

The LYCEUM BANNER.

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

"In things Essential, Unity—In things Doubtful, Liberty—In all things, Charity."

VOL. XII.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

No. 146.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By ALFRED KITSON.

The Lyceum lately opened at York is making good progress under the able conductorship of Mr. J. Baldwin, late of Halifax.

We are pleased to learn that the Society at Windhill, near Shipley, has re-opened its Lyceum. We hope the present effort will be crowned with abundant success.

Rotherham Society has decided to re-open its Lyceum, and encourage its successful management. This is a good sign of a useful career. We hope soon to hear of the late one at Parkgate being re-opened. They have a good hall of their own, with every facility.

We are in receipt of the first four issues of *The Progressive Lyceum*, the official organ of the American Lyceums. It is a neat little sheet of four pages, containing a character sketch, and portrait of our dear friend, Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis, Lesson sketch, and a few brief notes. Mr. J. W. Ring, Galveston, Texas, is the editor and publisher. We wish it a splendid and useful career for the children's sake. We trust the movement in America will grow and unfold under the fostering care and supervision of Bro. J. W. Ring.

Musical conductors will be glad to learn that the popular tune, called "Count your blessings," can be sung to the hymn "Hand in hand with angels," by using the following appropriate lines as chorus, kindly sent us by Mrs. L. A. Griffin;—

We will follow, follow every day,
We will follow on the upward way;
We will follow, follow every day,
Angels gently guide us on the heavenly way.

Mr. Alfred Smedley, the Grand Old Man of Belper, is laying the cause of Spiritualism, and the B.S.L.U. as well, under another deep debt of gratitude by the publication, for free distribution, of 5000 copies of a pamphlet concerning the late Mr. Joseph Barker, who was in turn a methodist minister; atheistic lecturer and author; and ultimately a wandering preacher of a broad, and all-embracing Gospel of Hope. He was converted from atheism by

spiritualism. His spiritualistic experiences are omitted from the second edition of his autobiography. Mr. Smedley gives this missing chapter, along with other references to his testimony to the phenomena of Modern Spiritualism. Mr Smedley is kindly donating 2,500 of these valuable pamphlets to the B.S.L.U. Secretaries can have a supply enclosed in their parcels when ordering books. Or a parcel sent separately by paying carriage, and promising to use them judiciously for free distribution.

Mr. and Mrs. Smedley have sent a donation of £5 each in aid of the Permanent Secretary Fund, for which the secretary begs to return thanks on behalf of the Executive Council.

We desire to draw our readers' attention to the new development in the Temperance Page. We have long wished to see this FOUR FOLD PLEDGE put into practical operation, in the LYCEUM BANNER, so as to give it a tangible form. We desire to keep a record of all who sign any, or all of these four pledges, namely: (1) intoxicants; (2) tobacco; (3) gambling; (4) swearing.

We hope that Lyceums who are using those pledge books, will send on monthly reports of the progress made in enrolling new members, give the name of the person and the number of the vices they have signed against. Supposing one has signed against all but tobacco, then it would be as follows: Mr. John —, signed against 1, 3, & 4, or Mr. Thomas —, signed against 3 & 4, and hopes to place his name against the first two by and bye. Mary —, signed the whole pledge. Ruth —, ditto. Each one will be given a number, the same as in the Bluebell Guild. And when the remainder of the pledge is signed, the missing figures will be filled in. This will be putting our spirituality into practical operation. These pledge books contain 50 forms each, and 50 duplicates, and only cost 7½d per book, post free. We look to Accrington, Batley Carr, Belper, Bradford, Bury, Lancaster, Nottingham, Padiham, and all other Lyceums who have got these pledge books, to send in their list of names for our next issue.

Mr. D. Colesclough, Wigan, writes: "Whilst reading your leader in Jan. issue, which I did with pleasure, I came across a few points which seemed very applicable to our Lyceum, namely, the pledge book. We have been talking about starting a league of total abstinence from intoxicants, and tobacco, but I think if we add to them gambling and swearing, it will make our object still better." We are of the same opinion.

THE GIRLS' OWN CORNER.

BY MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD.

Be not clay in the hands of circumstances: seize thy circumstances and mould them to thy will.

CLARA GIBSON.

CAN *all* girls be ladies? Why, certainly! what a question to ask. Are all girls ladies? Why no, at least not exactly that. Why? There is no tendency towards refinement in many girls; environment does not assist others; whilst others cannot help being ladylike. What are we to understand by the term lady; Webster says:—"A well-bred woman; a title of respect." A girl's notion of a lady may be summed up something like this:—finely dressed in the fashion; haughty and proud in manner; a nice talker; plenty of money, rides in a carriage, has a maid and other servants, does nothing except give orders to others, pays and receives calls, and does as she likes. It is a wonderful picture and not overdrawn which can be proved by asking a girl what her idea of a lady is.

It is very evident that the girls and Webster are not on the same track. It is also true the girls have not got the right conception of 'what is being a lady.'

Now let us go over the girl's qualifications for being a lady. "Finely dressed in the fashion." If that was a necessary credential all the smart looking girls we met would answer the description. Yorkshire and Lancashire can boast of some of the bonniest girls, with faces and forms divine, handsome creatures, whose outward gear is properly fixed, and whose hair, millinery etc., is as artistically arranged, as any titled lady in the land; but remember we are looking at her from a distance, and as she moves along so gracefully and lightly you never dream about clogs, and shawls, and six o'clock runs to the mill, or hurrying to other places of employment. These girls are factory workers, sewing shop girls, shop assistants, clerks, typists, in fact all kinds of workers are represented, even the school-teachers.

Suppose we get an introduction to one of these girls. The usual frank, good-natured disposition at once responds, and an acquaintance is formed. What do you often find? That the girl has lost the little education she got at school, for she speaks broad dialect; uses vulgarism without a tinge of a blush; laughs immoderately; in short has no manners. Watch the same individual at table—I dare not proceed further or else the knife and fork would make profound obeisance to me, and the salt spoon do a jig to show their appreciation of an effort to re-install them to their proper places, instead of being kept in bondage by two hands all through the meal, or in the salt spoon's case being totally ignored. What a blessing all girls are not alike; for there are many who do not come under this description by any means.

I am afraid environment and home training is largely responsible for this kind of thing. If there is not the cultivation of the artistic and beautiful, the gentle and modest behaviour, the inclination to read well written books in preference to the abominable rubbish so many of our girls read, and where very often they get the false ideas of ladyhood, and the sweet true influence of a pure minded

woman—the mother in the home; ever constantly touching these young creatures, it is not to be wondered at if they catch up the vile and impure thoughts which no well-bred woman would entertain.

Now let us look at another well dressed type the girl calls a lady. She assumes the haughty air and demeanour necessary to impress the lower orders. She is taken about in a carriage and has plenty of servants to do her bidding. She has had a course of training at various ladies' Seminars, both home and continental, and after being finished she is presented and is considered 'out,' and an arrangement presently follows in the shape of an announcement of a marriage, etc. That is the little story of the career of a lady in fashionable society. Society functions make great demands on her time and her whole life seems one round of gaiety, show, splendour, luxury, scandal and gossip. That is the picture which has caught the other lady, but if she could go behind the scenes she might change her opinion and pity the butterfly who has so short a time to flutter in the sunshine of public life, and who often wishes for quietude and the enjoyment of home and family ties. In our next issue perhaps we will continue the topic, and if any of 'our girls' care to send on their ideas of the subject I shall be glad, so that we may arrive at a better understanding of the term lady.

In Memoriam.

With the deepest sympathy we record the passing on of both father and mother of two of our Lyceumists. Mr. Robert Charnley, of Bury, who was in his 55th year, left the physical body on Friday December 26th, while his beloved helpmate again joined him on Sunday, December 28th. Mrs. Charnley was in her 58th year, and was one of the pioneers of the present Bury Society. Whilst we all recognise the passing on to be a spiritual gain for the parents, we sincerely sympathise with the children who are left behind. To be deprived of a mother's smile is indeed hard to bear, but to also miss a father's voice is surely a very hard blow. The mortal remains of both father and mother were interred at the Bury Cemetery on Tuesday, December 30th. The service at the house, where quite a number of Spiritualists had gathered, was conducted by our President, Mr. H. Golding, and at the graveside by Mr. Knight. Suitable hymns were sung.

"Oh, purer than the love of earth,
Is that those friends do freely bring,
Who've passed the change of 'second birth,'
And songs of 'life eternal' sing."

E. J. BARNES, Lyceum Secretary.

BRADFORD, SPICER STREET.—January 4th, grand open Session. Songs and solos were well rendered by scholars. A good address was given by Mrs. Stott, enjoyed by all.

FRANK PARKER, Sec.

OUR TEMPERANCE PAGE

Conducted by HERBERT E. CLARKE.

Since the publication of the last number of the BANNER two notable additions have been made to our statute book, one so involved, clumsy and clannish, that it has called forth indignation from all liberal quarters—the Education Act; the other so reaching and powerful in its condemnation of drunkenness, that temperance reformers may well congratulate themselves on the achievement of a great conquest. This latter has already made its influence widely felt, and we cannot tell what great benefits will follow from it in the near future. It more severely punishes occasional drunkards, and puts to open shame those who are habitually intoxicated, refusing to sell strong drink to them for a period of three years. Whether it is true or false that laws are unable to make a drunken nation a sober one, I will not endeavour to discuss, but certain it is, that to forbid a drunkard access to a public house for such a period of time, with the knowledge that similar conduct in the future will bring the penalty upon him again, is one way of eliminating the vice of *drunkenness* from our nation's character. But at the same time it encourages moderate drinking, which, as I pointed out some months back, is the backbone of the trouble. It fails to take into consideration the painful circumstances which may have been the cause of drunkenness in scores of cases which come under its ruling. O! how much drunkenness arises in moderate drinking! The act allows its victim to go to the bitter end of the line before it exacts its revenge! Is this not a mistake? A conscientious father would not allow a thievish tendency to grow in his son till he came under the clutch of the law—he would strike out the blot in its inception.

I think we fail here in many cases. We provide means to an end and then wreak our revenge upon the unfortunates who fall under the temptation. Why not remove the cause of the evil? Prevention is better than cure.

Thus while we must admire the new Drink Act as a "moderating reform," we are driven to admit that its capacity is only finite, and that its beneficial influence will be felt only by those just fitted to its requirements.

There is a fine letter in the *Morning Leader* of January 9th, which deplores the failure of Mr. Holmes' (police missionary) scheme of Inebriates' Homes, and which ably illustrates my contention. The correspondent, Bert B., rests his arguments mainly upon the incontrovertible statement that to cater to an effect does not damage the cause, and for this reason alone he would refuse to agree with the government's spending 10/6 a head upon inebriates who are the truest exposure of a disgraceful vice. By hiding away such in homes, the public do not see much of the misery which the drink is doing among the working classes, and the reforms which would otherwise be instituted to stop the evil are never thought of. At the same time great sums of money are being spent in the provision of such hiding places without shewing results worthy of the expense. "Out of 26 patients discharged from the L.C.C. Farnhill home, after an expenditure of £1,350 of public money.....seven are doing well—at present—five are doubtful, and *fourteen have fallen again*.....such a record is an utter failure." He goes

on to point out that in providing convenience for future inebriates we do not lessen the curse either now or in the future. On the contrary it seems to me that this is one of the best means of fostering the blight. I believe some time ago I quoted a passage regarding drunkenness in the reign of William III, in which it was affirmed that certain inns and taverns provided straw on which intoxicated wretches, incapable of motion, were rested until they recovered. This convenience was always conspicuously advertised by the proprietors. But here we have a much greater temptation to drunkenness, for the man who is fool or knave enough to get himself into this condition a sufficient number of times is nursed and attended after doing so at public expense, while valuable, honourable men of sober life gain nothing, but are called upon to provide for habitual drunkards.

Surely, friends, it is not difficult to see what is wrong in the system; if we allow the cause of the vice to live on, how can we expect to patch up the effect and make it pleasant? In everyone's eyes the inebriates' home "at best cannot lessen or hinder the production of drunkards," it only waits for the victim of the gin palace or beer-house, and turns its attention to a cure, while prevention is forgotten, or at least forsaken.

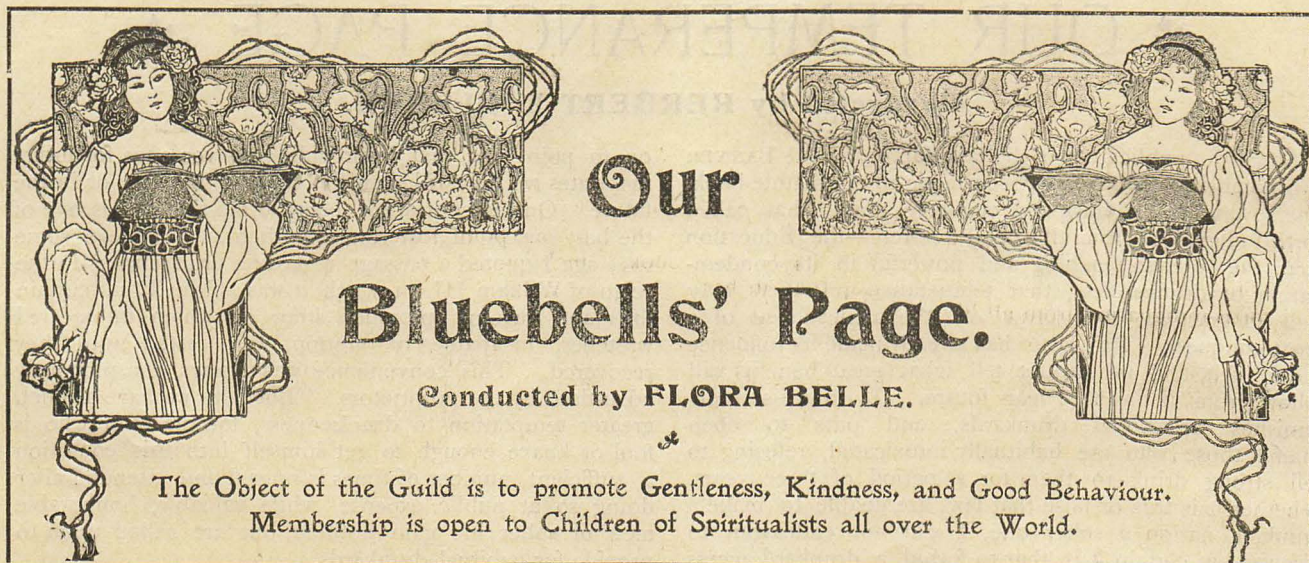
Good as may be the intentions of the promoters, such a home as this cannot but be a failure, because its foundations are unstable, and because it fails to hit the nail clean on the head as we want to do.

What shall we do, then, in a practical way, to reduce the number of beer consumers in the land? Evidently we must start by removing the cause and improving the nature of the person himself *before he falls a slave* to drunkenness. This can be done by example, exhortation and enlightenment, but of these three the first is the noblest. *Pledge yourself* to abstain from intoxicants, and many of your friends will do likewise.

With this in view I have accepted a proposition of our good editor's regarding a "four fold pledge." Those of my readers (and I trust there will be a good number), who sign agreement to all parts of the pledge, promise to refrain from (1) alcoholic beverages, (2) the use of tobacco, (3) gambling, (4) the use of obscene language. Those who are not full members will be pledged against any three, two, or one of these vices, but we shall always look forward to greater achievements from such partial members.

Now friends, send in your names as soon as possible, and remember that by offering a good example you are helping your fellows, who, like you, are struggling for righteousness, but without the strength and light which you perchance are able to offer them.

GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.—We held our annual Tea and Social on December 25th, when in spite of the bad state of the weather, a good number were present. After tea we had a short, but good programme. The rest of the evening was spent in parlour games and dancing. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.—P. HERD, Sec.



Our
Bluebells' Page.

Conducted by **FLORA BELLE.**

*
The Object of the Guild is to promote **Gentleness, Kindness, and Good Behaviour.**
Membership is open to **Children of Spiritualists all over the World.**

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

I am pleased indeed to let you know I have received two more shillings from members of our Guild in answer to Mr. E. J. Barnes' suggestion in the Dec. issue of the BANNER; one of them is from our good friend Mr. Barnes, and the other is from a "Friend." So now I have got 2/6 in all. But I want you all to know that I shall be very pleased to receive pennies, if any of my Bluebells can spare one for such a worthy object as our Lyceum Permanent Secretary Fund.

I told you last month that mother had promised Ted and I should have a party on New Year's Day, and invite a few friends. Well, we had the party and had a right good time. Our friends were invited to come early after dinner, so we had first of all a nice long walk, which we all enjoyed.

We came back in a good humour for tea, which mother was kind enough to get ready during our absence. We all did ample justice to the good things she had provided; father looked on, well pleased to see us all in such glee. I heard him whisper to mother that it was worth all the trouble and expense to see all our happy faces round the table. After tea had been cleared away, we had guessing competitions, and forfeit games; but I liked the last but one the best. We were all told to leave the room with the exception of two who knew the game. Then, one by one, our names were called out, and after the entrance of each one the door was closed on all those who were still outside, whilst we could hear screams of laughter inside. We all became most serious, wondering how soon our turn would come. When my turn came one of the boys called me in. I found them all arranged in two rows. Then they commenced. The leader said, "Guess a word of five letters which will describe what we are doing." Whatever movement I made, they made; whatever I said they repeated, until I became mystified as to what I should say and do; I told them they were making fun of me. Then they all said in chorus, "you are making fun of me." I had to laugh, then oh! what a shout of laughter followed. At last I said I could not think of such a word,

then they all shouted "MIMIC." Now I dare not stop to tell you any more about the party, we concluded by all expressing the hope for a similar party before long.

A few days after the party we were all seated by the fire side having a chat when father said, Flora, would it not be possible to have a competition in connection with your Bluebell Guild?

We all liked the idea. I then wrote to our Editor, and he said he had no objection to a competition. We decided to find six quotations from the LYCEUM MANUAL, and then leave you to find the number of page, verse, and line, also full particulars concerning them. Now this competition is only for my Bluebells who are under 14 years of age. The first letter which comes to hand with all the quotations correctly given will receive a present of a book suitably inscribed. So now my dears, let me see how many of you are willing to try and win the prize. All letters must reach me before the 18th of Feb., and must contain your name in full; the number on your membership card; which Lyceum you attend, and also your age, so that I can select a suitable book. The quotations are as follows:—

1. "Show gentleness in speech and act."
2. "Suffer rather than inflict suffering."
3. "Thy mother is the guardian angel of thy life."
4. "Let kindness fill the human heart."
5. "Our God needeth earnest workers; and faithful hearts and true."
6. The mighty man is he who subdueth his temper."

I have received a very pretty card, with a beautiful spray of bluebells on it, from Mrs. Kate Taylor Robinson. It is very kind of her to send me such a pretty memento of our Guild, and I desire to return my sincere thanks to her for it.

I am very pleased to receive a nice letter from Miss Louie Marston, of Stockport Lyceum, full of good wishes for the success of our Bluebells' Guild, and also containing a splendid list of new members, as you will see. I thank you, dear sister, both for it and your good wishes.

My next and last letter for this month comes from Miss Annie Cheetwood, of Tipping Street Lyceum. I am very pleased to hear you had such a pleasant party. It must have been a very pleasant time indeed, when your special prizes had to be given, and then for you to have such a successful opening in the New Year. I hope it will continue all the year.

Now I must conclude, or some of my letter will be cut out for being too long for the space allotted to me.

Please address all letters for me as follows:—

Miss Flora Belle,
c/o Mr. Alfred Kitson,
Bromley Road,
Dewsbury, and oblige,
Your loving Sister, FLORA BELLE.

LIST OF MEMBERS IN THE BLUEBELL'S GUILD.

FEBRUARY LIST.

Batley Carr

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1135 Arthur Day | 1136 Ernest Day | |
| | Stockport Lyceum | |
| 1137 Thomas Edwards | 1154 J. W. Knowles | 1171 Fred Knowles |
| 1138 A. Barnes | 1155 Fred Springate | 1172 Arthur Blackshaw |
| 1139 John Marston | 1156 W. Moss | 1173 H. Blackshaw |
| 1140 John Griffiths | 1157 John E. Marston | 1174 Sarah A. Bailey |
| 1141 Louie Marston | 1158 Anthony Newall | 1175 Lily Pickthall |
| 1142 Louie Barnes | 1159 H. Whitehead | 1176 Elsie Hargreaves |
| 1143 Annis Bailey | 1160 Albert Birtwistle | 1177 Alice Schofield |
| 1144 Nelly Pickthall | 1161 Samuel Boswell | 1178 Eliza Schofield |
| 1145 Miss Richardson | 1162 Mr. Thompson | 1179 Jessie Hargreaves |
| 1146 Sarah Wilson | 1163 Thomas Marston | 1180 Annie Wilson |
| 1147 Mary Barnes | 1164 Fred West | 1181 Clarice Walmsley |
| 1148 Ester Metcalf | 1165 Philip Springate | 1182 Nelly Walmsley |
| 1149 Evelyn Marston | 1166 Cecil Hargreaves | 1183 Doris West |
| 1150 Florry Pickthall | 1167 E. Hargreaves | 1184 Maggie Henshall |
| 1151 E. Burgess | 1168 Edward Walmsley | 1185 Alice Knowles |
| 1152 Sarah Knowles | 1169 Albert Barnes | 1186 Nellie Moss |
| 1153 Minnie Barnes | 1170 Frank Marston | |

Gleanings by Uncle Amos.

AN ORIGINAL COMPOSITION.

A girl in one of the district schools of Kern County, U.S.A. wrote an extemporaneous composition on "Water," which fell into the hands of Alfred Harrel, County Superintendent of Schools. The following is the unique essay:—

"Water is the subject. Water is found everywhere, especially when it rains, as it did the other day. Onions make our eyes water, and horseradish when we eat too much. There are many kinds of water in the world—rain water, soda water, well water, and brine. Water is used for a good many things, Sailors use it to go to sea upon. If there wasn't any ocean their ships couldn't float, and they would have to go ashore. Water is good to make dams in, and to fire at the boys with a squirt gun, and to catch fish in. Nobody could be saved from drowning if there wasn't any water to pull them out of. Water is first rate to put out fires with, I love to go to fires and see the men work the engines. This is all I can think of now except a flood.

AUNT DINA (reading the paper.)

I see, Rastus, by de papah, dat poultry am quoted as berry quite. Uncle Rastus,—Well I'se glad ob dat, an' I

recon I'd better negotiate foh some dis ebenin'. Dat chicken we had las' Sabbath, ole 'oman, made noise 'nough ter raise de hul neighbourhood.

A SAILOR IN DIFFICULTIES.

The following anecdote is related of a Tar who once had a narrow escape from imminent peril. He was one of the crew of a ship that was frozen in the Arctic Regions, and like young Nelson, had strayed on the ice, heedless of danger. He was far from the vessel, when he saw coming round a block of ice a huge Polar Bear, making directly towards him. Totally unprovided with any defensive weapon but his knife, he bethought himself of an old world weapon for extreme cases—prayer. But how and what must it be? There was no time to deliberate, the monster was near, and delay would be fatal to the poor fellow. So he opened his knife and grasped it firmly, hurriedly uttered a few words—how hurriedly can hardly be imagined, but their ruggedness speaks forcibly of a mingled terror, desperate courage, and dim twinkling faith.

"O, Lord, I dinna trouble ye often, but ye see me, an' ye see this bear. Oh Lord, if ye winna help me, dinna help the bear. Oh Lord, an' if ye'll help neither one nor the ither, stan' by an' see fair play, for this'll be a maist awful fecht, Amen."

His prayer must have been answered, for he lived to tell it.

A Prayer for PRESIDENT CLEVELAND (*re* a former Venezuela question.):

At Jefferson City, U.S., in offering a prayer for "Our Rulers," a minister said:—"Brethren, let us pray directly for Mr. Cleveland. Let us ask God to make him a better man. Let us pray as did the old preacher who was asked to pray for George the III. Let us say 'O Lord, we pray Thee to make him a good man, to give him wisdom to guide the ship of state. We ask Thee to convict and convert him, and when death comes to remove him from earth, we ask Thee to take him to heaven; but oh Lord, we pray Thee, give us no more like him for all time to come.'

MARK TWAIN said of Christendom:—"Give her soap water and towel, but hide the looking-glass."

LOUGHBOROUGH.—On December 28th our first annual meeting was held. The conductor gave the statistical report which (considering it being our first year in Lyceum work) was considered very satisfactory. The auditors' report was also satisfactory. We very much regret the physical loss of our oldest scholar. Though she is not with us in the material body, we have had proof of her being with us in spirit. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: conductor Mr. H. Steer, treasurer Mr. J. Frost, secretary Mr. C. Barradell, musical director Misses G. Frost and N. Steer. January 4th, Mr. C. E. Newbold distributed the prizes to the children for regular attendance. It filled our hearts with joy to watch the little ones walk up to the rostrum to receive their books.

(Miss) C. BARRADELL, Sec.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

The "Garden of the Heart" is unavoydedly crowded out of our columns this month.

THE ATTAINMENT OF TRUTH.

What is truth? asked one of old, its attainment being considered a very difficult matter. It has been likened to a precious gem lying at the bottom of a well; or hidden on the peak of a snow-capped mountain; which simply means that truth is obtained with difficulty.

"The truth shall make you free"; for truth is of God, and is sacred unto Him. The attainment of truth is of the first importance. Without it there is no certainty that what we hold dear in our minds, what we cherish as honest connections, may not prove to be delusion when put to the test, and leave us stranded and helpless. Truth is to our lives what the compass is to the mariner. It enables us to steer straight for the port we have set out for.

Falsehood—the opposite of truth—is like base coin; it may pass for a time ere it is detected. But the detection is sure to come sooner or later. And oh; what a rude shock it must be to find that what we have been honestly and earnestly labouring for and treasuring as our just wages or reward, is only counterfeit coin, and of no real value.

Some people are more trusting, more credulous than others and sooner fall victims to the wiles and allurements of the deceiver than others. The bright gilded coin of the pretender is accepted with complacency as being genuine. Such people may be offended if informed of the deception played upon them, and resent the interference in terms of

strong denunciation of their would-be-friend, as a cheat or swindler in disguise.

In like manner, falsehood is sometimes palmed on the confiding and credulous, as truth in those matters in which the soul's deepest and holiest emotions and feelings centre. Some of these falsehoods or shams have grown hoary with age, and so have become venerated as truths too sacred to be touched or investigated except by the professional experts, who, as a rule, are interested, not in the attainment of truth, but in keeping up the shams, except in such cases where shams of a similar nature are being offered for acceptance. Then, true to the instinct of self preservation, they lose no time or chance of exposing them as frauds, cunningly devised to mislead the unwary. In all such cases as these, hoary haired traditions are accepted and venerated as authority, instead of truth.

What has very materially helped to keep up this farce and fraud is the fact that when anyone has arisen, either inside or outside the profession, who has dared to expose the deception, the multitude has risen up in alarm and cried "hands off, thou desecrater of the sacred things of God." And so many of these would-be-friends and benefactors of the people have been cast into vile dungeons and made to subsist on starvation diet, and after being kept in durance vile, have been cruelly tortured to death; such is the treatment the votaries of tradition and falsehood have measured out to those large-hearted and noble souls who have sought to be its benefactors and saviours.

This is the condition of mankind to-day, and the question is: The attainment of truth, that precious gem in whose search and service so many of the world's noblest and best sons and daughters have sacrificed their lives. Attained and treasured it must be, not for its own sake merely, or ours, but for the sake of the children who have yet to run the race of life, and who look with hope and confidence to us for guidance.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM.

Five years ago the E. C. paid its first visit to Nottingham, where it found two flourishing Societies and Lyceums. The visit was looked forward to with anticipations of pleasurable associations, as this ancient city had the proud distinction of being the first in England to adopt the Lyceum mode of tuition in 1867. Nearly all of the sturdy reformers of 36 years ago have gone to join their inspirers on the spirit side of life.

The residence in which the first Lyceum was held has given place to a more modern structure. A picture of the old house and its grounds would be of historical interest and value.

Unfortunately those early efforts, like those at Keighley, Gawthorpe, and Ossett, lapsed in the course of a few years. What made the struggle harder in those early days of bitter persecution and cold isolation was the lack of suitable books, such as "The Lyceum Manual," "The Spiritual Songster," "Outlines of Spiritualism," etc. Sowerby Bridge Lyceum only held bravely on and maintained an unbroken record, from then till now. We well remember our visits to this Lyceum in the early seventies, which met in an "upper room" of Mr. Lord's residence. And the "Lord" was good to us and gracious in those days, and did many

mighty works in sowing and planting in the Garden of Eden? No; the Garden of the Heart. But we digress.

The first arrivals of the E. C. members were met by Mr. J. J. Ashworth and Mr. J. Clarke, president of the B.S.L.U. who, we are sorry to say, has had a long spell of acute suffering which has left its traces all too plainly on his features and constitution. Mr. A. Wilkinson, and Councillor John Venables were unable to attend. The latter wired: "too unwell to travel," which evoked the heart-felt sympathy of all.

Tea was served at Gladstone Hall, the joint committee joined in the same, an arrangement which allowed "Old friends and new; tried friends and true" to rub shoulders and discuss the prospects of the Lyceum movement both local and general.

The business dealt with by the E. C. was varied and important. The new illustrated marches were decided, and will be got ready as quickly as possible. Also the booklet on the Aims and Objects of the Lyceum was agreed to, and will contain a miniature portrait of Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis. These will be offered to Lyceums at *cost price* for free distribution. The Lyceum Returns, reports, and balance sheets are to be printed in "The Lyceum Banner" for April, so as to allow Lyceums ample time to study them before the Conference meets. It was decided to leave the question of adopting a Lyceum Badge to be decided by the Conference. The following Lyceums were enrolled members of the Union:—Salford (Cross Lane); Rochdale (Toad Lane; Burton-on-Trent; and Hatfield. The Secretary reported the opening of a Lyceum at York, and one at Windhill, near Shipley. He also reported that the Secretary Fund was three weeks in arrears on December 31st. Donations received since January 1st are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Smedley, Belper, £5 each; Bury Lyceum, 1/- (monthly); John Lamont Lyceum (quarterly collection) 5/-; Sowerby Bridge Lyceum, 10/-; Mr. S. S. Chiswell (two quarters) £1. These sums would meet the expenses to the end of February.

The Secretary gave a detailed statement of the sales during the past year, and submitted a statement of "The Lyceum Banner" accounts for the half-year ending December 31st. Both were adopted as being highly satisfactory.

The business lasted till 10-20 p.m. The President was congratulated on being able to preside over the same.

The Sunday services proved attractive to friends from a distance, as well as local. We were pleased to meet Mr. Wright, of Leicester. Mr. J. Bolton and daughter, of Derby, and also three friends from Newark, where they are desirous of forming a Society.

The President, Mr. J. Clarke, supported by Mrs. Greenwood and Mr. Chiswell addressed the meeting at Gladstone Hall in the morning, and Messrs. H. A. Kersey, W. Mason, and A. Kitson, attended the Cobden Hall. The speakers exchanged places in the evening.

Mr. J. J. Ashworth, President of the Gladstone Hall Society, in welcoming the E. C. said:—"Friends, on behalf of the representatives of England's First Lyceum, I have to offer the Executive Council of the B.S.L.U. here present our sincerest and heartiest welcome to the home of the movement, we are met here to-day to advocate, the Children's Progressive Lyceum. In the far distant past, one of earth's noblest teachers said, 'Suffer little chil-

dren to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven,' thus proving he had a loving, sympathetic heart and looked upon children as examples of purity, innocence, love, and fidelity.

Eighteen hundred years afterwards, our grand and loving-hearted Andrew Jackson Davies, of America, said, 'A child is the repository of infinite possibilities,' a truth which is now generally accepted. To build up firm and lasting moral and spiritual institutions for the future; to make the coming generations better and more useful than those of to-day, was our aim and object. All the great and powerful religious bodies recognise the necessity of looking after the children. Our cry is and must be, 'Open the door for the children, tenderly gather them' into the spiritual fold. This, we trust, will be the result of your visit, then we are sure all will be well repaid for the time spent, and work done to-day.

"Great as are our feelings of joy to-day at having Nottingham's first President of the B.S.L.U., Mr. Clarke, with us, these are tinged with sadness at the absence of Bros. Venables and Wilkinson, especially as illness is the cause of the former's non-appearance."

Mr. Ashworth also gave a few extracts from "Human Nature," published in 1868, by the late Mr. J. Burns, bearing testimony to the good work done by the Nottingham first Lyceum.

Mr. W. Mason thanked the President for his cordial welcome, and spoke of the importance of right training for the young.

Mr. Kersey spoke at some length on "the end of the world," which he held was not to be understood in a literal sense but a spiritual one. The shams and frauds of to-day, the eager scramble for gold and power, irrespective of the laws of justice and equity, all indicated that it was time that the end of the old order of religion came to an end, to be replaced with the teachings of the angels. These teachings to be effective must be given to the young who would assimilate them, the good effect being seen in their every day life.

Mr. Kitson rapidly reviewed the rise and progress of the Lyceum work in England. The compiling and printing of the "Lyceum Manual" and "Spiritual Songster" by Mr. Kersey at a time when the movement was languishing for such. The founding of the B.S.L.U., and the splendid donation that had been made to it on behalf of the children, by Mr. Kersey and Mr. Alfred Smedley. The mention of their munificent acts were greeted with loud applause.

THE AFTERNOON OPEN SESSION.

The Open Session of the combined Lyceums proved highly attractive. Mr. S. S. Chiswell conducted the Session in his usual felicitous style, his pointed questions, witty remarks and comments, put all in a happy mood, which was maintained to the close. The programme was well gone through, all sections acquitting themselves with credit. Mr. Herbert Clarke, son of Mr. J. Clarke, a most amiable and promising youth, as will be readily judged by his articles on the Temperance question in THE LYCEUM BANNER, stepped forward and welcomed the E. C., in the name of the United Lyceums, in a neat little speech. Then Miss Mina Williams ascended the rostrum with a basket of flowers, and presented each member of the E. C.

with a pretty "button-hole" of red and blue flowers, mingled with lilies of the valley. Miss Williams was then joined by her sisters Ethel and Dora, who sang a pretty selection from a Floral Cantata, in praise of the beauty and loveliness of flowers. The whole incident was deservedly greeted with loud applause. It also formed the theme of the brief addresses by the Executive. Red signified "love"; blue, "justice"; and white, "wisdom." The green leaves signified "usefulness." And so love, justice and wisdom must not be allowed to be dormant in our natures as mere sentiment, but put into practical operation day by day to be of real and lasting good in the world.

A very limited space was reserved for the physical exercises, which did not allow of the desired evolutions being fully gone through. Mr. Mason complimented them on the excellency of those they were able to perform.

Miss Ethel Shaw sang a Lyceum song, and Misses A. Dexter and Simpson sang solo and duet (Lyceum taking up the chorus), "We are trying to follow the angels." Several recitations were also given. The visit will long be remembered by all.—ALFRED KITSON, Sec., B.S.L.U.

DISTRICT VISITORS' REPORT.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—Otley Road Lyceum had a good attendance on the occasion of my visit, but poor order. They are in need of adults to help them.

SPICER STREET.—The attendance was not so large as on my former visit.

CLECKHEATON.—I am sorry to say there was a very poor attendance. I gave them a few remarks on the conducting of the Lyceum and groups. This Lyceum is again going through troubled waters.

TONG STREET.—I found a poor attendance compared with my last visit. I was pleased to see a spirit of earnestness to maintain the good work begun.

KEIGHLEY.—Here, too, the attendance was not so good as on my previous visit. They would do with a more efficient conductor, as there is certainly the materials of a good Lyceum. In conclusion, I trust efficient help will be given, and a general improvement be observable during my next visit.

J. H. SMITH, D.V., 227, Leeds Road, Bradford.

NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I am sorry to report the closing of two Lyceums in my District, namely: GUY STREET, BURNLEY, and BRIDGE STREET, ACCRINGTON.

BLACKPOOL had a small attendance, owing to it being the busy summer season. It was their Flower Service, a number of visitors present. A good service.

I visited PADIHAM on the day of their Flower Service. Everything of the best. Mr. A. Kitson was also present and gave addresses.

BURNLEY, RICHARD STREET.—This Lyceum is doing well, considering it is a new one. There were 50 present, I assisted in the marching and gave them a few words of cheer.

NELSON, EVERY STREET.—I found this Lyceum in good condition. A large number of adults, especially mothers, being present, which is a good sign. The marching was taken in two sections, as the hall is not large

enough to accommodate all of them together. I hope they will make a special effort to get a larger hall.—Yours fraternally, W. MASON, D.V., 31, Belgrave, Street, Burnley.

THE MIDLAND DISTRICT.

I have visited Smethwick, Loughboro', and Belper Lyceums during the quarter ending Dec. 31st, besides our own Lyceum here in Derby, which I am pleased to say is feeling the benefits of our larger hall, and is making progress. On Nov. 2nd I had the pleasure of visiting a new Society at Southwell, and brought before the audience at both services the importance of forming a Lyceum, and I trust to be soon invited over at the opening. Smethwick Lyceum continues to make progress, and have a good band of leaders. Loughboro' has a moderate attendance, but the leaders are so energetic that I trust on my next visit to find that the good seed sown has begun to germinate. Belper Lyceum is full of life and activity and doing good work.—JOSEPH BOLTON, Visitor to the Midland District.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.—I have been engaged every Sunday but one during the quarter ending Dec. 31st. The exception being in favour of our own Lyceum. I have received several invitations to visit Lyceums outside my district, and have accepted as many of them as possible; speaking for their Societies and pleading the children's cause, thus earning my expenses. I have adopted the same plan in my own district whenever possible. In this way, I am pleased to report, that out of a total of 12 visits paid, I have earned my expenses in 10 of them, as you will see by the enclosed itemized account of travelling expense. I feel thankful that by the exercise of my gifts I am able to work for the Lyceum cause at a minimum of expenses. I have tried, to the best of my abilities, to awaken the interest of the children, and make the interest in their Lyceum work all that their hearts can desire. Stockport Lyceum has increased in numbers, and now they are going into their New Hall, I am expecting still greater things from them. Rawtenstall has considerably increased in numbers since my visit three years ago. Harpurhey have a large number of children, I wish their New Hall was twice as large. Saddleworth is still struggling along. It is a scattered district, there being only an afternoon session I devoted the morning to visiting the homes of those who had been absent the two previous Sundays, and I am pleased to say they all were present at the session. Morecambe. No improvement since my last visit. Every credit is due to the few workers for keeping the Lyceum together. Hadfield.—My first visit. They have a small hall, but are earnest in the work and full of vitality. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the visitor for services rendered. Rochdale, Toad lane.—This Lyceum was opened on December 27th, and there was every prospect of it making satisfactory progress. To sum up my impressions of the Lyceums visited I am able to give you a favourable all round report — Miss ANNIE E. BURTON, D.V.

WANTED! Copies of the LYCEUM BANNER for March, July, and November, to complete Publisher's bindings.

Address: Wadsworth & Co., Printers, Church Street, Keighley. (State price required.)



Our Boys' Special

UGH! February! splosh, splash; splutter! From a meteorological point of view, the three foregoing words graphically describe this month. But, after all it does not really matter much about the rain, and snow, and slush, OUTSIDE, if we have the capacity and the wisdom to be warm and genial and comfortable INSIDE. It is when the *un*-sociable and *un*-spiritual dampness permeates the psychological atmosphere, that there is most to fear, it is when we neglect to protect ourselves, with the warm mantle of a genial brotherhood, or with the snow-resisting body-gear of a real paternal feeling, that we run the greatest risk of catching a mental and moral influenza, which swells our heads, and interferes with our comfort, and makes us unable to appreciate the great and grand possibilities that lie within our reach. There; that's preaching! but, after all, I think it's worth reading two or three times, as the hints it contains seem to be just what we ought to realise.

I don't think we should have such a strong inclination to grumble about the weather, if we were to rouse ourselves, and counter-act its influence by encouraging the spiritual sunshine of a sweeter fraternal feeling in our lives. I don't mean to suggest that we don't know anything of the blessed influence of true paternity. I am sure we have all, at some time, felt its genial power in our souls. If then, we have entertained the "holy spirit," of true fraternity, we know of its goodness. If its influence has been of service to us occasionally in our lives, how much more blessed would be its constant inspiration to us.

What is it possible to accomplish with the active spirit of true paternity to guide us? We should be able to beat back the little, nasty, unjustifiable jealousies that cause so much strife and displeasure; to dispel the dark clouds that gather about us through unnecessary bickerings. We should more readily and more worthily appreciate *merit*, and instead of stultifying our own natures by suspicious and meannesses we should glory in "emulating" the meritorious actions in our brethren that make for righteousness. What a boon it would be to our Lyceum Sessions if every boy and girl would encourage this spirit of fraternity. Our schools would be a veritable heaven, and our individual longings for meeting-time would be more and more pronounced. We are all young, in good works; let us try to reach that precious goal which the foregoing little homily reveals.

I am pleased to receive another contribution from the pen of Frank Cocks of Slaithwaite Lyceum. Frank has grasped the true meaning of "fraternity"—and his effort does him great credit. I hope this essay will be carefully read by all Lyceumists, remember boys, he is one of us, and is trying by his work to prove what Andrew Jackson Davis says of us all, namely, that we are, individually, the repository of great possibilities.

I am also delighted to receive a contribution from an old and much abused friend, Neddy. He comes with a wail; whose fault is it? Read it boys, and see if you are blameable, I hope you are not.

Neddy says he sees and hears such a lot of things during his hours of labour; poor Neddy, he has not much leisure. However, I, for one, Neddy, shall be glad to hear from you at any time, and I hope the time will soon come when you will be glad to welcome our boys at the sea-side, and in turn to bid them good-bye without unpleasant and painful memories of their visit.

Our Subject for March Number of the BANNER is "Gratitude."

Write on one side of the paper only, starting with your name, and post not later than March 20th, to—UNCLE BENJAMIN, c/o A. Kitson, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

FRANK COCKS, SLAITHWAITE LYCEUM—"FRATERNITY."

Humanity must be linked together by this power for good, and under its divine influence all that is bright and beautiful in life unfolds as the flowers unfold by the heat and light from the sun. Its influence is felt in our social, business and religious life, yet in this merrie England of ours many lives could be brightened if each one could make this their aim in life. Did not the great teacher tell us to love one another. If our lives are to be a power of good, we must go hand in hand, for union is strength. As Lyceumists we must work for a nobler aim than position or wealth; let us direct the course of our lives into the channels of goodness, usefulness, and purity. Can we work for anything more beautiful than the brotherhood of man, its object to remove human suffering, developing the angelic, and pressing on in the march of human progress.

Fraternity may lead to where the kindly light
May open every human flower in love,
Heaven's blessings then will be in sight
For human life may then begin and end in love.

DEAR UNCLE BEN,—Please excuse me addressing you thus, for although I am not of your fraternity, therefore not a brother—except in a general sense, that is a child of nature—I presume to call you uncle. I am only a donkey, but I thought as you pleaded the cause of the earth worm some time ago, you would allow me to plead my own. I was at the sea-side last summer, as indeed I have been many previous summers, and these long ears of mine heard more than some people might think it possible. But oh! those long days of hard work, plenty of stick, and little food! Now I am fond of children, that's some of them, but so many of them think we ought to travel as fast as a horse or a motor-car, and forget that we are different animals altogether. Now just you tell them that we do our best, and that is just as much as a horse or even a mare can do. I have heard some interesting conversations among children sometimes, and I thought your boys and girls would like to read about what I have observed of nature while on the sea-shore; about the jelly-fish or the crab for instance. Do you think it would interest them? Don't say no Uncle Ben, because we have such long ears and we can hear sounds from such a long distance. By-the-bye, what do think of the following bit of cruelty. "One day a man—they called him a minister—got across my back, he thrashed me with a big stick, and tried to make me hurry up until I thought I should have fainted, and because I could not do as he wished, he called me all sorts of nick-names."—Your humble servant, NEDDY.

North East Lancashire Lyceum District Council.

The above Council will hold its Second Annual Lyceum Choir Singing Contest at Blackburn, St Peter Street Spiritual Temple, on Saturday, February 21st, 1903, to commence at 3 p.m. Tickets for Contest, Tea and Concert, 1/- each. For Contest or Concert only, 6d. The Contest will be supported by the B.S.L.U. Executive Council.

List of competing choirs:—Blackburn (Northgate and St. Peter's Street), Blackpool, Burnley (Hammerton Street, North Street, and Richard Street), Colne, Darwen, Great Harwood, Nelson (Every Street), and Padiham.

REUBEN LATHAM, 31, Waterbarn Street, Burnley.

What our Lyceums are Doing.

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

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.

GREAT HARWOOD.—Miss Burton's visit to our Lyceum on the Children's Day, December 21st, proved very helpful and enjoyable to the members of our Lyceum. She has without doubt, furnished us with incentives to more active and energetic interest in the Lyceum work. In the afternoon Miss Burton distributed the Prizes for good attendance. The services during the day were well attended, and considerable interest was manifested by the audiences.

(MISS) E. PARKER.

HEATON, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.—On December 27th, we had our Annual Christmas Tree and Tea, 100 children sat down to the latter, which they heartily enjoyed. The tree was beautifully decorated with toys, each child being presented with one. Then followed the paying of Bank money saved by the members during the year. The savings amounted to £66 7 0. Next year we hope to reach £100. The interest on this money goes to the Lyceum funds. We also have connected with our Lyceum a dancing class, under the careful supervision of Messrs. Nicholson and Westgarth, it was very interesting to watch them going through the various dances. Votes of thanks were heartily accorded to Mrs. Cowling for decorating the tree, and making all arrangements, and to Miss Deboer for presiding at the piano; and to friends who subscribed towards the tea.—C. CAMPBELL, Junr.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—The Annual Tea Party in connection with the above was held on Christmas Day, when a large number of Lyceumists and parents sat down to an excellent tea, which was capitally served. In the evening the members of the Lyceum rendered an operetta entitled, "The Christmas Prize, and who won it," with the following as principles, the Misses. H. Norbury, R. Edge, P. Smith, A. Edge, M. Bullen, M. Moss, S. Eddleston, P. Hargreaves, and A. A. Wilcock, Messrs. J. Riley, H. Robinson, E. Moorey, E. Norbury, H. Holden, R. Webb, G. Edwards, and Masters Stephenson, Robinson, and Ernest Norbury.

The chorus consisted of between 30 and 40 voices, Mr. H. Harrison was the accompanist, and Mr. G. Stephenson conducted. Praise is due to the conductor, who was ably assisted by Mr. Harry Hopper and Bullen in preparing the children for the occasion.

Songs etc., were rendered by Master A. Caville; Misses M. Hindle, and E. Holden. Whilst Mr. J. Booth contributed a pianoforte solo. At the close Councillor J. T. Ward thanked the promoters, on behalf of the Society, for the capital programme which had been submitted. Mr. Hindle, who presided, suitably responded.

RAWTENSTALL.—January 4th, we held our monthly open session. Songs were nicely rendered by Misses Ormerod, Mansfield and Jennings, and recitations by H. Mansfield and Elsie Lees. Marching and calisthenics very well done. Also the musical readings; silver and golden chain recitations. On January 11th we had open sessions, afternoon and evening, for the benefit of the Society. Clairvoyance given by a friend. Our Tea party and prize distribution will be held on February 21st, all are welcome.

(MISS) B. BARNES, Sec.

SALFORD—CROSS LANE.—We had our first Tea Party on Christmas Day, which was free to Lyceumists. Through the kindness of Messrs. Johnson, Huddleston, and Kay, each scholar was presented with a prize, and those who had introduced the most scholars received an extra prize. Mr. Kay and Son gave us some grand records from the phonograph, and Mr. W. Massey gave a beautiful imitation of church bells. Singing and reciting made up a good programme. At the close each child was presented with an orange by Mr. Huddleston.

(P.S.—Will you please send us another dozen BANNERS, as our Conductor, Mr. J. Kay, presented the others to try and increase the circulation. Thanks Bro. Kay, 18 copies despatched, Ed. L.B.)—(MISS) GRACE EARITH, Sec.

DERBY—TRAFFIC-ST.—On Dec. 28th, we had our election of officers for the ensuing year, which was very interesting to some of our visitors, as the officers were selected by the children, and voted on. On Dec. 31st we had a tea given by the Society, which was a success. Then we had the distribution of prizes for regular and punctual attendance, kindly purchased by Mrs. Jerram, Mr. Coulson and Miss Holmes presented the boy and girl who had given the most and best recitations during the year. A good entertainment followed, consisting of songs, duets, and recitations. We are now going in for a large Banner for the Lyceum.—E. W. STANTON, Sec.

Huddersfield, St. Peter Street.—On January 4th, we opened our Session with the hymn, "A Glad New Year." Mr. J. Collins of Bradford was with us, and also the Clarion Choir which rendered a selection of glees. Lyceumists gave solos and recitations. Prizes were distributed, and a picture of all the scholars, subscribed for by them, was presented by Mr. Collins, on behalf of the Lyceum, to Mr. Tom Wilson, in recognition of his long and faithful services in connection with the Lyceum and Society. Mr. Wilson thanked all for their kind token of appreciation of his humble services, which he would ever treasure.

FRED WOOD.

MANCHESTER, Tipping Street.—On Sunday, December 28th, we held our Open Session, when we were favoured with recitations by the following:—Misses A. Cheetwood, D. Treherne, P. Treherne, G. Treherne, Masters W. James, A. Sims, A. and J. Butts. Miss F. Sims and Mr. J. Read favoured us with a pianoforte duet. Miss F. Sims sang "Forgive and Forget." The marching and calisthenics were well done, and the silver and golden chain recitations well responded to. In the evening our Lyceum took part in the Service of Song, entitled: "An Angel in Disguise." Mr. Graham acquitted himself with credit as the reader.

On January 3rd we had our Annual Tea, after which Mr. Hill, president of the Society, distributed the prizes, over 40 in number. A most enjoyable social evening was spent. On Sunday, January 10th, Miss Burton, our D.V. paid us a surprise visit, and addressed us in encouraging words, and also taught us some more new marches. We hope to have another visit from her soon.

GEO. VERNON, Sec.

HULL, Lime Street.—On Jan. 18th, Mr. A. Kitson paid us a visit. The Lyceum was well attended and enjoyed. In the afternoon the Lyceum gave the Service of Song, "The Abbey Bells," accompanied by the children going through their exercises with fairy bells. At night the service was well attended, and Mr. Kitson gave a splendid address on the rise and progress of the Lyceum movement. We hope to have an increased attendance as a result of Mr. Kitson's visit.—J. TAYLOR, Secretary.

NEW HIRST.—On December 25th each child was presented with an orange, an apple, nuts and sweets. Then our conductor, Miss Maggie Harrison, distributed the prizes, over 30, selected by Mr. R. Johnston. This was a pleasant surprise, as the children were not aware of them. This concluded one of our happiest gatherings. I hope we shall have many more.—ROBERT FIELDS, Sec.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On January 4th we held our open session when Mr. Teague recited "Look before you leap"; and Mr. Morton, "A stray Sunbeam." Mr. Hodgson sang "Clap your hands for joy." Miss Platt presided at the organ. Mr. Crutchley and Mr. Lewell (a visitor) gave short, but encouraging addresses upon Lyceum work. All were enjoyed. We thank all who took part in the service, and hope to see them again. We have started the New Year with a determination to make our Lyceum a success.—WM. DRANSFIELD, Sec.

STALYBRIDGE.—On Christmas Day we had our Lyceum Tea Party when 250 sat down to tea. The entertainment was provided by our Lyceumists and a number of minstrels who came to help us. Prizes were given for good attendance during the past year. Considering the serious troubles, it is a source of comfort to me to see the cause emerging from the dark clouds, and to see such clear signs of its future progress and prosperity. On January 4th we had a glorious time. The morning and afternoon sessions were well attended, and the interest taken in the work by our Lyceumists is very encouraging. After striking all those who had not attended recently, off the register, we began the year with 60 names on our register.

COUNCILLOR J. CROASDALE.

LEICESTER, Queen Street.—On January 4th we had the naming by Mr. G. H. Bibbings, B.A. of two promising Lyceumists, belonging to two of our most willing workers. We had also recitations, and a solo by Miss Nellie Wright, "Lead us Loving Angels," the whole made the Lyceum session a grand spiritual feast.—A. BOULTON, Sec.

DUNDEE.—The first festival in Scotland in connection with the Lyceum of a Society of Spiritualists took place in Dundee on January 6th, when a large and varied programme was carried through by the children attending the Lyceum of the Dundee Society. Mr. Robert Lorimer presided, and in the course of his opening remarks stated that nine months ago the Lyceum started with twenty scholars. At the present time sixty were attending the meetings. He hoped other parents would see it was their duty to send their children. To Mr. Clark, the indefatigable conductor, every thanks was due for his efforts on the children's behalf. In the course of the evening an exhibition of barbell drill was given by six pretty little girls, and a fan song and drill by eleven girls was also much enjoyed. The smart and graceful movements of the children reflected great credit on their teachers. A long vocal and instrumental programme was carried out by the little ones themselves, and all acquitted themselves in an admirable fashion. Songs were rendered by Sisters Fraser, Milne, and Inglis, and by Brothers Inglis, Jackson and Anderson, while recitations were delivered by Sisters M'Donald, Moir, Reid, Anderson, Welsh, M'Kechnie, and by Brothers Inglis, Welsh, Milne, Clark and M'Donald. Pianoforte and mouth organ selections, a duet, and a trio also added to the success of the evening.

LONDON, Battersea Park Road.—On Jan. 13th, Our Lyceum and Band of Hope members were given a New Year's Party. Tea was served at 6.30. After which we had parlour games, some recitations, and dialogues by three members. Our thanks are due to the Misses Wylam for their excellent skipping rope dancing, and Indian club drill. To Mr. Scott for his phonograph, and to Mr. Hadder for the magic lantern views, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by the children. On leaving each child was presented with a toy, an orange, and a bag of sweets, (the latter being presented by Mr. J. Adams, President of the Society). All were unanimous in testifying to the happy time they had enjoyed together.—Miss J. MORRIS, Secretary.

OLDHAM, Nile Street.—On Jan. 3rd, we had our Annual Tea Party. After tea we had games, oranges, and sweets. Prizes were presented by Mr. Britland, President, to the scholars for regular attendance during the past year. On Jan. 11th, we had Miss Burton, of Bury, with us. We had recitations, songs, a dialogue, and a duet by Lyceumists. Miss Burton gave a nice address to the children, and in the evening spoke to a crowded audience. The ladies are giving a Tea on Feb. 28th, all friends from the Lyceums are heartily invited.—H. MONKS, Secretary.

HOLLINGWOOD, Byrom Street.—On Jan. 2nd, we held our Annual Tea and distribution of prizes by Mr. Wm. Chisnall. A good programme of songs, solos, recitations, and a laughable sketch was gone through. Mr. Fred Snape appealed to the parents and friends for more support to the Lyceum. The usual votes of thanks followed. Games and dancing brought a pleasant evening to a close.—W. A. BATES, Secretary.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Our Annual Report is as follows: Number of officers 8, with an average attendance of 6. Number of scholars 55, with an average attendance of 45. We hold two Sessions each Sunday, our Lyceum still keeps in a flourishing condition, and our attendance is good. On January 2nd, we held our juvenile party, when upwards of 220 children and 50 adults sat down to tea. In the evening the members of the Lyceum presented a splendid programme consisting of songs, recitations, and character sketches by the following:—Misses Aspinall, Smith, Jones, Violet Robinson, Violet Tyson, A. Walker, L. Wilson, Hopson, Halsal; Misses Huddleston and May Hopson sang, "You shan't play in our back yard," Master T. Owen sang "Mignonette." Piano solos by Misses Hopson and Halsal. A sketch entitled 'A dream of Nursery Rhymes,' was given by 18 Lyceumists, the leading characters were Miss Tullare (the Fairy,) Miss Saxton (the Beautiful Child, asleep,) Miss Robinson (the Old Queen Nurse,) Master H. Collins (the Knave of Hearts,) Miss Baillie (Curlylocks,) Master J. Huddleston (the Boy in Blue,) Miss J. Walker (Bo-peep,) Master T. Baillie (Jack,) Miss Collinson (Jill,) Miss Whitton (the Queen of Hearts,) Misses Nicholls and Proctor (the two Traitors.) The whole company made a beautiful picture, and the piece was so well rendered that the large audience asked for a repetition, which will be given on February 12th. Mr. J. Owen presided, great praise is due to Mr. Hall, Choir Master, who has trained the children so well, and Miss Hall, pianist. Mr. W. Proctor enters on his 15th, year as our stationed medium, or resident speaker.—(MISS) PHOEBE WHITTON, Sec.

ROCHDALE, Penn Street.—On December 20th we held our Annual Lyceum Tea Party and Entertainment, when considerably over two hundred sat down to tea. During the evening a splendid programme was gone through consisting of songs, recitations, and a dialogue in which six of the elder Lyceumists endeavoured to show "How we cured a drunken husband." A cantata, representing the seasons and nursery rhymes, was also rendered in a very creditable manner by a large number of children, whose pretty costumes were tastefully arranged under the direction of Miss Bonsor. The prizes were afterwards distributed by Mr. Smith of Manchester, who commented upon each one and gave a few encouraging remarks to the recipients.

Such occasions as the present are times when we like to take a retrospective glance at the various vicissitudes through which we have passed, and it is extremely gratifying to note the progress which we, at Penn Street Lyceum, have made during the last twelve months. It is but a year ago that our Lyceum was composed of six disheartened members, who had resolved to give up in despair. One or two of the elder Lyceumists, however, aroused by the memories of the past benefits which they had received in this school-house, to energetic action, determined to surmount the many difficulties which presented themselves and succeed in building up a new Lyceum. This has been accomplished, by the co-operation of numerous friends which we have gained—incarnate and discarnate—and we have now fifty-seven names on our books, with an average attendance of about thirty-five, and we have also a dramatic Society which is in a most flourishing condition. All this is highly encouraging to those indefatigable workers, who have stuck to their work so nobly, and who, realising the grave importance of the undertaking, in which they are engaged, are determined to attain still greater objects in the near future.

BURY.—January 4th, our monthly Open Session. Moderate attendance, solos nicely rendered by Mrs. Chadwick and the Misses Pollard, Chadwick, and B. Challoner. Mr. Chadwick gave an instructive address on "Over and over again." The morning session was considered to be one of our best and was certainly a capital start for 1903.—On New Year's morning a free breakfast was provided at the Spiritual Hall for 200 poor children of the town, whose ages ranged from four to ten years. The breakfast was arranged for 8-30 a.m., but long before that time over 100 children had assembled. The breakfast consisted of coffee, and a pie and bun each. Afterwards each child was presented with a half-penny, an orange, and a handful of nuts. A short concert was given, comic songs being rendered by Mr. S. Holden, of Elton, which were well received; coon song and dance by four members of the Lyceum; and an operetta, "The Fairy Ring," by young members of the Lyceum. Mr. Golding presided over the concert.—E. J. BARNES, Sec.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SPIRITUALIST LYCEUMS.—There was a good attendance of delegates of the above Council at Rochdale, Regent Hall, on Saturday, January 17th, 1903. Representatives were sent from Dearnley, Oldham (Coronation-street), and Rochdale (Leeds-road), to inquire into the aims and objects of the Council. Salford were also made members. Mr. Tetlow presided. The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, Mr. Z. Bentley (D.V.) gave his report, which, with one or two exceptions, was considered very satisfactory. Explanations were given by delegates of lagging Lyceums, and improvement was promised. An unanimous vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Bentley for his untiring efforts. Mr. Ogden spoke highly of the progress of the Bacup Lyceum. Mr. Jagger (Hollinwood) opened discussion on "Calisthenic Competitions." Although much was said in its favour, there was a feeling that too much attention was already being paid to exercises, and it was thought that a little more time spent in Group Lessons would bring our Lyceums to a better state of perfection. Much was also said upon Lyceum Guilds, and the Secretary was instructed to make enquiries re the formation of same. The result of the Essay Competition was as follows: Senior: Miss A. Rotheram (Higher Broughton). Prize Book; "The Holy Truth." Junior: Miss Minnie Cumberbirch (Rochdale, Regent Hall). Master Ernest Snape (Hollinwood Byrom-street); Prize: "Lyceum Manual" each. The next meeting will be held at Bury, Saturday, March 21st, 1903. Invitations for next demonstration must be in for this meeting. An entertainment was gone through after the above meeting before a large attendance, consisting of marching and calisthenics, songs, recitations, etc. The catering for tea was excellent, and much praise is due to Rochdale friends for the way in which the arrangements were carried through.—H. JACKSON, Sec., 286, Hollins Lane, Whitefield, Manchester.

OUR FATHER.

"Our Father,"
O blessed, beautiful, beloved name!
From deepest sin or depths of dark despair
We still may utter that endearing claim,
If with the tone of pain and heartfelt prayer,
"Our Father."

"Our Father,"
Most pitiful; in our heart-breaking sorrow
To Thy dear love and sympathy we trust;
And with wet eyes look for a brighter morrow,
And bear it bravely (since we bear it must),
"Our Father."

"Our Father,"
O dearest, tenderest! And it is mine
To call Thee by a name so fond and dear?
And may I dare by faith and hope divine
Cry, in the hope that Thou that cry will hear,
"Our Father."

"Our Father,"
With childlike faith I say those words to-night
(But not like childhood's is the accent wild),
"Father, dear father, send a clearer light
To guide the footsteps of Thine erring child,"
"Our Father."

"Our Father,"
Forgive our sins; forgive us all the past;
Grant to the future a diviner ray;
Grant that we all may meet in Heaven at last;
And bless the light of that divinest day
And the blest words we learnt on earth to say,
"Our Father."

Tweed Green House,
Whalley Range.

KATE TAYLOR-ROBINSON.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD.

Take the good and leave the bad—
Or help it blossom into right:
There are blossoms on the thorn bush
Of the purest, sweetest white.

Oft a gem of brightest beauty
In the darkest rock is found;
Oft a rill of sparkling water
Laves the arid desert ground.

Oft a man of seeming darkness
Has a light within him bright:
Oft a sister soiled and fallen
Inward burns with angel light.

Then take the good and leave the bad;
Leave it to the yesterday.
To-day, to-morrow, and the future
Are ours to tune a sweeter lay.

Blackburn.

REUBEN ALEXANDER WEBB,