

The LYCEUM BANNER.

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XIII.

MARCH, 1903.

No. 146.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

We are pleased to learn that the members of Birkdale Society are contemplating the advisability of starting a Lyceum. The question will be decided at their annual Tea, etc., to be held on March 2nd. We hope to receive a favourable report for our next issue.

* * *

Perhaps the following sentiments, contained in a letter from Mr. A. P. Nield, Bolton, will help them to a right decision. "I recently visited a flourishing Spiritual Society who, instead of educating their children, are sending them to the Sunday Schools of both Church of England; Congregational; and Wesleyans; I tried to point out to them that it was their duty as Spiritualists, to save their children from being taught those faiths and creeds they know to be untrue, and therefore misleading. That there ought to be in connection with every well organised Society, a Children's Progressive Lyceum, for the training of the young in the truths and principles of Spiritualism; and that any Society that neglected this important duty, and allowed its members' children to be indoctrinated with false creeds and dogmas, by having to attend the schools of orthodoxy, were failing in the greatest half of their mission." We hope this splendid appeal will have the desired effect with the Society in question, and all others whom it may apply to.

* * *

Another Lyceum has been opened at Gateshead. Grimsby Lyceum has been reopened, we hope permanently. A Lyceum has been opened at Birkenhead, and the newly opened Lyceum at York has applied for membership with the B.S.L. Union. Any other application should reach the Union's secretary by March 23rd, to be in time to come before the E.C. meeting at Keighley.

* * *

It is with pleasure we learn that the members of the Manor Park Spiritualists' Society, London, have decided to open a Lyceum in connection that energetic centre of London Spiritualists. A little information concerning the other Lyceums in London would be welcome news. With the exceptions of Battersea Park: Caversham-road, and Stoke Newington, we are unable to obtain any information. All our appeals go unheeded.

A post card just to hand from our esteemed President, contains the good news that his recovery is so far advanced that he hopes soon to leave the Hospital. We hope to see him presiding over the forthcoming propaganda meetings at Keighley.

* * *

Bro. J. W. Ring, the esteemed superintendent of the Lyceum Cause in America, begs to send his kind greetings to the Lyceums in England. We are sure all our readers will join us in heartily reciprocating the same, and wish his efforts success.

* * *

Mr. L. Foster, the assistant conductor of the Uppertorpe Lyceum, Sheffield, writes to say they are improving. When the E. C. visited them last Oct. they just existed: now they are steadily marching forward, their motto is "Keep to the Right."

* * *

We had 100 copies of the LYCEUM MANUAL bound in LIMP CLOTH, in response to an urgent request. The same are for sale at 10/6 per doz to all financial members of the Union: and 12/- to all others. Single copies 1/3, by post 1/5½.

* * *

The Lyceum Choir Contest held at Blackburn, attracted great attention, and was well patronized. The report, kindly supplied by the energetic secretary, Mr. R. Latham, of Burnley, will be eagerly read, as it contains the Judges; tabulated list of marks gained by the competing choirs. These annual contests must have a good educational effect on the choirs, and make for efficiency even though they fail to gain the prize.

* * *

We are in receipt of a copy of The Psychic Educator, published monthly by the Morris Pratt Institute, Whitewater U.S.A. It is full of good, instructive matter valuable to all platform workers, as it deals with subjects taught in the Institute. The following sentence concerning the conditions to be observed by the students is worthy of note; "All who enter this school are most respectfully requested to leave off every enslaving habit such as the use of veel garity, profanity, strong drink, tobacco, opium, or other injurious drugs. It is quite evident that the Institute stands for good habits, good health, good thoughts, and lofty training, and so is in close sympathy with our Four Fold Pledge. We wish it every success, and shall hail the day with joy and gladness when a similar one is established in England.

TO BE AN ANGEL.

BY MR. J. KNIGHT.

ON entering the house of a very dear friend, I heard from somewhere upstairs a very happy voice singing for all it was worth, "I want to be an angel, and with the angels stand," and close besides me, as I turned into the sitting room, a very unhappy voice sighed out, I wish I were an angel."

"You do, why?" I asked.

Mabel was rather startled at being overheard, but she was one of the bravest and brightest girls I ever met with. So after bidding me welcome, and saying father was out, she then said in answer to my query, "Oh, I should have no nasty lessons to do, and I shouldn't get whops for not having them right."

"Can you tell me," I asked, "what an angel is like, and what they have to do?"

"Oh! yes," she answered, "they are dressed in beautiful white robes, and they have lots of nice things—musical instruments, wands and jewels—and nothing to do but look nice, and sing, and play before the great white throne!"

"Your idea of angels, and what they do is very good," I said in answer to her description. "Now let us suppose you have got on your beautiful white robe, and are marching past the great white throne to take your place in that mighty throng, to render a grand hymn of praise. The conductor says, in a sweet silvery voice, "to-day we will take Mendelssohn's 'Songs Without Words'; what are you going to do, where is your instrument?"

Her eyes filled with tears, her cheeks flushed and her lips began to quiver, as she crept between my knees and timidly said:

"I don't know what I can do, I can't play anything but 'five finger exercise' on the piano."

"But don't you see," I added, "that all these angels can both sing and play."

"Yes I do," she confessed, "and I begin to feel ashamed and very uncomfortable."

Tears began to find their way down her cheeks, when I asked her what would become of her, when the conductor asked what she was doing there without an instrument, who, when she confessed she could not play, called out in a voice of thunder, "go out you sluggard, heaven is no place for idle souls."

Poor Mabel trembled as though she actually heard the condemning voice of the conductor, and clung to me for protection.

Kissing her I said, "sometime ago I was privileged to be a listener to the sweetest, most melodious, and yet strangely weird and fascinating angelic music, and the other listeners were equally spellbound, and for nearly an hour we stood in the rain totally unconscious of being drenched to the skin. Not a note of that angelic host, either of instrument or voice, could we detect out of tune or time. What patient study and long practice must have been theirs to arrive at such proficiency! With what rapture we followed every note, bar, and stanza. How our hearts felt to bound, when with thundering swell came the finale, "Sound! Sound! the loud timbrel o'er land and o'er sea, o'er land and o'er sea." "Sound! Sound!! Sound!!!

The Lord shall reign, for ever and for ever, Glory! Glory!! Halleluiah, Amen."

It was said, by our spirit friends, to be the song of Marian, the sister of Aaron.

I can still hear the sighing, whistling, shrieking wind as through the trees of a forest, when they sang and played "O'er l-a-n-d—long drawn out. And the gentle rippling of a brooklet. The swish, swish, crashing, thundering roar of the sea, when they sang, "And o'er s-e-a." I have had the blessed privilege to see many angels—both of heaven and of earth—but in every case their every desire seemed to me to be, that they might so perfect themselves by study and practice as to be worthy ministers of God, by helping others. Our inmost being revolts and protests against the idea of any selfish do-nothing, don't-want-to-try, unkind, unsympathetic, disagreeable person being called an angel. Nor can we honestly find such a place in our ideal heaven, do you think we can?"

Mabel's arms, by this time, had found their way round my neck, and kissing me thanked me, for the nice lesson she would never forget.

It is many years since the above incident took place, but I have reason to know she has been faithful to her promise, and is to-day one of the brightest—but there, she is sure to read this, so I will say no more.

How Best to Divide the Time?

LYCEUM PRIZE ESSAY.

This is a question often asked, and one upon which we may differ very much. To my mind "the greatest good of the greatest number" should be our motto; and seeing that it is a Spiritual Lyceum, the matter should necessarily be of a spiritual nature; or of such a nature that will lead up from the material to the spiritual. The spiritual life should never be lost sight of, because that is the goal we are all striving after. Remember to commence punctually; that must be the first observation, seeing this is a great fault with our movement, every effort should be made to teach the Lyceumists punctuality; next use your time wisely and a great deal may be accomplished.

Open with the roll-call, then a hymn and invocation, here I say teach the children prayer, what it is, and the good of it; following this comes the Silver Chain Recitation, Musical Reading, Golden Chain Recitation, these three should be explained to the children, and they (the children) should be questioned upon them, so as to see that they have received the correct idea of them. This part of the session should take about thirty minutes; therefore it may be necessary to omit one of the items; but they may be taken alternate Sundays with the children's individual recitations, or where there are two sessions on the Sunday, they could be taken with the groups at the afternoon session, and would very often make good subjects to teach in the groups; also in case there being two sessions it would be as well to devote one Sunday in the month to marching and calisthenics. (I mean the afternoon session). To come back to the morning session, after the lesson out of the manual, the children's recitations, pearls, readings, solos, vocal and instrumental,

should be given; this part of the programme is very useful in bringing out the talents and powers of the young people, and should be encouraged but not forced. Kindly help should be given where it is needed; we might devote about twenty minutes to this, then we might cultivate the spirit of inquiry, by getting the children to ask questions, no matter on what subject, but allow them to ask in their own way; there are often little things which trouble them and this is a good way to enlighten them. We may take in place of the questions, a short lesson in music, elocution, or any of the sciences, so as to give variety, but we must only allow ten minutes for this. The marching and calisthenics follow, which should be pointed out as being most beneficial to the physical body, seeing a sound body makes a sound mind.

The leaders during this part of the session should endeavour to introduce something new, but not to omit those items which are tabulated for us; but to take the old one Sunday, and then for three Sundays practice new marches or calisthenics; by these means they would always be interested, time thirty minutes. Then come the group lessons; there are a host of subjects which might be given in our Lyceums, for instance, there is the study of harmony, music which is a charming study; also that of colour both as applied to the angel world and to the physical world, in the form of beautiful pictures and in nature.

Nature gives us many subjects to teach from; there is botany, which is very useful when applied to herbs; geology, another interesting subject; also astronomy and astrology, and last there is human physiology, which should be taught in every Lyceum. There are other subjects which might and should be taught in our Lyceums, viz :

Mediumship, clairvoyance, clairaudience, and the many spiritual gifts we all more or less possess, these should be explained to the young people so that they may better understand these gifts when they perceive that they themselves possess them.

The groups should take about thirty minutes, this will make up a total of two hours, but where there are two sessions, each subject might be lengthened and two parts of the session left for the afternoon as previously stated.

Hoping these remarks may be useful and not too long, I have put forth a great deal for a little time, but it can be done, for I have seen it. The point is you must not waste time, it is precious, and even when we have passed out of time into eternity we shall find law and harmony which to me is only a higher aspect of time; it is order, and time is order.—With every good wish,

I am, yours fraternally,

ANNIE ROTHERAM,

Mus. Conductor,

Hr. Broughton.

YORK—We first opened our Lyceum on Dec. 14th, 1902 with 9 members; since then we have slowly increased to 24. It does not seem many, but it shows steady Progress, and if we 'put our shoulders to the wheel' and work together, with one purpose in mind, that of making our Lyceum one of the best in Yorkshire. Mr. Baldwin, our Conductor, has, I must say, put his whole heart and soul into the movement, and I hope we shall soon be able to have classes formed, and our Lyceum worked on the same system as other Lyceums.—T. Chapman.

THE CLERGY AND PROGRESSION.

THE Clergy are the opposers of practically every progressive movement for the enlightenment and betterment of the people. Some of the best reforms that we enjoy to-day were bitterly opposed by the clergy; notably in regard to popular education, the Elementary Education (School Board) Act, compulsory education, and the Free Education Act. It is notorious that a great many of the clergy opposed the abolition of slavery, and very few indeed preached anti-slavery sermons or threw the weight of their influence on the side of liberation for the blacks. The earlier advocates of total abstinence from alcoholic liquors met with lukewarmness, and often with great opposition, from the Clergy. On the temperance question they are still the lagging party. These are some of the reforms and truths that the clergy oppose now:—Disestablishment: National Secular Education: Land Nationalisation and Socialism (there are a few exceptions). The opposition of the clergy to that wonderful out-pouring of spiritual truth known as "Modern Spiritualism" is not to be wondered at, for its mediums are destined to supersede them as spiritual teachers and demonstrators. The modern Seers and Prophets are the Clairvoyants, Clairaudients, Trance and Inspirational Mediums, and Psychometrists. The clergy, in nearly every case, take the side of the Capitalistic and most Conservative party: of the dominant in power and influence, and of the exploiter against the exploited. Though they are ostensibly followers of that loving, earnest spirit-guided teacher and healer, Jesus of Nazareth, they are really seekers after authority, luxury and ostentation, and therefore, they try to crush every movement which would enlighten the minds of men and women. Enlightenment brings self-reliance and a desire to question authority. Enlightenment naturally arouses a desire to know 'the why and wherefore' of authority, and, this, it is evident, is not what the clergy want. They wish you to believe without questioning and with faith. They preach contentment, no matter how hard your lot. Their policy is a 'let-it-slide, dont interfere, and be-thankful-to-God policy. From such a policy no progression can come. You must be men and women, each with an intellect of your own, seeking to know, and knowing, 'not afraid to act.' When we all so seek for truth, and having found it, try earnestly to put it into practice, we shall realize the true meaning of Progression; we shall make Progression.

Comrade, brother or sister, you are endowed with Reason, and I ask you to use it, earnestly investigating yourself every new movement, no matter how ridiculous or wicked it may be represented unto you as being. Inquire into it and judge of its value yourself. I wish you every success in your search for truth.

Blackburn.

REUBEN A. WEBB.

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THE GIRLS' OWN CORNER.

BY MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD.

I AM delighted to have had a post card from some one in respect to our last talk on ladies. I am not quite decided whether the writer is a man or a woman; the signature leaves me in doubt after reading the missive. For the benefit of all the girl readers the post card message is as follows:—

Dear Mrs. Greenwood,

In answer to your request that our girls should give their ideas on your last subject "Can all girls be ladies," I give my idea. I think a girl with neatly dressed feet, with neat well fitting gloves, smoothly arranged hair, and a clean well-made dress, who walks well, and speaks well, and, above all, acts politely and kindly, is a lady, and no wealth is required here. Fine clothes and fine airs are abashed before such propriety and good taste. The poorest may be so attired as to appear as ladylike as the wealthiest; nothing is more vulgar than the idea that money makes a lady, or that fine clothes can do it.—yours sincerely,

CORONATIA OLDHAM.

No more hair curlers after that, girls. If my correspondent was a gentleman I should say he had got his eye on a prospective wife, and one whom he would designate a sensible woman. He would most likely argue like this:—that girl is careful, and will be careful over my money, she is gentle and docile, so I should never fear any domestic broils or neighbours, unwelcome attentions. I must make her acquaintance; and the usual thing is sure to happen.

One thing is certain, the writer has hit the nail on the head in the assertion "Nothing is more vulgar than the idea that money makes a lady, or that fine clothes can do it." In fact all the sentiments expressed are excellent.

How does the following suit you?

Dear Mrs. Girls Editor,

I read your column occasionally, and like your talks when you don't get up among the giraffes too much. You must keep down among the sheep, that's more in my line. You ask about girls being ladies, or if they were that, or only called so sometimes. I met a real little lady last week, she was like in a fairy dress, soft silky shimmering stuff, and her hair was a dream, you know! Oh! I forgot, to say we were at a dance. Yes! the button on my shirt collar gave way, and there was I craning my neck to keep the stupid thing in position, and feeling very awkward and uncomfortable, when she discovered my dilemma, (girls have such sharp eyes), she simply took me underhand and before I knew what was happening, she had sewed the blessed thing fast; she was equipped for emergencies. Do you see, I never thought she could do anything so useful, but I've altered my opinion. Anyhow, that's my idea of a lady just at present.—Yours truly, LADDIE.

I don't mind how often 'the laddies' take advantage of this column, nothing would be more interesting at this point, than to have the opinion of some of them as to what constitutes a 'lady' from their standpoint. I am sure our girl readers would want the 'Banner' to come before its time.

The following is a cutting from an American paper, and appeared in the "Home Chat" lately.

"AN ACCOMPLISHED GIRL."

- To sew.
- To cook.
- To mend.
- To be gentle.
- To value time.
- To dress neatly.
- To keep a secret.
- To avoid idleness.
- To be self-reliant.
- To darn stockings.
- To respect old age.
- To make good bread.
- To keep a house tidy.
- To be above gossiping.
- To control her temper.
- To take care of the baby.
- To take care of the sick.
- To marry a man for his worth.
- To take plenty of active exercise.
- To be a helpmate to her husband.
- To keep clear of trashy literature.
- To be light-hearted and fleet-footed.
- To be a womanly woman under all circumstances.

The last line contains the whole meaning of the word "lady." I can sense the appreciative smile of 'Coronatia' after reading the above accomplishments. It is the sweet womanly spirit that corrects, or applauds, that leads, or compels; that influences and moves us to "sweeter manners, purer laws;" whose being pervades the atmosphere of our tiny thought spheres with her exquisite gentleness, loveliness, queenly dignity, and pure, clean, God-like thoughts of life and love.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We celebrated our fourth anniversary, on Feb. 22nd, when Mr. A. Kitson addressed the Lyceum in the morning, and also in the afternoon at the open Session, which was well attended by parents and visitors. In the evening Mr. Kitson delivered a stirring address to a full hall. His remarks were highly appreciated.

OUR TEMPERANCE PAGE

Conducted by HERBERT E. CLARKE.

Considerable activity has been evinced recently in the reduction, not only of the consumption of intoxicating drinks, but also of the influences which tend to promote drunkenness, especially in the direction of those temptations which have almost become part and parcel of a public house—music licenses. So much has been said against the action of the authorities, by persons interested in the drink traffic, and also by those who are unfortunately compelled to earn their livelihood by performing in these unwholesome places, that perhaps an impartial word or two on the matter will be reassuring to many who are undecided as yet, as to the justice of the opposing claims.

Undoubtedly, the new act has had much to do in stimulating this much-needed reform. Hundreds of houses whose music-licenses were granted after 1869, have now lost them, and only a few have successfully passed the Brewster Sessions unscathed.

That reform is needed is conclusively shown by the disclosures which examination of the claims has brought forth, careful as have been the assertions of the lawyers supporting them. These disclosures point out to any unbiased reader, the great increase in drunkenness which has accrued from the addition of a license for music. But actual circumstances are not necessary to prove the argument; it follows directly from the fact that an evil, dressed in a beautiful garb, has a better appearance than a naked, loathsome one, that all the world can see and be disgusted at. Many people are transported by the sirens to their destruction.

Often, when passing a public house, one hears a drunken, ribald chorus of voices joining in some song of the day, or senseless buffoonery, and one cannot be but struck with the dreadful bravado with which some of the voices sound, as if they were repeating "We're here to-day and gone to-morrow, so let us be recklessly merry." Not one sings with a soul in the music, the general clamour satisfies the requirements of all present. Everything speaks of drunkenness, recklessness, despair!

But occasionally, I have heard a bad piano and a drunken violin "murder" out movements from the great symphonies, and even from the oratorios of the masters. Perhaps more than in the case described above, my heart has ached for the shame they lack! That the world's most inspired composers should be desecrated in a foul drinking booth, among fumes of tobacco and soulless cheers of a half-frantic assembly! That music which has sounded the very deepest emotions of the world should be "drummed off" to such an audience!

Is it emphatic enough to call it "casting pearls before swine?" And yet we are told many are thrown out of employment by the reduction in music licenses, and this is certainly very painful, especially as the "profession" is a precarious one. What are these people to do but perform and beg in the street? What is to become of those dependent upon them?

These are indeed hard questions to answer, but they are not insurmountable. He would be a wretched creature who could do nothing but play a harp, or fiddle. Others there are who have lost their employment and have found something different. Why not they also? Honest labour awaits honest hands, somewhere. I do not wish to deny

the hardship which would be, and has been caused, but I do wish to shew you that this is not nearly so great an evil as the present system. It would, perhaps, be fair to say, that for every single one suffering through the abolition of the music licenses, ten suffer through the effects of drunkenness.

The foregoing is confirmed by the unanimous eagerness with which proprietors of public-houses sue for the perpetuation of their music licenses. We cannot reasonably accuse them of disinterested love for good music!

But the greatest argument against music in public-houses is that of incongruity and lack of necessity. It is not *right* that music should be performed under such conditions, because harmonious conditions are already provided, rendering it unnecessary as well as inadvisable. I do not think it at all probable that music, which under healthier circumstances has a great moral effect, would be able to confer much benefit to the audience at a beer-shop; for the drunken listener can only appreciate the loud and senseless, the moderate drinker is seduced by it to drunkenness, while the true lover of music is horrified and flees away to some other abode.

Weigh the whole matter up and then give your opinion, and I am confident that you will consent to a wholesale condemnation of the principle as a means of spreading, especially among children, a curse whose weight we have long felt.

It is some time since I had the pleasure of publishing, through these columns, any words from my readers. There must be many who read my notes month by month, much more capable than myself to speak upon our subject, and I should be delighted to hear from them. Send cuttings from newspapers, or better still, original remarks, and I shall be most pleased to insert them.

Letters should reach the editor at Dewsbury not later than the 18th of the month, or may be addressed to me at 115, Robin Hood's Chase, Nottingham, and reach me not later than the 20th day of the month.

I am sure you will all be glad to know that the four-fold pledge has made a good start; but I want this success to be maintained, and so I look forward to my readers doing their utmost to strengthen our numbers.

My list is from Batley Carr, and consists of the following ladies, gentlemen, and children:—

1 Alfred Kitson	1 2 3 4	16 John Richardson	2 3 4
2 Lizzie Mortimer	1 2 3 4	17 Orlando Brook	1 2 3 4
3 Pollie Mortimer	1 2 3 4	18 Hy. Holdsworth	1 2 3 4
4 Sarah Sowerby	2 3 4	19 Arthur Day	1 2 3 4
5 Mrs. Day	2 3 4	20 Brook Hirst	1 2 3 4
6 Ethel Myers	1 2 3 4	21 W. Holdsworth	1 2 3 4
7 Florence Harrison	1 2 3 4	22 Ernest Sykes	1 2 3 4
8 Carrie Goddard	1 2 3 4	23 Joseph Hirst	1 2 3 4
9 Annie Kilburn	1 2 3 4	24 A. Holdsworth	1 2 3 4
10 Hannah Colbeck	1 2 3 4	25 Joe Sykes	1 2 3 4
11 Nellie Kitson	1 2 3 4	26 Ernest Day	1 2 3 4
12 Amy Myers	1 2 3 4	27 R. Holdsworth	1 2 3 4
13 H. Holdsworth	1 3 4	18 Mrs. S.E. Thomas	1 2 3 4
14 Alfred Brook	3 4	29 Agnes Roberts	1 2 3 4
15 Joe Colbeck	2 3 4		

The above numbers signify:—

- 1—Alcoholic Beverages
- 2—Tobacco
- 3—Gambling
- 4—Use of Profane Language

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ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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THE ATTAINMENT OF TRUTH.

PART II.

IN Part I. we endeavoured to show the great importance of truth, and how necessary it was to a right understanding of all that relates to man and nature; and again, how people prefer hoary haired traditions to truth, because age has caused a halo of sacredness to be thrown around them. It will be readily seen that such people stand in the way of their own enlightenment. They are like the slave, who, having worn his chains so long, had grown to love and admire the peculiarity of each link that confined and debarred him from enjoying full liberty of life and limb, so much that he refused to have them taken off.

Those who would obtain truth must have certain qualifications before they can reasonably hope for success. The qualifications are three in number. The first is, A DESIRE TO KNOW THE TRUTH. This is necessary in every branch of knowledge. If the would-be-searcher for truth assumes an attitude of, "Oh; I know it all;" "that has been settled long ago;" "such things cannot be true;" then he clearly shows he lacks the first necessary qualification, and his research for truth is a farce.

It is this self-satisfied spirit of, "Oh! it cannot be true," that has opposed the discoveries of men of science, and others who have laid no claim to scientific attainment, whose common sense saved them from the error of thinking they understood everything, and that other people's knowledge should be measured by their ignorance.

Religions built on the assumption of being based on divine truth have been a prolific source of persecution, torture, death, and war. They would reason thus: if we are right, (and doubt is the work of the Devil,) all others must be wrong; and if they are wrong, they are servants of the Devil, and so enemies of God, therefore to convert or exterminate them is doing God's work, and will gain for us His approbation while on earth, and heaven when we die. The Jewish, Christian, and Mohammedan, have arisen from this false assumption. Ministers of religion, from Doctors of Divinity down to the lay preachers, have ever been ready to denounce all discoveries in the sciences of Astronomy and Geology on the assumption that what the Bible said about the creation of the heavens and the earth was divinely revealed, therefore, it must be God's holy and divine truth, and all that opposed it was the work of the Devil. So it was that Copernicus, the founder of astronomy; Kepler, the discoverer of the laws and orbits of the motions of the planets; Galileo, who first used the telescope in astronomy, and discovered the true theory of the solar system, were all opposed and denounced by the ministers of the Christian religion. Also Hutton, Brown, Lyles, and others, who studied the formation of the rocks, and their probable ages.

The same remarks apply in a measure to physicians who have opposed discoveries in their class,—thus the discoveries of Dr. Harvey concerning the circulation of the blood, revolutionized the method of surgical operations; and Bell, the discoverer of the nervous system, were ridiculed by the medical fraternity.

Now it must be self-evident to all, that in each and every case cited, and the thousands of cases that space forbids us citing, the opposers and persecutors, lacked the first qualification as a genuine searcher after truth, A DESIRE TO KNOW THE TRUTH, or they would have examined the evidence produced in favour of the discoveries, and having satisfied themselves, would have embraced the same, giving the people the benefit of the new light, and led them from a grand contemplation of nature, to nature's God. It was the duty of the ministers to have done this, like faithful shepherds caring for their flocks. But they loved tradition more than truth, and hence turned persecutors of that which they ought to have welcomed.

How many of those who seek an introduction to our private circles, on the plea of wanting to test the claims of spirit communion, do so with an open mind; a mind free from bias and prejudice, reluctant to admit the accuracy of the tests given them, or even give them a careful consideration? How many come to our services with a *desire to know the truth*? We venture to say, not more than one in a hundred. And how many of those few would be willing, like Saul of old, to fast and bathe in order to fit themselves to receive the heavenly messengers? It is most difficult to say.

Those who lack this qualification are the most bigoted, and the least open to reason, taking a delight in being obstinate. Don't be a bigot, or you will not rank in the world's list of reformers.

MANCHESTER, (Higher Broughton).—We have just had an illustrated lecture on "Palmistry," by Miss Rotherham; and also a very successful social, by our Lyceumists. Both were in aid of the Lyceum Fund.—JAS. CARTER, Secretary.

THE
British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union

THE LYCEUM CONFERENCE.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Lyceums intending to be represented at the Conference to be held at Blackburn, on May 10 and 11, must elect their delegate, or delegates, and send their name or names, along with each one's address, duly signed by the Conductor and Secretary, to me, not later than Saturday, March 28th, to be eligible to a seat at the Conference. The same rule applies to all Lyceum District Visitors, whether appointed by the District Councils or the Union (see Article VI. page 5 of the new Constitution.)

As each Lyceum has been supplied with two copies of the Constitution, all extra copies will be supplied at 1½d. each, post free.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

All notices of Motions for the Conference must be sent to the Union's Secretary, twenty-eight (28) days previous to the Conference (See Bye-laws, Art. I, Section 5, page 13.)

Lyceum Secretaries please note that as the Conference meets on the 9th of May, April 11th is the *last* date on which notices of motion can be received. All motions should bear the date on which they are posted to the Secretary as under.

ALFRED KITSON, Secretary,
Bromley Road,
Hanging Heaton,
Dewsbury.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

NOTICE.

The Executive Council will meet at the Heber Street Spiritual Temple, Keighley, on Saturday, March 28th, 1903.

A PUBLIC TEA

will be held at 4-30 p.m., to be followed at 7-15 by a specially prepared entertainment in honour of the visit. Owing to their great success and increasing popularity, the

Heber Street Temple Juvenile Minstrels

will repeat their excellent programme, with added songs, jokes, etc., the whole to conclude with a comic sketch, entitled: "**Winning a Prize; or Murder will out.**" The whole entertainment has been written and compiled by Mr. Frank Hepworth, the local organizer.

Tickets for Tea and Entertainment: Adults 6d. Children 4d. Entertainment only: Adults 3d., Children 2d.

Sunday, March 29th, Lyceum Open Session at 10 a.m., attended by the members of the Executive Council. Special hymn sheets, containing also musical reading, silver and golden chain recitations.

GRAND MASS MEETINGS

will be held in the Temple at 2-30 and 6 p.m., in honour of the 55th Anniversary of Modern Spiritualism, and Keighley's Jubilee year, to be addressed by the members of the B.S.L.U. Executive Council. The Unions' President (health permitting) in the Chair.

The Heber Street Temple Choir

will render special anthems, solos, and sacred songs at intervals: Collections in aid of the Union's Funds.

Alfred Kitson, Gen. and Fin. Sec.,
Bromley Road,
Hanging Heaton,
Dewsbury.

INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS AT BLACKBURN

The morning session at the St. Peter Street Spiritualists' Lyceum, Blackburn on Sunday, Feb. 22nd, was largely attended. Two interesting presentations took place, the recipients being Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Moss and Mr. John Wilkinson, members of the Lyceum, who leave England to-morrow for the United States of America. Mr. J. Hindle presided. Mr. Will Lord, as one of the oldest members of the Lyceum, made the presentations, which consisted of a silver fruit basket to Mr. and Mrs. Moss and a silver medal to Mr. Wilkinson. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Lord paid a warm tribute to the valuable service which Mr. Moss had rendered to the Lyceum cause in Blackburn as conductor. Mr. Moss had also filled the positions of leader and Secretary, and his connections with the Spiritualists' Lyceum movement was one to be proud of. Mr. Lord then referred to Mr. Wilkinson's connection with the Lyceum. Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, of Hebden Bridge, along with Mr. Moorey, made suitable references to the departure of the three friends. Mr. Moss, who occupied position of overseer with the firm of Messrs. R. Thompson and Co., Limited, cotton manufacturers, has also been presented with a solid gold ring as a token of esteem by the employees.

THE BRITTEN MEMORIAL.

The Annual Meeting of the Subscribers will be held in Room No. 14, Century Buildings, Deansgate, on Thursday, the 19th of March, at 3 o'clock. The attendance of all subscribers and representatives of subscribing Lyceums is requested.—A. W. ORR, Hon. Sec., 15, Moorland Road, Didsbury.

In Memoriam.

I am sorry to inform you that one of our Lyceum scholars passed to the spirit of life, on Feb. 8th, namely, Master Isaiah Share. He was at the Lyceum in the morning, and passed to the other side at 6 p.m. Although our Lyceum at Mexborough is only young, yet 34 scholars attended the funeral, which took place on the 12th. The Lyceumists brought a beautiful wreath, as a token of loving respect for our arisen scholar.—G. CHATELL, Secretary.



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 think I must have been very impatient last month, for it appears such a long time since I read my Banner, and found that the Editor had allowed our competition to appear. I say 'our' competition because Father suggested it, Ted and I chose the quotations, and some of my Bluebells have tried to find them. I daresay a good many of you are anxious to know who is the winner; I know if I were in the place of some of you, 'especially the competitors' I should be anxious to know. As some of our teachings tell us, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. I will tell you next, that the winner is Miss Grace Earith, of the Salford Central Lyceum, who is member 905 on the Roll and 11 years of age. The second on the list is Miss Elsie Lambert, of Armley Lyceum. Then comes Miss Nellie Kitson, of Batley Carr Lyceum, who is only wrong in one quotation. The next is Miss Marian Elena Knibb, of Birmingham Union Lyceum, who sends on her quotations and also a request that she may be entered as a member of our guild.

Yes, Marian, with pleasure, you will find I have entered your name, and you will now be eligible for all the other competitions which may appear in connection with our guild. I sincerely hope when all your other friends see your membership card it will induce them to become members. The interest which has been shown in this, our first trial, will certainly encourage me to have another one very soon, perhaps next month.

I have a very nice letter from Mr. Laurence Foster, of Uppertorpe Lyceum, Sheffield, enclosing sixteen names, included his own, for membership. I am sure the way Mr. Foster speaks of the group, of which he is leader, reflects great credit upon them. It is with pleasure I enter their names as members, feeling sure, as Mr. Foster says, they will be a credit to our guild.

Ted has just come in whilst I am writing, and reminded me that it is Pancake Tuesday to-morrow. Mother has told him she will make some Pancakes.

Father says it is Shrove Tuesday, but Ted says Pancake Tuesday, because Mother generally makes these kind of cakes, on this day of the year.

However, my space is almost gone this month, so I will endeavour to give you the history of Shrovetide next month. One of my dear Bluebells sent me a few cuttings from newspapers, and the following is one of them;—

THE DOG AND THE KITTEN.

One day a servant was told to take a kitten to a pond for the purpose of drowning it. His master's dog went with him. When the kitten was thrown into the water the dog sprang in and brought it back to land. The second time the man threw it in, and again the dog rescued it. When for a third time the servant tried to drown it, the dog, as resolute to save the little helpless life as the man was to destroy it, swam with it to the other side of the pond, ran all the way home with it, and deposited it before the kitchen fire. From that time the dog kept constant watch over the kitten. The two were inseparable, even sharing the same bed.

I think the poor helpless kitten deserved to live after being so nobly rescued.

I must now close with all my usual good wishes for all my dear Bluebells.

Your loving Sister, FLORA BELLE,
c/o Mr. Alfred Kitson,
Bromley Road,
Hanging Heaton,
Dewsbury.

LIST OF MEMBERS IN THE BLUEBELL'S GUILD.

MARCH LIST.

BIRMINGHAM SPIRITUAL UNION LYCEUM.

1187 Marian Elena Knibb.

UPPERTHORPE, SHEFFIELD.

1188 Lawrence Foster	1193 Mabel Jepson	1199 Prissilla Barker
1189 Vict. G Raynor	1194 Edith Roberts	1200 Francis Childs
1190 Bertha J. Raynor	1195 Edith Ledger	1201 Ada Bower
1191 Ida Raynor	1196 Elsie Palmer	1202 Jessie Dyson
1192 Rose Raynor	1197 Florrie Palmer	1203 Nellie Beadle
	1198 Grace Mitchell	

SHEFFIELD, (HEELEY)—On Sunday evening, February 22nd, the speaker not being able to be with us, our Lyceum volunteered to fill in the break; and the Service of Song "The Strolling Minstrel," by Mrs. L. A. Griffin, was rendered by the Leaders and Lyceum, to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Wooler read the connective readings, so well arranged by the author; the audience listening with rapt attention throughout the rendering, and general satisfaction was expressed by many of the audience. A pleasant evening was concluded by a well attended after circle.—E. WOOLER, Secretary.



MARCH MIXTURES: *My Word!*—Wind—hail,—rain,—snow, and sunshine, all coming in or out of order, and we've got to make the best of it. Well, perhaps we ought to be grateful that things are no worse. We get all sorts of weather to choose from this month, and yet you will hear some grumbling about it, some people are never satisfied.

Well, boys, I am not going to weary you this month with a long epistle, but I do wish I could wake up more of you, to try your hand at essay-writing. There is only one boy amongst many hundreds of our Lyceumists, who has found time to write to me upon that Spiritualising *grace* "Gratitude" This is Frank Cocks, of Slaithwaite, who has now contributed several thoughtful essays to "our" column.

I print his clearly written letter below.

What a wonderful observant animal "Neddy" is. He has been studying the jelly-fish while business has been bad, Poor Neddy, his life must be awful this weather if he is exposed to the fierce conflicts which are taking place at the sea-side. But perhaps he is being made to hawk round Cockles and Mussels for his keep, during the bad weather. Anyhow, he has found time to tell us something very interesting, and I hope you will all read what he has to say about the jelly-fish, I suppose he will have some fine tales to tell about some of you when the summer comes and you go to the sea-side for a holiday, so whatever you do be kind to him, and if he helps you to enjoy yourself by riding you on the sands, be sure you repay him with kindness and show your gratitude for the pleasure he has given you.

The subject submitted for next Month's essay is "Honesty" Now boys, don't be afraid of writing what you know about the beauties of this "virtue." Write on one side of the paper only and post your letter not later than the 20th of March, to—UNCLE BENJAMIN, c/o A. Kitson, Bromley Rd. Hanging Heaton, Nr. Dewsbury.

I wonder how many of us will meet at the Lyceum E.C, Mass Meetings in Keighley on Sunday, March 29th, 1903. I shall try to be there

UNCLE BENJAMIN.

FRANK COCKS, SLAITHWATE — "GRATITUDE."

As I look back over my past life there comes to me memories of this feeling of gratitude. Now I feel thankful for the experience of life, its joys and sorrows.

Thankful for having had the care and attention of kind Parents, and for the great lessons of life, and for a later experience the teachings concerning the future life. Gratitude or thankfulness, is a condition or feeling of the soul; human lives experience this feeling when they have escaped from

great danger, and when some one has done them a kind action. If this feeling could be aroused in our weaker Brother, or Sister, who falls into the hands of the law, such kindly justice done to them would have a greater power than the prison cell, to lead them and fit them for a more beautiful life. The child is angelic in its nature, a flower from God, and as it goes through life let us teach it lessons of usefulness and purity. Gratitude is a humanising influence that can touch the most sordid mind. Under its influence humanity can be led to a higher ideal of life. This feeling should be strengthened by living a good life and making our lifework add a beauty to the soul; a refinement to our nature that may in time be felt to be a power for good, to influence others to take an upward path in life. Ah! what a feeling of gratitude would there be in this country of ours if instead of competition in our industries it could be controlled by a power that would see to everyone finding employment suitable to their natures, and given such conditions that the kindly influence under which they labour, they may enjoy life. Boys, let us cultivate all that is beautiful in our natures; let us cultivate an admiration for nature, and not forget to love our home.

Father fill my soul with gratitude,

For I know it is entwined with love;

Let Thy power flow to me and make life's aptitude

A beacon light to draw them to Thy sweet love.

Father fill each soul with gratitude;

Let them live in the power of Thy love,

As flowers do beautify may their life's aptitude

Spring to unfold in the power of Thy love.

Father fill the world with gratitude;

Let us all feel a portion of Thy love,

The soul entwined with thee in joy and gratitude

Shall fulfil its mission here below in love.

DEAR UNCLE BEN,

I am very grateful to you for your invitation to tell you boys of what we (long-eared animals) observe on the sea shore, and what we hear people talk about sometimes. Now I wonder if any of them have seen a jelly-fish. If not perhaps they will be interested in this peculiar animal after I have told them what I know. In some parts they are to be found in great numbers and different sizes. A great many of the larger kinds are found to have within their large stomach a small white shrimp with most

beautiful emerald-coloured eyes. They make the stomach of jelly-fish their home and larder. The shrimp soon dies if it is taken from its shelter, and they are never found swimming with the common shrimps so well-known to most people. The shrimp lives at the expense of the jelly-fish and feeds upon some of the small creatures which are entangled by the peculiar structure of its mouth. The jelly-fish floats along collecting food and killing every small living thing that touches its stinging body, whilst the shrimp enjoys itself inside out of danger and in great comfort. The shrimp swims in and out and is never harmed by the deadly poison of the wonderful sharp stings of the medusa or jelly-fish.

Now the most wonderful part of this singular history is how they come together. There are no jelly-fish in the winter and early spring, and the whole of them die in the autumn—shrimps and all. Before dying the shrimp leaves the stomach of the jelly-fish and lays its eggs at the bottom of the shallow sea.

The jelly-fish lays thousands of tiny eggs, which being covered with small movable hairs, row themselves into quiet rocky nooks on the coast and settle down. These eggs become adherent to pieces of shell or stone and do not turn to jelly-fish any more than a butterfly's egg turns to a butterfly. A stem springs from them and branches arise from it all covered with tiny cups, whose rims are crowded with small arms called tentacles. Now the shrimp's egg hatches about the same time as the stem just mentioned begins to grow. In the first part of their existence the jelly-fish and the shrimp are separate, and unlike what they subsequently turn to. As the warm weather comes on, the stem with its branches and cup—like ends—begin to bind, and after a while, out of the buds spring tiny little jelly-fish which soon swim off. About this time the young shrimp casts its skin and grows into the form of its parent, and invariably seeks shelter in the stomach of the first jelly-fish it comes across in its swimming to and fro. This extraordinary circle of events goes on year after year, and the reason why the young shrimp should seek an animal totally unlike itself and very fatal to other shrimps is one of these things in nature that no one can understand.

I could tell them more, but enough for your space at present, I guess.

NEDDY.

RISHTON.—On Feb. 7th, we held an annual tea and entertainment, which was a grand success. Mr. Geo. Haworth presided, and Mr. Waddington distributed the prizes. Councillor J. T. Ward gave an encouraging address to the children. Friends from Darwen, Church, Accrington and Burnley Lyceums, ably assisted in the entertainment. Mr. Ben Latham, of Burnley, caused roars of laughter with his humourist songs.—JAS. HAWORTH.

BRIGHOUSE.—Our Lyceum held its annual tea and entertainment on Jan. 31st, which was attended by 150. The tea was splendid and the entertainment excellent, ably presided over by Mr. T. Crowther. The following items of the programme were well rendered, and highly appreciated:—Piano solo, by E. Solomon; Mr. Griffiths, recited "Our Foes;" Mr. Skipmore, "Father is Coming;" Miss S. A. Crowther, "War, War, what is it?" "Our Lyceum 'Tis of Thee," was sung by 20 scholars, a drill and action song; Miss L. Flintoff, sang "The very Worst Girl in the School;" a quartett, "The Lass of Richmond Hill;" Mr. S. Thornton, sang "The Old Folks at Home," and "The Skipper;" Miss S. A. Crowther sang "The Star of Bethlehem," and the "Last Milestone;" Miss E. Taylor sang "The Rose underneath the Snow."

CHOIR CONTEST.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council held their 2nd Annual Lyceum Choir Contest, in Blackburn St. Peter Street Spiritual Temple, on Saturday, February 21st. The occasion created great interest; there were nine competing Choirs, who each brought a few interested friends. The state of the weather was wretched, but by the stipulated time for commencement of contest, there would be close on 500 choir singers and friends, which satisfied the executive that the venture was going to be a successful one. Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool, rendered good service as chairman during the contest, and I feel sure that his smiles of sympathy for all choirs contesting, had a good effect on the singers. A word of praise to our friend Mr. James Hargreaves, who engineered the affairs on behalf of the press. Mrs. Barker Holden and Mr. Hartley Holgate as Judge police did their work nobly and well, and I feel sure contesting choirs were well satisfied with their work. The platform at the evening concert showed that we were supported by many friends. Mr. Chiswell presented prizes to successful choirs in a very efficient manner. Our old friend Mr. A. Kitson, B.S.L.U. Secretary, gave many words of sympathy and cheer, which were well received. Mrs. Greenwood, Hebden Bridge, Mrs. Stair, of Keighley also addressed the audience. Great interest prevailed when the chairman, Mr. G. H. Edwards, called upon the Judge, Dr. A. F. Tindall, of London, to give his reports and the results of the contest. Prizes were awarded as follows: North Street Lyceum, Burnley, 1st Prize, Solid Silver Shield to be held for 12 months and the 1st Class Diploma N.C.M. London; Hammerton Street, Burnley, 2nd Prize, Solid Silver Medal and 2nd Class Diploma N.C.M. London; Every Street, Lyceum, Nelson, 3rd Prize, Bronze Gilt Medal and 3rd Class Diploma N.C.M. London. The following is the Adjudicator's award of Points to contesting choirs and comments to be noted by each choir.

The maximum number of Points given by Dr. Tindall were, Test Piece 60 Points, Choir's own Selection 40 Points.

The first number given denotes Points in Test piece, the second, Points in Selection, and the third, aggregate Points.

Judge's Comments.

No. 8 Choir.—North Street Lyceum, Burnley. Good voices, good tone and expression, also good voice production and management of breath. 1st Prize.	56...40...96
No. 3 Choir.—Hammerton Street Lyceum, Burnley. Voices very clear and good, good expression and attack. 2nd Prize.	54...40...94
No. 1 Choir.—Every Street, Nelson. Good tone and expression. 3rd Prize.	54...38...92
No. 4 Choir.—Colne. Fair, but not equal to first three.	51...38...89
No. 6 Choir.—Darwen. Fairly good, but voices rather rough and harsh, want better tone.	51...38...89
No. 9 Choir.—Great Harwood. Fair, but rather rough and harsh, want moderating.	52...35...87
No. 5 Choir.—Blackburn, St. Peter Street. A little out of tune.	48...30...78
No. 7 Choir.—Blackpool. A little out of tune, a few notes wrong in chorus of Test piece.	46...30...76
No. 2 Choir.—Blackburn, Northgate. Not quite in tune in Test piece, very flat in selection.	48...25...73

R. LATHAM, Hon. Sec.

Gleanings by Uncle Amos.

Some time ago, the girls in the fifth standard in one of our Board Schools, were requested to write an essay on Pins. One of the essays written by Mary Moor, read as follows.—

PINS IS THE SUBJECT.

"I think God made pins and needles the very first thing after he made Adam and Eve, else how could he pin fig Leaves together ready for stitching, and then sew them together into aprons for Adam and Eve to wear in the garden of Eden so as folks couldn't see their bare Knees? So those folks who say as "Pins were first made in 1450, and that needles were first used in 1545 must be infidels 'cause they go against the bible.

Pins are good for sticking in pin-cushions, so as you know where to find em when you want any. Large pins are for fastening ladies' hats on their heads, to prevent the wind from blowing them away, and for fastening their shawls on, 'cause little tiny pins aren't big enough. There are many kinds of pins, some are black and some are brass colour, some are great big ones with large heads.

Pins with the heads off are no good, 'cause you can't get them out again when you've once stuck them in.

Then there's safety pins, such as my mother uses to pin baby's clothes on with, so as they wont scratch her and make her cry. And there's another kind of pins as is used with money—called pin money. I dont know what sort they are, and my mother doesn't either, for she says she never had any pins of that sort.

Pins are good for pinning pieces of paper behind boys, on their jackets, and they're nice for putting in cushion seats, point upwards, and then when a boy sits down on them he cries out Oh! and jumps up again quicker than he sat down.

Pins are useful for a very many other things, and besides they do people a great deal of good."

After the teacher had read this essay she called Mary up and said, "Mary, I do not quite understand what you mean when you write that "pins do people a great deal of good" How can pins do people good?"

"By not swallowing them" was Mary's prompt answer.

Now Mr. Editor, Aunt Amos says I must tell Mr. H. Clarke and all the readers of the BANNER, that alcoholic drinks are like pins, they will do people a great deal of good *by not swallowing them.*

A REMARKABLE JURY.

In one of the earliest trials before a Coloured jury in Texas, twelve gentlemen were told by the judge to retire and "find the verdict." They went to the jury room. The sheriffs and others standing outside heard the opening and shutting of doors and other sounds of unusual commotion. At last the jury came back into the court, when the foreman arose and said, "Massa Judge, we hab done; looked ebbly whar in de drawers, and behind de doah—and can't find no verdict'. It warn't in de room.

HOUSEHOLD TREASURES.

A treasure of a husband—Carries the baby.

A treasure of a wife—Never asks for money.

A treasure of a son—Has money in the funds.

A treasure of a daughter—Looks the same age as her mother, if anything, a little older.

A treasure of a servant—Runs to the post office in less than half-an-hour.

A treasure of a cook—Is not hysterical whenever there is company to dinner or supper.

A treasure of a baby—Doesn't disturb its "dear papa" in the middle of the night.

A treasure of a waiter—Come's when she's called, speaks when she's spoken to, and doesn't slam the door to, but shuts it gently.

AN EPITAPH.

The following is taken from the churchyard at Stirling, and is the epitaph of Alexander E. Miffin, Chief Constable of Stirlingshire :—

"Our life is but a winter's day,
Some only breakfast and away,
Others to dinner stay, and are full fed,
The oldest man but sups and goes to bed ;
Large is his debt that lingers out the day,
He that goes soonest has the least to pay."

AN ACADEMY SIGN.

The following is a true copy of a sign upon an academy for teaching in one of the Western States of America :—

"Freeman and Huggs, School Teachers :
Freeman teaches the boys, and Huggs the girls."

MANCHESTER(COLLYHURST)—On Sunday Feb. 1st, I paid a casual visit to this Lyceum. Punctually at 10-30 the Conductor opened the session, with an attendance of 80, which filled the large room all round. It was an Inspiring sight to see such a gathering, and to note the large attendance of Adults, especially young men. The several items were gone through in unison, and with due regard to pauses. The singing was full of life and joined in heartily, accompanied by the pianoforte. The usual request by the Conductor for recitations, brought out several children and adults, who creditably rendered their several items. A Mandoline Solo and Piano accompaniment by Lyceumists was a musical treat. The marching and calisthenics were a surprise, the several evolutions were gone through in such a way as to reflect the greatest credit on all concerned. It is a pity more of our people do not drop in to the Lyceum during their session. One could not help but feel the benefit to the cause that must ultimately accrue from such gatherings as these. The value physically, to all taking part in the Breathing and Calisthenic exercises is untold; few of those who follow up these exercises are, I imagine, likely to be troubled with lung complaints. As a practical method of training children, it is I am sure unsurpassed: not a dull moment from start to finish, it is indeed something to be proud of, to have such a flourishing centre of attraction, for all desirous of progress in mental and physical development, as Collyhurst Progressive Lyceum.—W. Pollard,

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.

MANCHESTER (Harpurhey).—I am pleased to report the fact that we are still forging ahead, unity prevailing, and all feeling the bond of sympathy and good will. The distribution of prizes for regular attendance and good behaviour for 1902, took place on Sunday, Feb. 1st, under very pleasing conditions, the recipients were delighted. Four extra prizes were given for recitations. Special mention should be made of Lilly Smith, age 6 years, who put in 48 attendances out of a possible 52, and gave us 42 recitations. These prizes have acted as a stimulus to many of the dormant ones, they are now coming forward with determination writ strongly on their faces, they mean to try and gain honour. The Library is about to be formed; a number of books having been received, any small gift will be gratefully accepted and judiciously utilised. Our Mutual Improvement Class is a distinct success, many of the essays being very instructive and interesting, the discussion being beneficial to both listeners and participators, in bringing out many latent talents. May the Lyceum cause still continue to flourish in the sincere desire of.—R. W., Secretary.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYME.—We held our Lyceum tea and entertainment on Jan. 31st, when about 160 sat down to a splendid tea, with ham, generously provided by members of the mothers' meeting, to whom we desire to tender our grateful thanks; and also to all who assisted at the entertainment. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. E. Cropper. The programme consisted of glees, duets, songs, bone solos, selections on the mandoline, recitations, and a dialogue entitled "Old Maids Matched." The comic element was provided by Mr. Law, who fairly brought the house down with his songs. Our open Session, on Feb. 1st, was well attended. A number of visitors were present to see how we conducted our Lyceum. We had a good programme. Miss E. Bracegirdle and Mr. Hodgson sang for us, and Miss Lena Tonge recited. Miss Platt kindly officiated at the piano.—WM. DRANSFIELD, Secretary.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—On Sunday, Jan. 25th, we had a very pleasant afternoon with the children, and a fair attendance of adults. The chair was taken by Mr. Hall; Miss Hall presided at the piano. The following programme was well rendered by the children and teachers:—Miss Huddleston, recited "Our Flag to Save;" Misses Baillie, G. Robinson, Hopson, Violet Robinson, and Masters Willie Jones, Robbie Larkin, J. Collinson, and Bertie Huddleston, all gave recitations; Miss L. Hall, sang the "Holy City;" Mr. D. Griffith, recited "People will Talk," and Miss J. Walker, sang "The Fisherman and his Child;" Miss M. Robinson, recited "Napoleon and the British Seaman;" Miss Hall, sang "Picture of Life;" Mr. Proctor, gave a short address on the Lyceum and its teachings; Miss N. Walker, sang "Golden Days;" Master H. Moxam, also gave a song. This brought our programme to a close.—Miss P. WHITTON.

BURY.—We were very fortunate, in January, to receive visits from Mr. Green and family, of Manchester, and Mr. Albert Wilkinson. We are much indebted to Mr. Green for a very instructive essay, on "The pleasures of Reading," and our thanks are due to Mr. Wilkinson for a capital address. Our Open Session, on Feb. 1st, was a great success. Mr. Knight's geological remarks were much appreciated, likewise the duet, by Miss Clough (piano), and Mr. Swarbrick (violin). Miss Kershaw's recitation was also well received.—E. J. BARNES, Lyceum Secretary.

BRADFORD—Ivy Rooms Lyceum. On Jan. 31st we had our Anniversary Tea, Concert and Social. On Saturday, 31st, we had a substantial tea with meat, followed by a concert consisting of songs, recitations, pianoforte solos, mandolin solos, and a comical performance by the young men, which caused much amusement. After the concert we drew the evening's enjoyment to a close with a dance. On Sunday afternoon we held an open session and prize distribution by Madame Burchell, when 26 prizes were given. Evening, Service of Song, entitled "The Strolling Minstrel," connective readings by Mr. Magson; pianist, Master H. L. Bates. The whole proceedings were ably presided over by Mr. C. W. Bates, conductor.

WM. SUTCLIFFE, Secretary.

INTERESTING WEDDING OF LYCEUMISTS AT BLACKBURN.—An interesting wedding was celebrated at the Spiritualists' Temple, St Peter's Street, on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 5th, The contracting parties were Mr. John Ward and Miss Emma Lomax, daughter of Mr. William Lomax. Mr. Will Phillips, of Manchester, officiated; Mr. George Bond acted as best man. As the happy couple left the Temple, the organist (Mr. J. W. Weaver) played Mendelssohn's Wedding March. After the ceremony a reception was held, at the house of the bride's parents. The newly married pair were the recipients of many handsome presents. Many were the congratulations and good wishes for their future welfare.

Yours sincerely, Miss R. CRANSHAW, Association Secretary.

ARMLEY.—We held a tea, on January 31st, when about 200 people, both old and young, partook of the same. After tea we had a grand entertainment and social. Mr. Simms gave a song, and an auto harp solo was rendered by Miss Sarah Batty; guitar zithra solo, Miss Hill; a dialogue, Masters Lee and Brett; recitation, Mr. Pickles; Yorkshire readings, Miss B. Crofts; a violin duet, Masters Joseph Pitts and Pickles; phonograph selections, Mr. Thompson; pianoforte solo, Miss Hayes.—Sunday, Feb. 1st, we had Miss Burton, of Bury, with us at our morning services. We were all very well pleased with her. In the afternoon Miss Burton distributed prizes to 33 children in a very pleasing manner. We were also favoured with a recitation by Miss Elsie Lambert, entitled "An invitation to the Lyceum." In the evening Miss Burton gave a good lecture to crowded audience, followed with clairvoyance, all recognised. We hope to have her with us again.—W. PITTS, Secretary.

LOOK UPWARD FRIEND.

Written to Jack Cooke's Sister, December 18th, 1895.

If I could tread life's thorns for those dear feet
And bear for you the blows of adverse fate,
And you be glad, though I were desolate—
O, through my love for you life would be sweet!

If only I alone could bear the pain;
And I could see you blithely pass along
One of the gladdest in life's motley throng,
I think that I could happy be again.

But no, not so! thorns must wound those dear feet,
And you, not me, must bear your weary cross
And learn, like me, life's loneliness and loss—
Look upward, Friend! Reward is sure and sweet.

COMING BY AND BYE.

There's no good regretting, friend,
There's less use in fretting friend,
The best thing is forgetting, friend,
When all things go away;
When all our hopes are lost, friend,
Our dearest wishes cros't friend,
And life's barque tempest toss'd, friend,
There's no use then to sigh.

What're we miss or lack, friend,
There's no turning back, friend,
To tread the dear old track friend,
We trod in days gone by;—
Beyond this world of strife, friend,
With cares and crosses rife, friend,
Look to the after life, friend;
It's coming by and bye.

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON,

Tweed Green House,
Whalley Range.