

The LYCEUM BANNER.

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XIII.

JULY, 1903.

No. 150.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By ALFRED KITSON.

WE are pleased to have our President send her greetings to each and all. Don't forget the motto she gives for her presidential year. Officers in general will heed her plea for more "punctuality," and "constant application to group lessons," wont you? And then you will "get good; be good; and do good!"

While we sincerely congratulate Madame Burchell on her wonderful prevision regarding the Servian awful tragedy, we are quite sure that her kind heart would have preferred that no such crimes had been committed. The fulfilment is another instance of the soul's ability to read the secrets of the mind, and reveal its dark designs. When this power becomes general, people will hesitate to do such things. Thus do the phenomena of Spiritualism make for righteousness.

The report on page 235 of our last issue headed "Collyhurst," should have been headed "Higher Broughton."

We note with pleasure that 1378 members are now enrolled in the Bluebell Guild. This is good, but we wish to see each Lyceumist pledged to kindness and gentleness, Will conductors and secretaries please help in this good work and send me more names to swell the list?

We note with regret that Mr. Clarke has no names to enroll this month. Surely the reform and protection of our young people is of sufficient vital importance to enlist the sympathy and help of all Lyceum officers. Think of the drunkard's home, of the injury done to the nervous system by the use of tobacco, of the gambling craze, and the foul tongue, and then ask yourselves if you cannot do something towards warning your Lyceumists against these evils, and if so, then take steps to protect them by the adoption of the Four-Fold Pledge.

What will it matter if I never reach
The height I fain would climb?
What does it matter if I cannot preach
In language most sublime?
If never fame's clear voice repeats my deeds,

And calls them 'very good.'
Perhaps one will murmur as he stoops and reads,
'He hath done what he could.'

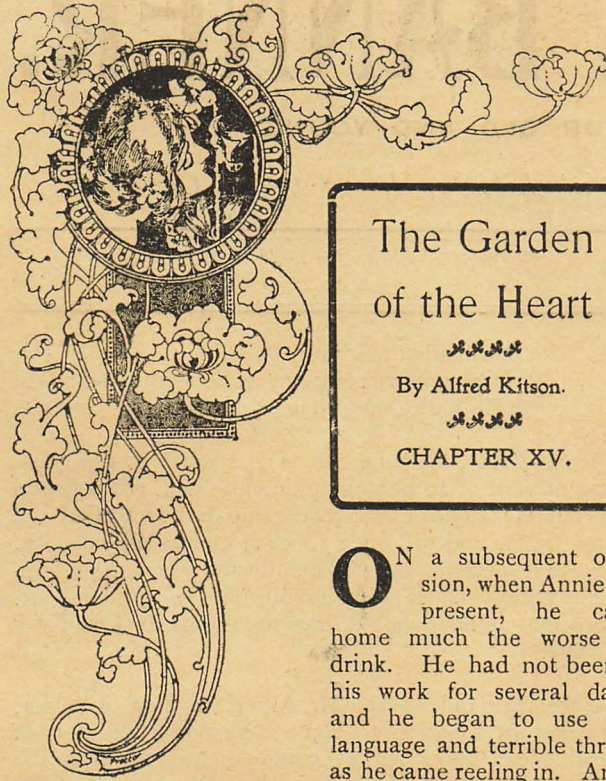
The Sunflower, for June 6th, is a special edition containing upward of 20 photographic views of Cassadaga and Fern Island. The Cassadaga camp is now called the City of Light, and will open its 24th session on July 8th, and close it on Sept. 2nd. The illustrations and descriptive letterpress reflect great credit on the printers' art. This special number should draw thousands to THE CITY OF LIGHT.

We are again indebted to Mr. Alfred Smedley, of Belper, for a generous donation of 2,500 copies of "The story of a Dead News Boy," 1d., as communicated through the daughter of the late Judge Edmonds. It makes an excellent pamphlet of instructive and entertaining reading for both young and old. Write the Union's Secretary for terms for quantities.

"A True Briton" is a new Service of Song from the well-known writer, Mrs. L. A. Griffin. It is the story of the fishermen's trials and perils, in which is narrated a most thrilling incident. The whole is interspersed with eleven musical selections, and will be very serviceable. Price 6d., see advt.

The *Two Worlds* Publishing Co. have issued "a reply to Mr. Frank Podmore's criticism," 1d., by Will Phillips. It is a temperate yet forcible reply to Mr. Podmore's strictures on Prof. Hare's experiments and investigation of spiritual phenomena. Mr. Podmore's charges of incompetency and carelessness are completely refuted. The pamphlet, which is illustrated, should have a wide circulation.

We are deeply grateful to all who responded to our appeal to help us reduce the cost of postage on the "Lyceum Banner," by having their parcels at Newspaper rates. The plan enables us to supply the "Lyceum Banner" at 9½d. per doz. Our next issue will be ready on Aug. 1st. Will Secretaries please note and call for their parcels, and report to us not later than the following Monday, if they fail to receive them.



The Garden of the Heart

By Alfred Kitson.

CHAPTER XV.

ON a subsequent occasion, when Annie was present, he came home much the worse for drink. He had not been to his work for several days; and he began to use foul language and terrible threats as he came reeling in. Annie was terrified, and uncon-

sciously gave a startled scream, which had the effect of nerving Ellen and her mother to beg him to behave himself, as he was frightening Miss Goodwin.

At this he pulled himself up, and tried to hold himself erect, and opened his bleared eyes to have a look at her. He was partly conscious, even in his drink-besotted condition, that the one bearing that name had acted the part of the good Samaritan to his family, and he felt conscious of a deep obligation to her. He sat down, and after eyeing her over for a few seconds, he asked, "And is it you that has rigged up my gals and boys?"

Annie had just heard a voice whisper "Take heart, he won't harm you, you might save him;" so, feeling thus encouraged, she answered, "No, sir, I have not provided them with clothes; all I did was to solicit some for them, from those who take a pleasure in helping the needy."

"It just amounts to the same thing," he added; if it hadn't been for you they wouldn't have had 'em."

"No, I'm sure they would'nt," Mrs. Woodward ventured to say, "because no one else would have done it."

Then half seriously and half tauntingly, he asked, "Can you rig me up a bit, eh?"

"Yes, sir," she replied, taking his remark in good part, "I have no doubt but what help could be obtained for you if,"—and here she hesitated.

"If what?" he asked. "I s'pose you mean if I won't pawn 'em, eh?"

"No, sir," she said, seriously, "that is not what I was about to say; but, of course, that would naturally be *one* of the conditions. I was going to add, if you wanted them for the same purpose as your daughter did, that is, to enable you to attend our Progressive Lyceum."

"Oh, oh," he exclaimed in contempt, "I'm not a youngster to begin attending Sunday School again."

"There are older men than you, Mr. Woodward, that attend, and find plenty to learn," she ventured to say, "and, beside, you could attend the reading rooms, and there learn of the wonderful things that are transpiring in every nation of the world. Then you could attend the services; and all would be very pleased to have your presence at the Temperance meetings."

"No, no, my lass," he said, shaking his head at this last invitation, "you don't catch me making such a fool of myself as that. Why," he continued, "the idea of a man giving up his glass, pipe, and all the rest of it, is just too much. A fellow might just as well put an end to himself at once, for all the pleasure there would be left in life."

"But you have no need to take the whole pledge at once," she said, in answer to his last remark, "if you do not wish. We shall be pleased to have you sign part of it—the first and last, for instance, that is, against drink and bad language. I think you will experience more pleasure by increased self-respect, a cheerful and happy home, better food and clothing than you are able to get at present, for which you sacrifice the comfort of your home, and your children, and this will have the effect of making life worth living for each and all."

"Well, well, perhaps you are right, perhaps you are right," he said. "I know I'm a bad 'un; and that my children are unfit to turn out of doors."

"But we have helped them over that," she said; "now let us help you a little. Let me have the pleasure of seeing you sign as much of the pledge as you can."

In answer to this last appeal he bent forward in the chair, placed his elbows on his knees, and buried his face in his hands, and heaved several deep sighs, which seemed to shake his whole frame. Annie felt sure of victory, and hurriedly despatched Ellen to her home for a member's card. She deemed it best not to disturb him in his deep agony of remorse, but wait until it had partly subsided.

Ellen quickly returned with the card, her eyes lit up with hope at the prospect of her father signing it, and the great change it implied in their poverty-stricken home.

Annie now renewed her pleading. The result was that with a shaky, unsteady hand he signed his name to the first and last of the pledges. Then with a great effort he said, "Now will that satisfy you?"

To which she replied, "It is a very good beginning, Mr. Woodward. Now see what I am going to do," saying which, she took from her pocket a piece of violet ribbon, and asking for a nail, she hung the card in the most conspicuous place in the house, during which operation she said, in explanation, "You see, Mr. Woodward, in our Lyceum, or Sunday School, as you would call it, we are taught the language of colours, and the modest violet speaks to us of Excelsior, ever urging us to go 'higher, ever high.'" And, turning to him with pleading look and voice, she said, "You will adopt that for your motto, won't you?"

"Maybe I will, and maybe I—that is, I don't know; I don't understand it; I don't know how this has come about. You fairly turn my head. I don't know how this has all come about."

But Annie was conscious that the angels had been making strenuous efforts to bring about his reformation;

and now that he had taken the first step, she did not mean to let him retrace his steps, if she could help it.

Ellen accompanied her part of the way home, with the intention of thanking her, again and again, for the good she had done them. But Annie informed her of what she had felt within herself, and expressed the opinion that, it it had not been for the help thus rendered, she would have been powerless.

"But," said Ellen, "you have done all you could, and without you your spirit friends would have been powerless too."

"Well, we must give God the praise, Ellen, for surrounding us with guardian spirits, who are ever ready to help and assist us."

The praise Ellen poured out that evening was most sincere and fervent, for the good that had been done her father.

When Annie arrived home she informed her parents of all that had taken place, which they were delighted to hear. She requested her father to call on Mr. Woodward, and have a little pleasant conversation with him, so that the evenings might not hang heavily on his hands and force him to seek the company of his old associates—a request which was readily granted. And, in order to enable him to get into fresh company—company more in harmony with his new resolves, he looked up a decent cast-off suit, which was duly presented by Annie, who informed them of her father's intended visit.

To be continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[While we are desirous to allow all a faithful hearing, we do not necessarily hold ourselves responsible for the views of our correspondents.—ED. L.B.]

To the Editor, "Lyceum Banner."

SIR,—Arising out of the proceedings of the Blackburn Conference there are, it seems to me, one or two items which deserve particular attention. The late President recommends that a scheme of lessons, with notes, should be published for the use of the Lyceums. This, to my mind, would diminish the influence intended to be reaped from our unique course of instruction, and reduce the whole to a drab uniformity. It is also a confession on the part of leaders, teachers, and conductors that they fail to arrest the attention and interest of the scholars entrusted to their care by present *methods* of instruction. I think the fault lies with the teachers in the first place, and with the *parents* in the second. With the teachers, inasmuch that they do not devote the time and study to the subjects in hand so as to make them interesting and instructive; with the parents in that they take no interest in the child's progress, satisfied if their children attend the Lyceum—(many never trouble themselves even as to attendance)—and now and then recite a poem in one key.

Mr. A. J. Davis tells us that "a child is the repository of infinite possibilities," and experience confirms his dictum. Yet the child is too often relegated to the play-ground in order to be got rid of, while the parents are phenomena hunting.

Listen! Do we treasure the lessons the angels teach; do we seek to retain the glory they reveal? Are we nursing the divine germ in our children for fuller development, and taking heed lest in word or deed we offend these little ones, whose angels behold the face of their Father who is in heaven?

Had Spiritualists but realised the mighty significance of those prophetic words, our Lyceums to-day would have been crowded with eager and happy scholars; at once the pride of our movement, and the envy of all other religious bodies. Instead of which our Lyceums, in many instances, are but mere lifeless skeletons waiting decent burial. A missionary-spirit, eager to burst its bonds, and carry the torch of spirit communion to the denizens of darkness, is manifesting itself, reminding one of the efforts made to convert the heathen abroad, leaving the heathens of slumdom at home to their fate.

All efforts to spread the Light are praiseworthy, but to neglect the work which should lie nearest to our hearts and hands for "fresh fields and pastures new" is neither in harmony with the higher teachings of Spiritualism nor yet for the ultimate benefit of the cause.

Societies must in future take a deeper interest in their Lyceums, and instead of supporting a hireling medium class, spend more money on the teaching of their little ones, teaching them to be Spiritualists not in name but in reality. The tone of our platform is lowered by exhibitions which bring the blush to the cheek of everyone who aspires to place the movement on a high standard of ethical and spiritual excellence. Mediums advertise to bring back the mighty dead at 1/- an hour, find employment, and are lauded to the skies instead of being relegated to oblivion.

A GLASGOW LYCEUMIST.

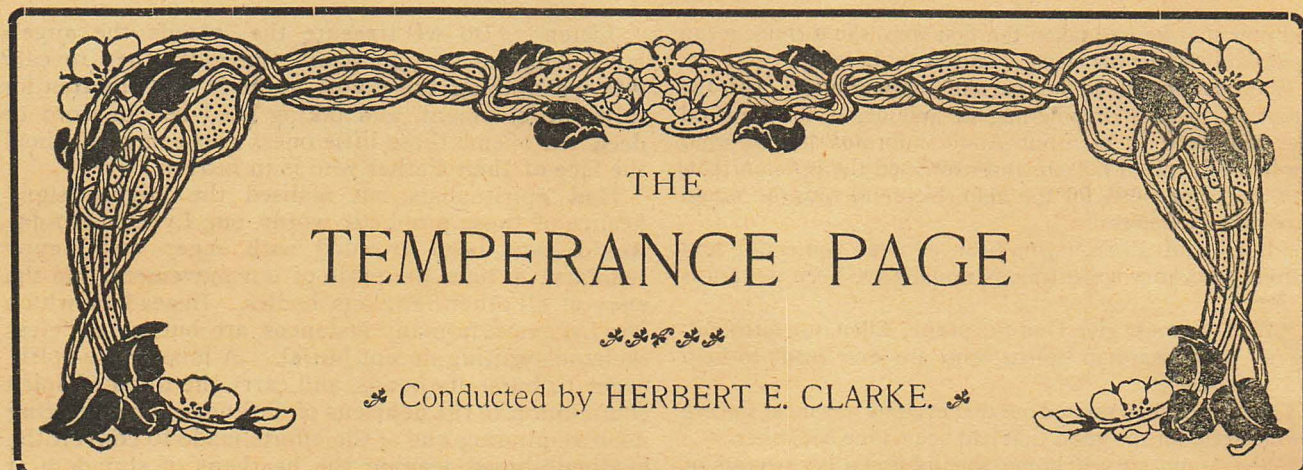
DEAR SIR—The committee of Collyhurst Lyceum wish to express their regret that the D.V.'s report for May should state, "The Collyhurst and Patricroft people are about to arrange for the re-opening of the latter Society's Lyceum." This is somewhat misleading and would lead one to infer that negotiations had taken place between the two Lyceums. Two members of Collyhurst promised to assist Patricroft occasionally, but the Lyceum promised nothing, and did not say, as reported, that they would join the B.L.U. They said they would consider the question, and later did so, when they became members.—W. WOODCOCK, Sec.

In Memoriam.

With the deepest sympathy we record the passing on of Margaret Hannah Ormerod, aged 16, a member of the Bradford Alliance Lyceum. Whilst we all recognise the passing on to be a Spiritual gain for her, we sincerely sympathise with parents and friends who must miss her. Though only young she has always proved a good and faithful Lyceumist, and won the appreciation of all who knew her. Thanks to the Lyceum teaching, she was quite prepared for her transition.

Sweet echoes of the golden shore,
We live again those moments o'er;
When whispering soft we said good bye,
To meet again beyond the sky.

E. HAYES, Sec.



THE House of Commons has directed its attention during the present session to a large number of topics which strike very deep down into our foundations as a nation, and especially in connection with the rights and privileges of the commoner in matters of national importance. The educational status of our country has been ruthlessly shattered and an inferior one instituted, and only too late has the cry of protest arisen. An ambitious statesman next thrust a fiscal policy before the eyes of Englishmen, by which he will impoverish the mother country to enrich the colonies, and again the cry of protest is arising. But a measure is now under the consideration of the Commons which particularly concerns us as lovers of justice and temperance. I refer to the Compensation Bill. By a few words on this topic I hope to offer a timely warning to those who are not carefully watching the subtle fashion in which the present Government carries on its business.

There is a party, a notable member and leader of which is Sir Wilfrid Lawson, which is striving to place the granting of licenses entirely in the hands of the public, the license being granted, I believe, by a two-thirds majority in the votes.

This principle by many is looked upon as an improvement on the present system of licensing magistracy.

But by virtue of his election, a licensing magistrate is surely as much a representative of the public as is a member of parliament, and has as much authority to exercise his powers in the granting or refusing of licenses, as the member of parliament has in voicing the wishes of his constituents. There can, therefore, be little to dispute in the justice of the refusal of a license when the presiding magistrate is led to consider such a license undesirable.

When a publican applies for a license he is given to understand that the same will become null and void after one year, and that he is open to penalty if he sells intoxicants after that time has elapsed. On the very highest legal authority, also, he has no vested interest in the license of the house, and if he risks his livelihood upon the license he must not complain if the law requires the withdrawal of the license. All these things the publican recognises and is prepared to stand by, when he applies for his license. If then at the end of the year, the magistrate refuses to perpetuate the license (and I have shewn that in so doing he is only exercising an authority given to him by the people,) it is clear that the publican has *no right whatever* to complain, or claim compensation.

This point is so clear that the publicans' claim for compensation out of the public revenue, violates the sense of right of every honourable man and woman.

Meetings are being held up and down the country, and everywhere the protest is loud against the publicans.

But we have not heard the worst of the story. Disgust increases when we remember who these men are who cry out against the magistrates. Bear in mind the fact that by far the larger proportion of public houses are tied houses and belong to large brewery companies, rolling in wealth ground from the working classes! Surely 'much will have more,' is the case here! Try to figure to yourself the lives these men have ruined, the homes they have desolated, the prisons and asylums they have filled, and what will you say to the plea for compensation?

One winter's night a London workman made himself drunk in a public house of ill-fame. In his frenzy he turned his wife out into the bitter cold without a hat on her head or shoes on her feet. She died of starvation, and her husband, recovering from his nightmare, went mad and hanged himself. His little children were left unprotected orphans.

This publican now claims compensation, because the licensing magistrate did his duty and refused to grant him the license again. But we trust he will never get it! If compensation is to be given, let it go to the poor folk he has impoverished in his shameful lust for wealth.

Sir Henry Cotton, K.C.S.I., addressing a meeting of Liberals in Nottingham on June 18th, said:—"I have no objection to compensation on principle, provided it is compensation under certain conditions, the first of which is that such compensation shall not be paid from the public funds; secondly, that it be clearly recognised that the grant which is claimed is not regarded as a permanent right on the part of the publicans; and thirdly, that there is no interference with the discretion of the licensing magistrates." The utterance was greeted with round applause, for by such a scheme, compensation becomes next to impossible, resting on the uncertain foundation of a "voluntary inscription."

A serious case in connection with compensation was brought before my notice a short time ago, which shews that if compensation is to be paid it is not the publicans who are justified in claiming it.

A number of miners in the north of England joined hands, and saved sufficient to build a small row of houses in a new

district of their town. But before long, against the wishes of the inhabitants, a public house was planted directly opposite the houses built by these worthy fellows. The fault was that instead of being a stay in their old age, the property has now become worthless, and on their downfall the public-house is flourishing. Compensation! Compensate the wronged, workmen, and not the men who hold a bag of gold in one hand, and piteously extend the other for the help of public savings.

Notwithstanding all this, what shall we say when we learn that a publican can, if he will, assure himself against the forfeit of his license? More than one company exists solely for this purpose, and the largest includes in its policy holders many of the richest brewers in Great Britain. These people lose nothing by the refusal of the magistrates to renew their licenses, yet they clamorously cry for compensation.

My friends, we are faced by what is nothing more than a scandalous fraud, initiated by the most unscrupulous "money-grabbers" in our midst. In this matter of compensation there is no spark of justice, no intention to right an existing wrong; only a gluttonous craving for wealth, which is satisfied only by the heart-blood of the masses who are struggling to live honourably to furtherance the brotherhood of man.

Gleanings by Uncle Amos.

DURING the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR Colonel Higginson's Regiment, who were all Spiritualists, was decimated. He formed another regiment, all Spiritualists, saying he preferred Spiritualists because they were not afraid to die. This second regiment suffered the same fate as the first. He then formed a regiment exclusively negroes, most of whom had been slaves. These he led on valiantly in action. After the battle of Gettysburgh, when Abraham Lincoln reviewed the troops, he called out for the 55th (Colonel Higginson's) regiment; when lo! five negroes stepped forward; all that remained of the regiment, and these were all crippled, some had lost a leg, some an arm, one of them proudly hoisted a tattered, besmeared flag,—the colours of the regiment.

Lincoln stepped forward, and, taking the flag into his own hands, highly complimented the Colonel and his remaining five dusky heroes, stated, that "If all the soldiers of the North were lost, he himself was prepared to stand by and defend that tattered Union Flag."

Now Uncle Amos wants all his nephews and nieces who read the "Banner," to be as brave and self-sacrificing in the defence of TRUTH and RIGHT, as were Colonel Higginson and his three heroic regiments in defence of the American Union.

"I slept and dreamed that life was beauty,
I woke and found that life was duty."

"I know of no great men but those who have rendered great services to humanity."—VOLTAIRE.

WHAT SPIRITUALISM STANDS FOR.

"So long as Spiritualism stands for the opening of the eyes of the Spiritually blind: so long as it stands for the

voice that gives the message of peace and comfort from the realm beyond this earth; so long as it stands for the open doorway of communion between the two worlds; so long as it stands for the uplifting of human hearts and for the exaltation of human lives that are in shadow; so long as it stands for 'peace on earth, good will to (all) men;' so long as it stands for the fraternity of fellowship; so long as it stands for the onward march toward a higher and better and more divine perfection of truth, it will stand for that for which it was intended."

MRS. CORA L. V. RICHMOND.

SOME CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

A lady wants to sell her piano, as she is going abroad, in an iron frame.

Wanted, a boy who can open oysters with references.

Bull-dog for sale. Will eat anything; very fond of children.

Wanted, a room by two gentlemen 30 feet long and 20 feet broad.

Wanted, a boy to be partly outside and partly behind the counter.

Wanted, an organist and a boy to blow the same.

Lost, a collie dog by a man on Saturday answering to Jim, with a brass collar round his neck and muzzled.

Furnished apartments for gentleman with folding doors.

Lost, near Highgate Archway, an umbrella belonging to a gentleman with bent rib and a bone handle.

To be disposed of, a mail phaeton, the property of a gentleman with a moveable headpiece as good as new.

DR. PARKER ON SMOKING.

"I hate smoking," says Dr. Joseph Parker. "From one end to the other it is a nuisance. It ends in cancer, apoplexy, bad temper, bankruptcy, and almost in hydrophobia. It is an invention of the devil. It is the devil. It is the pastime of perdition. No dog smokes. No bird pines for tobacco. No horse is a member of a pipe club. No intelligent person ever puts a cigar in his mouth. The whole idea and practise of smoking must be condemned as atheistical, agnostical, and infinitely detestable."

Rather strong for D.D. I wonder what his smoking brethren of the cloth think of it.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Whit-Friday the Ashton Progressive Lyceum had their annual procession through the town, headed by the Burbage (Buxton) Brass Band, and Banner of the Lyceum. The Dukinfield and Stalybridge Lyceums joined in the procession; also a number of members and friends of the Spiritualist Societies in the district, 200 taking part in the procession. It was a very pretty and effective sight to see the children in their beautiful summer dresses. The day was gloriously fine. Special hymns were sung at different places on the route as well as on the Ashton Market Square, where hundreds of people had congregated to hear the singing, which was ably conducted by Mr. R. W. Walker, Choirmaster. Buns and coffee were provided for those who had taken part. The officers of the Lyceum desire to thank all those who so generously subscribed toward the expenses, sufficient money coming in to pay all, and especially to the Dukinfield and Stalybridge Lyceums for help. Also to Mrs. Cropper, Mrs. Ashworth, Mrs. Platt, Mrs. Dransfield, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Mills, and Mr. R. W. Walker. Owd Jonathan (Mr. Thompson) and representatives from Dukinfield and Stalybridge Lyceums walked in front of the procession, along with the Conductor of the Lyceum and President of the Church. On Sunday we had our annual Open Session, the Silver and Golden Chain recitations were well responded to. The Conductor read a poem, "What is Love," marching and calisthenics well executed.—W. DRANSFIELD, Sec.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890, BY MR. J. J. MORSE.

Adopted as the Official Organ of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, May 1891.

Transferred to the above Union, May, 1902.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER.

JULY, 1903.

THE PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS.

IT is my esteemed privilege to be able to address you through the columns of our paper, and so reach the many and varied workers in our children's cause.

At this, the commencement of another year's work of the Lyceum Union, and the completion of fourteen years of active and successful work done, personally, I want to give a greeting to members of the E.C. and to all Lyceum workers generally, and in doing so to help to strengthen those bonds of fraternal co-operation and true fellowship, that the result may be a better and fuller discharge of our duties as Lyceumists.

The number of upwards of 7,000 officers and members speaks very forcibly of the work accomplished in the individual Lyceum since the formation of the Union. And when we consider how much bigotry, intolerance, and unbelief has been fought and conquered, the work and service rendered by the pioneers comes home in full force, and we realize what has been done for us, and in the realization we feel something of what is expected from us, as those to whom this great work has come as a heritage, and to others as a conviction.

I want at this point to give to those who read these words, a Lyceum motto for the Presidential year just entered upon. It was given to me when quite a child by an old and valued friend in our Lyceum at Sowerby Bridge, Mr. Joseph Sutcliffe, the late Treasurer of the Union, and because I know he repeats it still from the spirit side of life, I commend it as a Lyceum motto.

It is, "Do Good, Be Good, and Get Good." The doing of good seems to be the natural sequence of the *Be* good,

and yet the *Be* good, unless it has an active outlet in the doing of good, loses much of its value.

Let us as members of the various Lyceums, endeavour to be alive to all the calls made upon us, in the particular work we have in hand, and the faithful discharge of that work. As officers we should bear in mind, we have the eyes of childhood watching us most carefully, as we endeavour to indicate the paths of life we think ought to be taken. Preparation for Group Lessons, punctuality, constant application to the work in hand, indicate the successful officer.

Some weeks ago a bright eyed little fellow met me as I was crossing the Lyceum floor, and said, "Miss Thorpe, when is our teacher coming again? It is no use coming since he is not here." And although he was a member of a class that had been most successfully conducted, the absence of the teacher made that bright youth say, "it is of no use," in a hopeless fashion that did not or ought not, to belong to our Lyceums. In asking for a better and more faithful discharge of our duties as officers, let us recognise how much of manly and womanly sacrifice and real effort has been put into this work of yours and mine. The call for a more patient and painstaking care means the possession of those abilities and qualities of character that belong to no unschooled and untrained nature, but rather to strong natures, who know what it means to seek after goodness, and patiently and perseveringly practice it. This Lyceum movement of ours is intended to nourish a happy and free childhood, free from the bondage of creed and dogma, free to an intellectual, moral and spiritual education that shall enable it to be the best expression of manhood and womanhood. I will close this "My Greeting" to you with a quotation from the writings of John Ruskin. But before doing so, I here pledge myself at some future date, to write a few words for "Our Girls' Corner" and also "Our Boy's Special," because I have, or I think I have, a special word for the readers thereof.

Now for the quotation, which is as follows:—"There is no wealth but life; life including all its powers of love, joy, and animation. That country is the greatest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings; that man is the richest who has perfected the function of his own life to the utmost; and has also the widest helpful influence both personal and by means of his possession over the lives of others."

MARY THORPE,

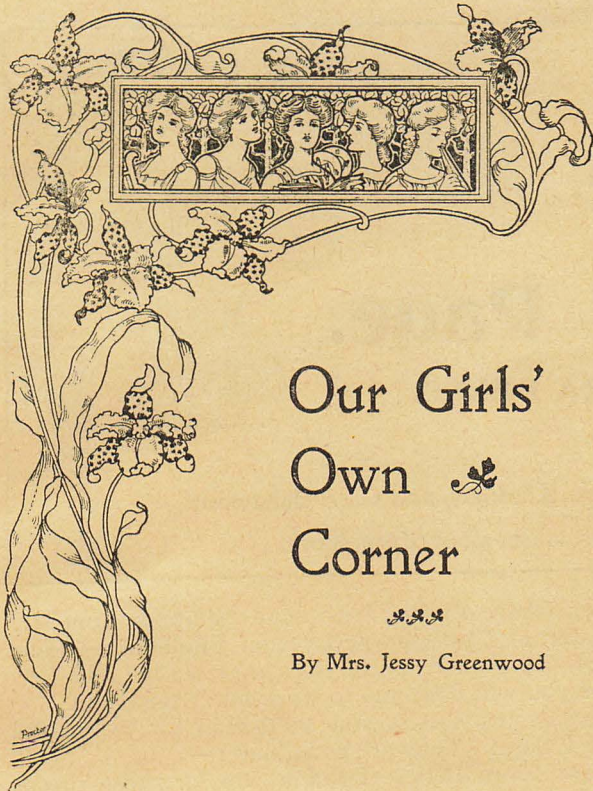
President, B.S.L.U.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Executive Council of the above Union will hold PROPAGANDA MEETINGS in the Lyceum, Hollins Lane, Sowerby Bridge, on Sunday, July 19th, at 2-30 and 6 p.m., when brief and stirring addresses will be delivered by the President, Miss M. Thorpe; Mrs. Greenwood, Messrs. S.S. Chiswell, A. Wilkinson, J. Venables, J. Clarke, and E. H. Keeling.

Special Hymn Sheets will be provided. The above members of the E.C. will also attend the Lyceum OPEN SESSION at 10 a.m. A cordial invitation is hereby given to all parents and lovers of the Children's Progressive Lyceum.

ALFRED KITSON,
General and Financial Secretary.



Our Girls' Own Corner

By Mrs. Jessy Greenwood

EVERY heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind it in the world and bettered the tradition of mankind.

R. L. STEVENSON.

A Slaithwaite Lyceumist writes me as follows:—Dear Mrs. Greenwood:—I am a member of the Slaithwaite Lyceum, and desire to write to the Girls' Corner in the Lyceum Banner, and express my thoughts on "Does the mind develop, and rule the body?" In the first place we must find out what the mind is, and what the body consists of. The mind is some part of the body, the body is the human frame, which we have to keep in a healthy condition by studying and applying the laws of nature, and taking into the system what will be good for us. By taking care of the body, we are taking care of the mind, and the mind develops according to how we use the talents, which nature has bestowed unto us. The mind being a part of the body, it will need food and nourishment; to get this, we must gain all the knowledge we possibly can, and use it in a proper manner so as to benefit ourselves and others. Again the mind is a sense of feeling, which we develop and train as a substitute for the body. Does the mind develop as to ruling the body? I don't think it does, because I think the mind depends as much on the body, as the body depends on the mind. The body being kept in good condition, strong and healthy, it gives the mind better conditions to do the work required of it. As the mind cannot exist without the body, I feel justified in saying that the mind does not altogether rule the body.

ELLEN HIRST,

123 Spa View, Linthwaite.

I am glad to have such letters; they betoken interest in the Banner, and it is not the first time a Slaithwaite

member has figured in its columns. Mr. Frank Cocks has sent some nice essays to the Boys' department. Last month I referred to Barrow Lyceum, and promised to say something about the work among the children in that far away corner of 'our vineyard.'

It is always delightful to see children gathered together in session; all smiling and glad, ready for the conductor's orders, and obeying with smartness, intelligence and respect, his expressed desires; all willing to make their lyceum the happiest spot on earth. No wonder that men and women devote time and energy to the Children's Cause, or that the movement prospers.

The Barrow friends are keenly alive to the fact that to have good all round spiritualists, we must train the children as best we can, realizing the futility of remodelling the biased and prejudiced minds of converts; so they meet in their own hall, and under the guidance of the father of the family—Mr. Procter, assisted by loving thoughtful men and women, the Barrow fraternity unite in attempting to realise the glorious aim of the Lyceum mode of tuition, "the spiritual, moral, and intellectual elevation of its members, and through them of the world at large." I believe the model of the hall was conceived by Mr. Procter; the building operations superintended by him; internal decorations suggested by him, and faithfully followed, and the result is, the prettiest spiritualist Sanctuary I have seen is at Barrow. A hearty welcome; a beautiful hall; good singing accompanied by an organ and efficient choir; surrounded by children and young people; a most estimable lady in the chair; and supported by Mr. Procter, Mr. Owen, Mr. Jones etc., are surely enough to give inspiration to a speaker. The most interesting and instructive part of the programme were the efforts of the children. 'Our Manual' had been used for the recitations in nearly every instance: and it was wonderful how correctly the golden chain Recitations in the form of dialogues, were repeated, not merely 'said' but intelligently rendered, no mean task for an adult. Perhaps the prettiest thing was a floral song by the little ones. Boys and girls were each provided with a floral bow, the flowers of which corresponded with a verse of poetry, which had been improvised for the occasion by Mr. Procter. As each one repeated the verse the bow was lifted over their heads, thus there were three rows of flower arches with the sweetest of human flowers holding them in position. The big ones sang 'Heart Flowers' until the chorus was reached, then the little ones put up their flowers again, and sang the chorus "Gather bright Flowers?" "Cannot you see the picture.

There are many Lyceums connected with "Our Union" and whether it is Barrow or London, we are all related, and glad to hear of the good work going on in any of them. We will all say "success to the Barrow Lyceum."

"Hurrah for those who gave us birth,
Hurrah for the young and old!
The men of worth all over the earth,
Hurrah for the workers bold."

YORK, OUSEGATE.—I am pleased to report that our Lyceum is doing good work for the children. We have 34 names on the register. It has been decided by our committee that our children have an outing given them every year. The first outing will take place on Aug. 8th, to Scarborough, when I hope all will enjoy themselves.—T. SUMAN, 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 was rather surprised on opening my letter from our Editor to find that not one of you who are over fourteen years of age had found time to write an essay on "THE OBJECTS OF OUR GUILD." Father says, perhaps it is because all the older ones have been too busy attending the Lyceum Conference and preparing treats for the younger ones for Whitsuntide. So I think I will repeat the offer this month, and no doubt some of you may find time to write before the 20th of June. (As this offer was crowded out last month, the time is extended to July 20th.—Ed. *L.B.*) So please bear in mind that the Prize Essay Competition is open to all my Bluebells who are over fourteen years of age, and is for the best essay on "THE BEST METHODS TO PROMOTE AND CARRY OUT THE OBJECTS OF OUR GUILD."

I told you last month that Ted had gone out, and so would not see what I said until he read his *Banner*. I was awfully sorry for my act when he returned with a large bunch of wild flowers for me. It appears he had been for a long run in the country on his bicycle.

When I took them to let mother look, she remarked that it ought to be a lesson, and teach me not to jump at hasty conclusions in future.

There is another incident which fills me with regret and that is, Ada Turner, of Gateshead Lyceum, sent me a nice little poem entitled "Once in a While," which my Bluebells would have been pleased to read, but, unfortunately, it has got misplaced, and that is what is troubling me. I hope Miss Turner will forgive my carelessness (I didn't mean to be), and send me another copy in time for my next letter.

Mr. Henry Turner, of Hulme Junction Lyceum, Manchester, has sent me a nice list of names and good wishes for the success of "Our Guild," for which he has my hearty thanks. I am sure it will succeed if all secretaries send me lists of new members.

Miss Annie O. Strömberg, of Glasgow, sends me a nice list of members, with good wishes. I am ever so grateful to you, Annie, and hope your Lyceum membership will increase, and so enable you to forward another list of members.

Then I have a letter, with more members, from Mr. L. Foster, of Uppertorpe Lyceum, Sheffield. Many thanks, Mr. Foster, for all your kind wishes and list. I hope you will continue to work for "our Guild."

The last two letters you shall read for yourselves before I close. They are as follows:—

"Dear Flora Belle,—I thank you for those pretty cards you sent us. All were at the Lyceum but three. I am very glad to send more names for the Guild, and hope to have a nice lot for the next month, if all is well.—Your loving sister, KATE SMITH."

"St. Peter Street Lyceum, Blackburn.

Dear Flora Belle,—I write to inform you that on May 23rd we went for a walk with mother and friends to a place called Black Book. We had a jolly time, and got our hands full of bluebells. We were the first to take bluebells to our Lyceum at Uppertorpe.—Your loving Bluebells, GLADYS, JAMES EDWARD, and FLORENCE LOACH."

In closing my letter this month, I hope my sister and brother Bluebells will not forget the Prize Competition.

Your loving sister,
FLORA BELLE.

HULME JUNCTION LYCEUM.

1266 Beth Jones	1276 Stephen Nelson	1286 Lottie Dempster
1267 Miss Benton	1277 John Garner	1287 Hettie Dempster
1268 Jessie Sutton	1278 Ar. Stansfield	1288 Maggie Groves
1269 Sarah Hannaley	1279 Harold Howarth	1289 Lizzie Groves
1270 Amy Harrison	1280 Walter Stuart	1290 Harry Turner
1271 Marj. Howarth	1281 Lizzie Moores	1291 Ernest Turner
1272 Minnie Nelson	1282 Ethel Moores	1292 Wm. Lamb
1273 Ida Nelson	1283 Florence Bednall	1293 Mrs. Groves
1274 Edna Nelson	1284 Jeanetta Royle	1294 Miss Waghorn
1275 Sidney Nelson	1285 Doris Gardner	

GLASGOW LYCEUM.

1295 Violet N. Cowan	1301 Nellie Sudall	1306 David Sclater
1296 Wm. Macdonald	1302 Robert Sudall	1307 Harold Hill
1297 Isa. Macdonald	1303 Elex. Russell	1308 Mary Hunter
1298 G. W. Macdonald	1304 Maggie Sclater	1309 Alfred Hill
1299 Alice Sudall	1305 Nellie Sclater	1310 John Stewart
1300 Lizzie Sudall		

BLACKBUKN ST. PETER-STREET LYCEUM.

1311 Nellie Stanley	1325 Ethel Kay	1339 Albert Caville
1312 Mary A. Smith	1326 Kate Robinson	1340 Herbert Holden
1313 Clara Smith	1327 Bessie Robinson	1341 Herbert Slater
1314 Bertha Callon	1328 May Robinson	1342 George Edwards
1315 Clara Callon	1329 Steph. Robinson	1343 Willie Edwards
1316 R Thompson	1330 Jane Bibby	1344 Thos. Whittaker
1317 Grace Grime	1331 Maud Bibby	1345 Cissie Grime
1318 May Slater	1332 Eva Bullen	1346 Lily Grime
1319 Florence Callon	1333 Annie Bullen	1347 Amelia Hindle
1320 M. E. Frankland	1334 Laura Bullen	1348 Annie Harrison
1321 Edwin Holden	1335 Emma Dibden	1349 Edith Slater
1322 Jim Howarth	1336 Fred Caville	1350 Richard Edge
1323 Alice Howarth	1337 Louis Caville	1351 Willie Edge
1324 Lizzie Kay	1338 Ernest Norbury	1352 Thos. Holland

SHEFFIELD—UPPERTHORPE LYCEUM.

1353 Fred Nicholson	1362 Edith Middleton	1371 Annie Gladwin
1354 Charles Baines	1363 May Chaplin	1372 Francis Windle
1355 Wilfred Podley	1364 Alfred Chaplin	1373 Gladys Bancroft
1356 Arthur Baines	1365 Alice Kelly	1374 Elsie Eadon
1357 Allan Broadhead	1366 Florence Gray	1375 Harry Eadon
1358 John Cane	1367 Jessie Gray	1376 Lillie Eadon
1359 Willie Cane	1368 Rose Hewitt	1377 Doris Flemley
1360 Harold Johnson	1369 Elsie Childs	1378 James E. Loach
1361 Cecil Mitchell	1370 Elsie Cooper	

Mr. J. J. Morse's Final Letter from Australia.

MY DEAR BANNERITES—Just to assure you all, and our Editor, that you are not forgotten, let me send you what will be my last letter from Australia, for just about the time this appears we shall be setting sail for the United States! At that time, ten months will have elapsed since we reached these Australian shores, and during which period our experiences have been novel, numerous, and varied.

Since my previous letter was sent I have spent some six weeks in Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand, and most enjoyable ones they were. Indeed, I like New Zealand very much, the social and industrial conditions are most remarkable. My only regret is, that lyceum work is still in the infancy of its growth on the islands, for at the present time it is represented only in Wellington and Auckland, both on the North Island. The latter place it was not my good fortune to visit, so I cannot say anything regarding the state of affairs there. In Wellington the lyceum is progressing satisfactorily, if a little slowly. However, slow and sure is better in the long run, than haste and fail. There is a saying here of "better slow than sorry," and it expresses a truth to be remembered!

I visited the lyceum on Sunday March 8th, and found an attendance of about forty scholars and about eight officers. The exercises were all well done, the reading of the responses were creditably given, the singing good and heartfelt, and the physical exercises gone through with precision, and commendable steadiness. A number of "Pearls of Wisdom" were contributed, and selections were made with care and good judgment. The lyceum uses Hudson's "Tuttle's Guide," for at the time the lyceum was opened last year they were unaware that our "Manual" could be obtained. I enlightened them on that point, and it is not unlikely they will now soon order a consignment from our Union! The Conductor, Mr. Butterfield, courteously invited me to address the lyceum, and in the course of my remarks I gave them some information regarding the lyceum at home, the facts considerably astonishing them. I strongly urged them to seek affiliation with the B.S.L.U., and so reap the advantages of securing suitable literature

for the work, as none such is procurable in Australia. My suggestion was favourably received, and later an application was agreed upon and handed to me for transmission to our Secretary, which I am sending to him with this letter. Unfortunately this action was not taken until too late for me to send it in time for the conference. I hope it can be granted, and that Wellington may be the first Australasian lyceum affiliated with our National body. I hope yet to see our Union become an International organisation, why not? Our Wellington co-workers are determined as well as enthusiastic, and I shall be much surprised if their lyceum does not become the premier one of the Colonies. I paid them a subsequent visit, on which occasion I took photographs of the members, and of the officers, but the plates have not yet been developed, so what the results will be it is not possible to say in this letter.

I write this letter in Melbourne, to which city I returned a few days since, arriving as a matter of fact, on Good Friday, and am now some 1700 miles from my latest point of work, as mentioned above. Latterly the friends here have started another lyceum, at Brunswick, a division of the city. It was opened on Sunday, March 1st, by Miss Morse, who delivered the inaugural address. There was a large attendance, and the proceedings were very enthusiastic. The lyceum has grown in numbers each Sunday since, and bids fair to become a flourishing and successful institution. Thus there are now three lyceums in this city. I shall visit the new one shortly, and if possible secure a photograph of the members, and in my next you shall learn more about the working of it.

Ere this letter arrives the 1903 conference will have become a thing of the past, and you will have had an opportunity of admiring the handsome Blackburn Temple. I hope brother Clarke was able to fill the presidential chair and enjoy its honours? It is a pity his health has been so bad during his year of office, for it has deprived him of the pleasure he anticipated from his elevation to the dignity of the position to which he was elected at Walsall. While I am writing let me remind those lyceums which I trusted to discharge their obligations to me, by paying their overdue accounts to Mr. Kitson on my behalf, to hurry up and settle their indebtednesses. Kindly remember I have had to pay out the money, and it is not fair to their late "beloved Editor" to keep him out of his just dues. I will "name no names" in the hope that the foregoing hint will be a sufficient reminder?

On Sunday next, 19th inst, I commence my final course of four Sunday night lectures in Melbourne, and on the 12th of May move on to Brisbane, in Queensland, 1000 miles North, where I deliver a course of twelve lectures in a little over three weeks! At the conclusion of those labours we sail for the United States, reaching San Francisco sometime in July, which involves another little voyage of almost 7,000 miles! After reaching the city of the "Golden Gate" you shall hear from me again.

For the present, then, this must suffice. We send you hearty good wishes, all three of us, to the Union and its officers, to the good little Banner and its readers, and all its various contributors; and may the good Angels fill your hearts with happiness, and your lives with blessings, is the heartfelt wish of your ever sincere friend, and co-worker.

J. J. MORSE.

Melbourne, Australia, April 14th, 1903.



WHAT a wonderfully eventful month this is, when you come to think of it, and to dwell upon it, as it were. Not that you are at all likely to dwell any longer upon it than you will on any other month which has only got thirty-one days in it; but there seems to be a magnificent historic interest during this particular month. Now, whatever can it be that is fraught with such conspicuous import.

Well, first of all, we are having SUMMER weather. It will be generally conceded that this is somewhat of a novelty.

Then, during this month the FIRST Consultative Conference of the National Union of Spiritualists takes place: and it does seem to me, as a casual observer, that very much depends upon the "spirit" that is displayed at this Conference, as to whether the sterling effort for "unification" is to receive the practical approval so much needed, or the shrivelling rebuff which only cold indifference knows how to administer.

The next event of special importance occurring this month is that Uncle Benjamin is just one year old in the columns of our dear little BANNER. For twelve months I have been delighted to snatch a little time each month to have a chat with my nephews in the Lyceum Movement. I don't know that I have made any great impression with my attempts at philosophy. But I'll tell you a story which I think just fits the position.

I spend a few minutes nearly every morning in my tiny garden, doing something (every time I go in) which seems to occur to me as necessary to the health of the sweet little plants; I pluck away the bits of grass which are coming up in the *wrong places*, and remove other weeds; and, would you believe it, next time I go in other bits of grass raise their tiny blades, in quite a saucy fashion, as though they did not care a pin for me. But they have got to come out. Sometimes I am tempted to lose my patience with the tantalizing little weeds, and then I remember that nothing will do any good, except to *keep on pulling them as they come, until I have cleared away the roots*. That is just how my work in our great movement appeals to me. I think it is a grand privilege to have a bit of garden. One can get such a lot of useful lessons out of it. Well, I am one year old, as U.B., and, if report speaks correctly, my efforts have not gone altogether unheeded.

There is still another important event this month. I am told that it is the Keighley Society's Jubilee. Just fancy! Keighley Spiritualists have been struggling for our Blessed Cause for fifty years. I understand it is the oldest Society in England.

What an array of amusing, painful, and amazing stories some of its oldest members would be able to tell of the

early battles they have had to fight in our behalf; for it is true that we walk to-day on the macadamized road which they have laid, and which was once a neglected track. Now, although Keighley was the first Spiritualist society in Great Britain, Lyceum honours in that direction lie in the Midlands, Nottingham having honoured the movement with the *first* Lyceum. Sowerby Bridge, Keighley, and Batley Carr, all in the county of broad acres, came next, but it is somewhat difficult to prove their actual order. Never mind, they have done excellent work, and their influence has extended into almost every county in England. What may be accomplished during the next fifty years it is not a simple matter to prophecy, but it is certain that if we work with the same energy and determination that our leaders have shown, we shall place a good account of work to our credit, and help to swell the happiness of the community through a righteous perception and application of the laws of life to our daily needs, as taught us by our beautiful Spiritual philosophy.

Again I must lay down my pen for a brief period, but ere doing so, let me remind my readers of "Neddie's" remarks a few months ago. The seaside season is with us, and Neddies are delighting the children daily on the sands. When it is your turn to go, and you desire to join in the fun, remember the advice recently offered and show your kindness in such a way that even the donkeys will be sorry when you come away.

I have only received one essay on "Justice." It appears below. Read what Frank has to say about this most important subject.

Next month the essay is on

"KINDNESS."

Now, a lot of you ought to be able to say something about this. It is one of our favourite subjects in the Lyceum.

JUSTICE.

Justice, in its truest sense, does not prevail in this country of ours as one would like to see it. And as civilization advances it will demand more just laws, and see that they are carried into effect. What is required to-day is room for each individual to live a healthy life; opportunities to earn an honest living without robbing his fellow man. We require to be more just in our lives one to another, and filled with that divine helpfulness which will uplift and make glad the soul of man. This country of ours should be like a beautiful garden, to cultivate its human flowers in order that we may obtain flowers of beauty and of the most perfect bloom. Instead of this, we find humanity suffering under hardships until the bloom passes from their cheeks, and what we should prize goes to an early grave. As a nation, we should turn our

attention to our home-life. Let us try to develop it in a manner worthy of a leading nation. We then shall be able to grasp at the true meaning of justice when the nations are linked in one grand union with the object that each life shall unfold in the pure light of love, and the desire for the future shall be not wealth, but true helpfulness, true culture, true one to another, true to our Father God.

FRANK COCKS, Slaithwaite.

A Little Boy Plays with his Spirit Sister.

The following little story illustrates the naturalness of clairvoyance in children:—

"A pretty story comes from a fair suburban home not far away. Two children, John and Mary, were born to that home, and, as the old poet has it, "grew in beauty side by side," while all nature bower-gowned and blossomed about them, and filled their souls with joy. Cultured Christian parents nurtured them, and a little leaf-embowered church and Sunday school gathered them in for wonderful stories of heaven and the angels. But one sad day a shadow fell across the threshold, and in the wake of it Mary slipped away to another country. The parents mourned her as dead, but Johnny, who had been told that she was an angel, went out under the spreading elm where they had been wont to play together to find out about it. And there, shortly, his mother found him, in great joy, playing, as he insisted, with the little sister, who had come when he called her, and promised to be his playmate still. For days and weeks he played about the old haunts, or rambled through the woods in the avowed companionship of the departed sister, and the astonished parents, who watched him curiously, found him talking, laughing, and sporting gleefully as with some visible playmate. He did not die, nor go into a fever, nor develop any of the brain diseases nor eccentricities that science might have expected of him. But one day he came in sadly and told his mother that Mary had gone away, and could not come to play with him any more."—*The Progressive Thinker*.

REPORTS.

GLASGOW LYCEUM.—Our attendance has improved considerably. A deeper interest is manifested in Lyceum work, combined with a cheerfulness and alacrity on the part of its members which will ultimately exert a more powerful influence on its destiny than exhibited in the past. A Mr. Stewart recently joined our ranks and read an essay before the Lyceum on "God is Love." Not only did the graceful style of delivery, but also the earnestness of purpose and depth of thought displayed in its composition commend itself to all, but gave a promise of mind that sought a solution for the social evils around in the substitution of the word Love for justice. To-morrow is our annual pic-nic. May the word prove propitious, and a good gathering of scholars and friend.—ANNIE O. STROMBERG, Sec.

SOEWBY BRIDGE.—June 6th, 7th and 8th, marked eventful times in the life of Sowerby Bridge Spiritualism. The occasion was the anniversary services, the speaker being the Rev. John Page Hopps. On Saturday a reception was given, at which Mr. B. Lees president, on behalf of the Society and Lyceum, supported by Mr. Will Phillips, Mr. Yates, Messrs. Greenwood and Booth, gave welcome to Mr. Hopps. A musical treat was provided by the choir, and the inaugural meeting was considered an immense success. The anniversary services, which were conducted in the Town Hall, struck the keynote of success. In the morning, children's session, Mrs. Greenwood conducted in her usual efficient manner, and every boy and girl responded in good style, that bespoke a well conducted Lyceum. The welcome of floral offerings was an innovation of the Conductor's

first to Mr. Hopps, then to Mr. Lees, as president of the society; to Miss Miss Thorpe as president of the B.S.L.U.; and to all the officers of the Lyceum, not one being overlooked. Marching and calisthenics, golden and silver chain recitations, &c., splendidly gone through. A solo was rendered by Miss Marian Greenwood; a duet by Misses Dora and Ivy Rushworth and Florrie Lees. Mrs. Greenwood presented a Lyceum Manual to the speaker as a souvenir of the morning's lesson, at which Mr. Hopps expressed his thanks and said it was the first Lyceum Lesson he had ever had the pleasure of witnessing, and the pleasure it had afforded would long remain a pleasant memory. The lectures for the afternoon and evening and also Monday evening were splendid efforts on the part of Mr. Hopps, and will undoubtedly have done much good as propaganda work. Special hymns and anthems were rendered by the choir. Selection of hymns were from J. P. Hopps, Rev. F. E. Heape (S.B. Minister), Marie Correlli and Mr. P. H. Wright, of Sowerby Bridge. Collections amounted to close on £26, which is a slight advance on last year's.—Cor. Sec.

GATESHEAD PROGRESSIVE.—On the 1st of June we had our annual Excursion, to Wylam Wood, where about 70 children and 40 adults had a glorious day, the weather behaving splendidly. Every one enjoyed themselves to their hearts content.—PETER HERD, Sec.

ROCHDALE, TOAD LANE.—On June 21st we held our Lyceum Anniversary, Mr. G. H. Smith, of Manchester, was the speaker. The services were well attended, and the results cheering.—WM. BROWN, Sec.

PADIHAM.—Whit-Monday Procession.—For the first time at Whitsuntide we took our place along with the other Sunday Schools in Padiham. We were headed with the Mellor Brass Band, then followed our beautiful banner, which was admired all along the route. The Marshalls were Messrs. G. C. Higham (Secretary); J. Heywood (Assistant Conductor); and J. Hacking. The procession which numbered over 200 persons walked through the principal thoroughfares of the town, and then wended their way back to the church where we sang "Hail, Festal Morn," "Be Happy," and "Lyceum Anniversary Song," under the able leadership of Mr. Thomas Capstick. In the afternoon we went to a field where coffee and buns were provided, and football, cricket, and other games were indulged in. Altogether a very enjoyable day was spent, and we have shown the public of Padiham that we are a body of people who will have to be reckoned with. The following is cut from a local paper, the *Padiham Adventurer*, which says of us:—"Another body, which rather surprised the natives was the Spiritualists. No one had any idea that this comparatively new sect had obtained such a strong position in Padiham, evidently they have come to stay."

BURY.—We had our usual Whitsuntide procession on Whit-Friday. Headed by the Walkden United Prize Band, we proceeded through the principal streets of the town, and then on to the fairground, where marching and calisthenics were gone through. During the procession, "Booklets and Barkers" were freely distributed. On Sunday, June 7th, we had our monthly open session, when solos were sweetly sung by Misses Chadwick and Ogden, and a trio by Miss Ellis and Messrs. Birkett and Jackson, also short addresses were given by Messrs. Birkett and Barnes. The pic-nic to Hollingworth Lake on Monday, June 8th, was patronised by about fifty, and satisfaction was generally expressed. We would like other lyceumists to know that our Band of Hope trip to Boggart Hole Clough is on the last Saturday in July.—E. B. BARNES, Sec.

ROTHERHAM SPIRITUALIST LYCEUM.—On Whit-Monday we took the children to Edlington Woods, a delightful spot about nine miles from the town. We started in waggonettes from our hall, accompanied by parents and friends, at 10-30 a.m., arriving at the woods about 12-30. When we had supplied milk and buns to the youngsters, we played cricket and ball, rambled and laughed until tea time, after which we returned home. On Sunday, June 7th, we held our Anniversary Services. Miss A. E. Burton, of Bury, was the speaker, and long will she be remembered in Rotherham, in fact the children can never forget her. At the evening service we were crowded out. The singing of the children assisted by friends was much appreciated. Recitations which had been learned from the Manual were given by Misses F. Biddlestone, E. Williams, E. Hawcroft, Messrs. D. Froggett, G. Williams, and T. Ellis, which were well rendered, as also were "The Presence of Angels," given by Miss Gladys Watkinson and Master Ernest Ellis. Misses Temple, Foster and Blades sang as a solo and duet, "We are trying to follow the Angels," with good taste. To Miss Alice Sharpe, our secretary and organist, our thanks are due for the way in which she helped to make the services a success.—L. HAWCROFT, Conductor.

REPORTS.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Our Anniversary was held on May 17th, when we had Mrs. Greenwood, from Hebden Bridge. The morning Session was well attended by adults. The children went through their singing, marching, and calisthenics. Mr. Hopson conducted the marching and Miss J. Walker the calisthenics. Mrs. Greenwood gave us an address on our Lyceum and its teaching. In the afternoon the Chair was taken by Mdlle. D'Adelina, Miss A. Hogg, and Miss L. Collinson gave a dialogue "The Lyceum," Miss B. Nicholls a recitation "The unseen World," Miss L. Huddleston and Master H. Jones a dialogue, "Spiritualist Commandments," the children then sang, "Never give up the right Way." We then had an address by Mrs. Greenwood. Misses. P. Fullard and F. Williams recited "Presence of Angels," Misses J. Walker and M. Hogg, recited "Sometimes." In the evening "Hill of Progress" was nicely rendered Misses. N. Walker and P. Whitton, recited "An invitation to the Lyceum." We then had an address by Mrs. Greenwood, followed by a hymn entitled "Heart Flowers," the little children sang the choruses by themselves; each child had an arch of flowers and ivy and the effect was very pretty. Miss M. Robinson and Mr. Collinson gave a dialogue entitled "Ten Laws of Light," Misses Hopson and Wilson, "The Religion of Use." Our Juvenile Band gave a piece entitled "Language of Flowers." Miss L. Hall and Mr. Collinson gave us a dialogue, "Physical, Moral, and Spiritual Order." Last but not least an appeal on behalf of our Lyceum by Master J. Collinson and Miss Walker. On Monday evening Miss B. Proctor, presided. Pianoforte Solo by Miss Hall. Miss N. Walker sang "Sweet Afton Waters," followed by a recitation by Miss B. Nicholls, "The Unseen World," song by Mr. Clarke; Miss Hall and Miss L. Hall, a duet; recitation by Mr. Griffith, and a song by Master T. Owen. We then had "Heart Flowers," and the Juvenile Band went through their pieces the same as before, Miss. N. Walker and Miss J. Walker sang the duet entitled, "Come where my love lies dreaming," Miss B. Collins recited. Followed by an address by Mrs. Greenwood; song by Miss Hall; Messrs. Hall and Griffiths sang "Larboard Watch"; Master Collinson recited "There must be something wrong"; song by Miss L. Hall. Our Conductor then gave us a recitation. Master J. Collinson and Miss A. Walker made an appeal on behalf of the Lyceum, after which our programme was brought to a close after a very pleasant evening. Great praise is due to Mr. Hall, our musical director, and Miss Hall, our organist, also Mr. Proctor, Miss Nickolls, and Miss Proctor, for the time they spent teaching the Juvenile Band.—MISS PHOEBE WHITTON, Sec.

MANCHESTER, (Tipping-street).—On Friday, June 5th, we held our annual Whit-week trip to Disley, when between 80 and 90 Lyceumists and friends turned up at the station. The children took part in games etc., and on the whole I think everyone enjoyed the day's outing. Marching and calisthenics were well done, Golden and Silver Chain recitations, and Musical readings well responded.—G. VERNON, Junr., Sec.

HIGHER BROUGHTON.—On May 31st, the children's day, we had an Open Session in the afternoon, and a service of song entitled, "In Heaven's Name," in the evening. On June 4th, the Lyceumists' trip to Prestwich was very much enjoyed.—MRS. P. BOYDEN, Sec.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL, held their annual Field Day on Whit-Monday at Dewsbury, at the joint invitation of Dewsbury and Batley Carr. The singing and responses were led by Mr. A. Kitson. The marching was conducted by the various marshals elected by their respective Lyceums. Mr. Kitson again led all the Lyceumists through the calisthenics. The following Lyceums took part, Armley, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, Morley, Rothwell, and Wakefield. The expenditure amounted to £19 8s. 1d., the income £16 5s. 6½d., leaving a deficit to be made up by the Lyceums at 2½d. per head as guaranteed before the day.—A. PINDER, Junr.

MORLEY.—We held our Anniversary on June 21st, when Miss A. E. Burton, of Bury, was our speaker. Sunday morning we went through our usual programme, and then asked Miss Burton to take charge of the marches and calisthenics, and she showed us a series of new marches which I hope we shall soon master. In the afternoon we had an Open Session, under the Conductorship of Miss Burton, before a very appreciative audience. She gave a few clairvoyant tests to the children, which were all recognised by their parents. In the evening she gave a capital address to a large and attentive audience. She afterwards held an after meeting for the benefit of our boys' gymnasium club, all her tests were recognised, the collection for this service being 4s. 4d. for which we are very thankful. We hope to have her amongst us again before long.—JOHN H. DEWS, Sec.

NORTHGATE, BLACKBURN.—On May 3rd, we held open session, for the purpose of distributing prizes to the scholars with the best attendances for last year. Twenty-five prizes were so distributed by our esteemed and beloved Conductor, Mr. Cooke. Unfortunately he has been unable to attend through illness for several months, but having recovered somewhat, he was thus enabled to be amongst us once again. And a right royal welcome his children, large and small, gave to him, especially so when the Secretary handed to him his prize, after speaking in appropriate terms of sympathy and love, which he assured him had been felt for him during his illness. I am pleased to report that the reunion has had such an effect for good, that our Conductor has been enabled to attend each Sunday since, with the result that we are bringing the Lyceum back to its old standard numerically. We bid fair at the present time to have in the near future a splendid Lyceum, great interest especially being taken in the Liberty Group at the afternoon session. Let progression be the motto of all the Lyceumists is the earnest wish of A.C.

HOLLINWOOD, BYRON STREET.—On Whit-Saturday we had a days outing to Chew Valley, near Greenfield, where the children engaged in sports and rambles in the woods, proving how much they enjoyed themselves by their bright smiling faces, and the way in which they responded to the lessons, and the zest with which they went through the marching and calisthenics on the Sunday morning following.—W. A. BATE, Sec.

ROCHDALE D. Council of Spiritualist Lyceums.—A meeting of the above Council was held at Heywood on Saturday, May 16th, 1903. The following Lyceums were represented: Heywood, Bury, Rochdale (Benn Street and Regent Hall), Hollinwood (Byron Place and Bower Lane), Oldham (Elliott Street), Higher Broughton, Middleton, Bacup, Royton, Harpurhey, and South Manchester. The chief business of the meeting was the arrangements for the demonstration to be held at Rochdale on July 11th. The President, Mr. J. B. Tetlow, occupied the chair. To state the whole of the business done in connection with the demonstration would take too much space, so I will give you the most important. It was decided to engage two bands, "2nd Lancashire Fusiliers" and "Whitworth Vale and Healey," the former to play for marching and calisthenics and the latter to play the hymns. Arrangements are being made with the Rochdale Co-operative Society for catering, and it is expected that 500 will be able to sit down to tea at once. It is expected that over 1000 will take part in this year's demonstration. An interesting feature will be a competition for a Banner, which will be presented to the neatest and most efficient Lyceum. It was decided to invite the Executive Council to the demonstration. Mr. Tetlow was again elected chief Marshall. Lyceums in the district, who are not members of the council are cordially invited to join us. Positions of Lyceums in the procession will be decided at the next meeting at Rochdale Regent Hall, on June 27th. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. Jackson, 286, Hollins Lane, Whitefield.

BOLTON, WOOD ST.—The members of this Lyceum had two rambles, the first one on April 4th, and the second one on April 25th, conducted by Mr. Parkinson, botanist. Mr. A. P. Nield sent us a good report, which has unfortunately been crowded out by conference matters. As such outings are not only health-giving but inspiring and educational, we summarise the report in order to save it from the waste paper basket. Their first visit was to Longworth Clough. The specimens found were viewed under the microscope, and Mr. Parkinson explained the different species. They learned more about flowers and plants during their ramble than they had ever known before. Their next visit was to Bordon Wood, when 36 Lyceumists joined in the search for various species of plants. One of their party found a small plant bearing a pale green flower. Mr. Parkinson told them its Greek name, which meant "The flower without glory." The more you examined it under the magnifying glass the prettier it looked. The butter-burr, pile-wort and coltsfoot and several others were examined, and Mr. Parkinson explained their use and peculiarities. Specimens of marsh marigolds and wood anemones were also found. The study of trees such as the alder, witch-elm, mountain-ash, palm, white willow, horse-chestnut, beech, lilac and several others proved most interesting. A most enjoyable time was spent.

SPENNYMOOR Lyceum celebrated its anniversary on May 24th, Mesdames Naylor and Shannon, of Middlesboro', being the speakers. The children contributed largely to the day's services by recitations, etc., amongst which were "Your mission," "Get up early," "People will talk," "The spirit sailor boy," "The presence of angels," and "Do good." The day's proceedings were highly enjoyed, and the children's hearts gladdened.