditable. I taught them a few new marches, with which they seemed well pleased. There is the making of an excellent Lyceum here. I presided, by request, at their afternoon service, and addressed the parents briefly on behalf of the children.—October 21st. Middleton.—This Lyceum, although it had only been going a few weeks, I found in a very satisfactory condition, everything being far better than I expected. I taught them new marches, after which five of the smallest children did the calisthenics with credit to themselves and their teachers.—October 28th. I visited our own Lyceum, Bury, and was welcomed by the conductor as one of their Lyceumists in the capacity of D.V., and invited to address the Lyceumists, for which a vote of thanks was accorded. The attendance was good, and conducted as usual.—November 14th. Ashton.—I was disappointed in the numbers, there being only 30 present. They possess a splendid hall, capable of accommodating four times that number. Late in starting, but attention good. Using the old series of calisthenics. I recommended them to adopt the new ones, as visitors are unable to join in with them. Taught them new marches, which gave great satisfaction.—November 17th. Rochdale, Penn Street open session.—A party of Lyceumists from Bury paid a visit. Services conducted by Mr. E. Barnes, conductor of Bury Lyceum. Brief addresses were given by Mr. A. Kitson, Mr. R. Charnley, and myself. Evening service of song by the visitors, for which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded.—November 18th. Oldham.—I was delighted to find a splendid Lyceum, there being over 120 present. The conduct was good, so were the exercises. A little more attention to punctuality would be an improvement. I was able to render assistance at their afternoon and evening services in the absence of their planned speaker.—November 25th. Bolton. Knowsley Street.—Late start. I conducted the sessions by request. Singing and responses good. One or two marches, which appeared to delight them all. I also added a few words of advice and encouragement.—December 19th. Rochdale, Summer Street.—Although a new Lyceum, there were 37 present. They are doing exceedingly well. Readings and responses were very well rendered, considering the short time they have been open. I was specially

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

INSTITUTED AT OLDHAM, MAY, 1890.

OFFICERS, 1900-1901.

President : Mr. Alfred Smedley, Park Mount, Belper. Past President : Mr. J. J. Morse, London.

Treasurer : Mr. A. E. Sutcliffe, 18, Sowerby Street, Sowerby Bridge.

Executive : Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, Mr. A. Wilkinson, Mr. S. S. Chiswell, and Mr. J. Venables.

Secretary : Mr. Alfred Kitson, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

List of Lyceums and Lyceum Secretaries in the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

- Accrington**, Albion st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. W. H. Swan, 12, Oswald st.
" Argyle st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. E. Edwards, 5, Pendle st
" Bridge st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. G. Brooks, 30, Lydia st
" China st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. Wm. Fish, 8, George st., Oswaldtwistle
Ashington, nr. Morpeth, 10 a.m., Mr. J. J. Douglas, 38, Fifth row
Bacup, Princess street, Miss Butterworth, 129 Plantation st.
Barrow-in-Furness, Lyceum hall, Mr. J. Jones, 4, Mapus st.
Barry Dock, Atlantic hall, Mr. A. E. Taylor, 82, George st.
Batley Carr, Town st., 10 and 2, Mr. H. Holdsworth, 97, Cave buildings, near Dewsbury.
Belper, Jubilee hall, 10 and 2, Mr. J. Hawkins, Marsh lane.
Birmingham, Bloomsbury, Oddfellows' hall, 11 a.m., Mr. T. Browne, 24, Tarry road, Highfield road, Sattley
" Masonic hall, 7, Broad st. corner, 2-45, p.m., Mr. J. Preece, 62, Garnet st.
" Smethwick, Central hall, cape hill, 2-45, p.m., Miss L. George, 28, windmill lane.
Blackburn, Freckleton street, 9-30 and 1-45, Mr. James Hargreaves, 31, whalley new road.
" Northgate, 9-30, Mr. T. E. Hollinhead, 24, Edmondson street.
Blackpool, Albert rd., 9-30, Mr. F. Mewis, 12, Maybell Avenue.
Bolton, Bradford st., 10 a.m., Mr. E. Pilkington, 72, Union st., Tonge Moor.
Bolton, Knowlesy st., 10 and 2-30, Miss Maud Spittle, 57, Essington st.
Bootle, Liverpool, Stanley hall, 11 a.m., Mr. R. Rimmer, 91, Beatrice st.
Bradford, Rebecca st., 10 a.m., Mr. A. Windle, 9, Tile st., Manningham.
" Otley rd., 10 a.m. Mr. F. Priestley, Nuttall rd.
" Temperance hall, 10 a.m., Mr. H. Downey, 26, Marshland place, Leeds road.
" Sunbridge rd., 10-30, Mr. H. Anderson, 31, Gale st., Princeville.
" St Paul's spiritual church, Laisterdyke, 10 a.m. Mr. R. Lewis, 8, wakefield rd.
" Tong st., Dudley hill, 10 a.m., Mr. Fred Wilkinson, 31, Holme lane, Dudley Hill.
" West Bowling, Parkside road, 10 a.m., Mr. J. Lightowler, 13, Chellow st., Manchester rd.
Brighouse, Martin st., 10 a.m., Mr. G. Crowther, 3, Rogerson square, Waring Green.
Burnley, Hammerton st., 10 a.m., Mr. Edward Hall, 9, Read street.
" North st., 9-30, Mr. Thos. E. Chadwick, 104, Cleaver street.
" Guy st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. W. Redman, 17, Richmond street.
Bury, Georgiana st., 10 a.m., Mr. A. E. Kershaw, 28, South Bank road.
Cardiff, St. John's square, 2-45.
Cleckheaton, walker-st., Northgate, 9-45, Mr. Wm. Jackson, shaw-st., Moor bottom.
Colne, Cloth hall, 10, Mr. Harry Cotterell, 17, Mason street.
Crook, co. Durham, Old Crown rooms, 10-30, Mr. R. Christopher, Emerson st.
Darwen, Church bank-st., 9-30, Mr. W. Pearce, 41, Argyle street.
Derby, Midland-rd., 10-30, Mr. Ernest shepherd, 48, Molineaux-st.
Dewsbury, Bond st., 10 and 1-45, Mr. J. Wallace, Aisthorpe, Highfield cottages, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.
Dnkinfield, Astley road, 10, Mr. J. J. Ramsbottom, 85, King street.
Elland, Newcombe st., 10, Miss G. Wilkinson, 49, Huddersfield-rd.
Exeter, Friars' hall, Friars walk, Miss Stamp, 29, Friars Walk.
Gateshead, St. Cuthbert's hall, Bensham, 2-30, Mr. J. W. Secker, 94, Bensham avenue.
Glasgow, Assembly Rooms, 156, Bath st., Miss Jeanie Welsh, 228, Main st., Anderson.
Great Harwood, nr. Blackburn, Cambridge st., 10, Miss L. Bell, 4, Lomax st.
Halifax, St. Paul's, Alma st., 10 and 1-15, Mr. T. Woodhams, 31, Crossley terrace, Hanson lane. Craven st., 10 and 1-15 (Sec. as above).
Heaton, Spiritual Institute, Mr Shadforth, 33, Tynemouth rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Heckmondwike, Church st., 10 and 1-30, Miss F. Kershaw, horsfall buildings, Norrithorpe, Liversedge.
Heywood, william st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. Louis Duckworth, 17, Brunswick st.
Higher Broughton, Salford, Hilton st., 10-30 and 2, Mr. H. Searle, 9, Sycamore st., High-town, Manchester.
Hollingswood, Byron st., 10-15, Mr. Fred Snape, 94, Chapel rd.
Horwich nr. Bolton, Beatrice st., 10-30, Mr. A. V. Vinten, 321, Chorley new rd.
Huddersfield, Brook st., 10, Mr. H. L. Westerby, 7, Manchester rd.
" St. Peter st., 10-15, Miss F. Brown, 15, Field-house rd.
Hull, Granville hall, Silvester st., Mr. B. H. Coghill, Frederic's terrace, Barmley st.
Hyde Mount st., 10, Miss Lydia Meakin, 39, Union street.
Keighley, Heber st., 10 and 1-30, Mr. Charles Webber, 26, Corn street, Ingrow.
Lancaster, Athenæum st., St. Leonard's gate 10-30 Mr. H. Townley, 16, Rydall rd.
Leeds, Psychological hall, Grove house lane, 10, Mr. Dan Nevison, 11, Sedans place, Camp rd.
Leicester, Queen st., 10-30, Mr. W. A. Griffin, 16, Shakespeare st., Aylestone.
Leigh, Newton st., 10-30, Mrs Stirrup, 2, Ellsmere st
Liverpool, John Lamont Lyceum, Eaton hall, Breck rd., Everton, 11 a.m., Mr. Arthur Crowther, 47, Cobden st.
" Daulby hall, Daulby st., 11 a.m., Mr. W. Robinson, 314, Scotland rd.
Liversedge, Carr st., 10, Miss Julia Hirst, Well fold, Littletown.
London, Battersea park, Mr. J. Imson, 8 Glycena rd., Lavender hill, s.w.
" Leyton, 3 p.m. Mr. R. Blanchett's, 2, Osborne road, E.
" Surrey Masonic hall, Camberwell, new rd., 3 p.m. S. D. Smith, 237, Southampton-st., Camberwell
Manchester, Collyhurst st., Oldham rd., 10, Mr. A. Lawrence, 69, Collyhurst st., Oldham rd.
" Harpurhey, Rochdale rd., 10-30 Mrs. A. Pollard, 172, Rochdale rd.
" West Gorton Labour Hall, 24, Grey st., 10-30, Mr. P. Humphreys, 108, Henry st.
" Tipping st., Arwicks, 10-30 Mr. G. Vernon, 73, Mytton st., Hulme.
Middlesboro', Newport rd., 10 a.m., Mrs. Jane Nixon, 1, Oliver st., Linthorpe, Middlesboro'.
Middleton, nr. Manchester, Gilmour st., 10-15, Mr. Jas. Ellidge, 23a, Taylor st.
Millom 10 and 2, Mr. J. Dixon, 16, Duke st.
Mopley Church st., 10 a.m., Miss E. Thewlis Webster house, Bank st.
Nelson North st., 10 a.m. Mr. Fred Allsup, 33, Elizabeth st.
Newcastle Northumberland hall, High Friar st. 2-30, Mr. G. Martin, 205, Clara st., New Benwell N.-on-T.
Normanton Queen st., 10 a.m. Mr. E. Mosley, 34 Goodhope row.
Nottingham Gladstone hall 2-30, Mr. S. Sanderson, 21, Hoilam Stone.
" Cobden hall, 2-30 Mr. J. Thornley, Denmark grove, Alexandra park.
Oldham, Bartlam place, 10, Mr. F. Mellor, 6, neath st.
Patricroft, 10 a.m., Mr. M. Edwards, 17, Hampson st.
Pendleton, Cobden st., 10-30, Mr. Albert Elder, 31, Withycombe st.
" Milton place, 10-30, Mr. B. Wild, 23, Eimer st, Whit lane.
Rawtenstall Back ormered st., 10-30, Mr. J. Wainmsley, 25, Alma cottages.
Rishton Near Blackburn, 10 a.m., Mr. A. Mason, 36, clark st.
Rochdale Regent hall, Regent st., 9-45, Mr. J. Firth, 20, Malvern st.
" Penn st., 10, Mr. J. Howarth, 3, Shepard's yard,
" Summer st., 10, Mr. Charles Addy, 22, Huine st.
Rockferry Union st., 11 a.m., Mr. J. Halliwell, 41, Grove road, Birkenhead.
Rothwell Nr. Leeds 10 a.m., Mr. R. Ward, 3, Craven yard., West parade.
Royton, Union st., 10 a.m., Miss S. E. Halliwell, 114, Edge lane, Oldham rd.
Salford, Chapel st., 10-30, Mr. A. H. Rocke, 47, West cloves st., Eccles new rd.
Sheffield Attercliffe, 10-30, Mr. G. Pool, 865, Attercliffe rd.
" Hillsboro' 10-30, Mr. J. H. Appleton, 11, Hinchcliffe walk.
" Music Hall, Surrey st., 10-30, Mr. J. Caunt, 1, Gower st.
" Langsett rd., 9-30 and 1-45. Mr. T. Naylor, 5, Court, 1, Bedford st.
Skipton Temperance hall, 10 a.m. Mr. H. Bradley 5, Rowland st. Middletown.
Slaithwaite Laith lane, 10-30, Mr. Frank Cock, 46, Laith lane, near Huddersfield.
Southport Forester's hall, 10 a.m. Mr. W. Stansfield, 20, Seaband rd.
Sowerby Bridge, The Lyceum, Hallins lane, 10 a.m., Miss Dewhurst, 51, Tuel lane.
Stalybridge, 10-30, Mr. J. Croisdale, 43, Melbourne st.
Stockport Spiritual hall, wellington rd. Mr. J. Marstone, 223, Cheshiregate.
Todmorden, Sobriety hall, 10 a.m., Mr. O. Sutcliffe, 2, Dover st.
Wakefield, Queen street, Mrs. Bruce, Twins place, Thornes lane.
Walsall Central hall, 2-30, Miss Flint, Adam's row
Warrington, Bewsey st., Mr. Wm. Massey, 34, Manchester rd.
West Vale Green lane, 10, Mr. G. E. Baker, Cross hill, Greetland, near Halifax.
Wisbech, Ruby st., 2-15, Mr. Wm. Hill, Junr. 3, Queens rd.
- Ashton-under-Lyne**, Burlington street, 10, Mr. R. W. Walker, Pelham st.
Dearnley near Rochdale, 10-30, Mr. Isaac Bamford, Greengate
Derby 1a Normanton road, 10-30, Mr. J. Roe Burton rd.
Grimsby Freeman st., Mr. C. Wright.
- Leicester** Grafton st., 10-30, Miss F. Sibson, 17, Derwent st.
Manchester Bradford, Victoria st., 2-30, Mr. Thornily, 67, Wellington st., Bradford.
" Hulme, Mr. Wm. Lamb, Junr., 56, Radnor st.
" New Ardwick, Thompson's Assembly Rooms.
Nelson Pendle st., 10-30, Mr. John Crabtree, Rupert st., Spring Bank.
- Openshaw** Granville hall, 2 p.m., Mr. John Owen, Chapel grove, Openshaw, Manchester.
Preston Central hall, 9-45, Mr. J. Dawson, 77, Springfield rd.
Plymouth Oddfellows hall, Morley st. Mr. R. Forbes, 5, Stoke road, Elldad.
Quarmby near Huddersfield, 10-15, Mr. Fred Noble, Spa terrace.

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London: The Progressive Literature Agency, 26, Osnaurgh Street, London, N.W.

Printed for the Proprietor, by WADSWORTH & Co., Keighley; and Published by the proprietor J. J. Morse, at 26, Osnaurgh-st., Euston-rd, London, N.W.