

The LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XVII. No. 198.

JULY, 1907.

ONE PENNY



Mr. Barker Holden's Camp, Horrocksford, 1907.

Photo by E. Buck, Clitheroe.

The accompanying illustration will give to your readers some idea of the arrangement of our camp, but it does not correctly show all the party, as some of them had returned to their homes when the above was taken.

Notwithstanding the rain, we have had many beautiful rambles to the ruins of Sawley Abbey and Clitheroe Castle, with their reminiscences of rapine, slaughter, and Romish discipline, and cradle of bigotry. We also visited Stonyhurst College, the principal Roman Catholic educational institution in England. We also strolled to Chatburn and lovely Downham, and after reading the guide book, and listening to the folklore, we almost felt we were in the land of Priests and Witches again. From those villages, just under the famous Pendle Hill, hundreds of people have in olden times been put to death charged with practising witchcraft. What a marvellous change has been effected since those barbarous and superstitious days.

Instead of putting people of rare psychic gifts to death to-day we try all we can to unfold and develop those wonderful soul forces whereby humanity can hold communion with the people of the spirit world so that knowledge shall take the place of faith, and the joyful obedience to nature's laws, both physical and moral, shall take the place of belief in the merits of another for their entrance into heaven. We wish to see the world redeemed, not by the death of one man, but redeemed by the life of all men being righteous. *

I believe the day of the priest is nearly over, and that of the Teacher is becoming more sunny and bright, when right living will be taught to every girl and boy. These camps are a help in that direction. Mrs. Barker Holden, of Whitberk, Blackburn, can supply all information as to cost per day for food, etc., of those health-giving and life invigorating camps

JAMES KNIGHT.

37, Parliament Street, Bury.

After Many Days:

OR

James Henderson's Conversion to Spiritualism.

By ALFRED KITSON.

CHAPTER VI. (continued.)

Her devotion ended she rose calm and collected, feeling an inward abiding peace that gave her an impression that all would yet be well. The room appeared to be illuminated with a pale golden light. A bright star hovered about six feet from the floor in the eastern corner, and under it she could just faintly discern a lovely spirit form wearing a long flowing robe, gathered at the waist with a belt that sparkled with bright radiant gems; its right hand was raised and the forefinger pointed upwards, while goodness, purity, and transcendent love were all co-mingled in its features. She stood gazing with rapturous delight on the angelic form, which stood silently directing her to look up to a higher source of strength and guidance than could be found on earth. When it had been fully recognised, and its mission comprehended, it gradually faded from her vision, leaving a halo of glory behind that she felt sanctified the room. Florence was wonderfully strengthened and comforted with this incident. It showed her that, even in their darkest hour of grief and reverse of fortune, angels were keeping watch and guard over them. Her parents too were greatly relieved on learning the import of the vision, and of it were born hopes of a brighter and better day.

CHAPTER VII.

Weeks passed on without bringing permanent relief in the shape of employment for the father, or pupils for the daughter, with the exception of a few of the more liberal of their old acquaintances who suffered their daughters to re-commence their studies under her tuition out of pity, while a number of Spiritualists retaliated on the Wesleyans by taking their daughters from the tutors belonging to that body, and placed them under Miss White's care and skill. Added to this was a little patronage in the form of dress-making, which helped her, by dint of economy, and patient, untiring effort, to keep the wolf of want from the door.

But it was evident that the constant strain thus placed on her physical endurance could not be borne much longer. She was burning life's candle at both ends, and thus hastening a general breakdown. "And what then?" was a question which her father asked himself repeatedly, and the only solution he could arrive at was being thrown on the charity of friends.

Friends? He questioned whether there was a being in the world outside of his own home whom he could call a friend; and no wonder, when those he had known, esteemed, worked with in the religious field, and trusted all his life, had forsaken him, and conspired together to rob him, not only of his work, but of his honour as a skilled workman, and had thus ruined his reputation, good social standing, and swindled him out of his savings at the same time. All this, and his daughter's jeopardised health, preyed on his mind to such an extent that his nervous system became unstrung, his health enfeebled, and the tone of his constitution gradually undermined. His step

lost its elasticity, and was feeble; his shoulders contracted, his body gradually inclined more and more forward. At times he would be prostrated for several days together, and these attacks became more frequent and more prolonged as the weeks went on.

Florence noticed all this, and frequently tried to cheer her father with descriptions of spiritual visions she had, and continually talked of the good time coming, when she felt sure his character and honesty would be vindicated, and he would be able to hold his head up in the world once more. He thanked her for her kindly efforts to cheer and comfort him, but to all the bright, glowing pictures she thus painted for his mind's eye, he shook his head and murmured, "Not in this world; not in this world."

Thus, with aching heart and weary limbs she saw her much-beloved, and once honoured and esteemed father slowly but surely dying of a broken heart, the victim of orthodox persecution.

Seeing nothing but care and strife, and penury before her, and loving Mr. Henderson with a deep and unselfish love, too unselfish to wish to blight his budding prospects by linking her burdened life to his, and thus calling down on his devoted head the same powers of darkness and evil that had worked such sad havoc in the peace and prosperity of their once happy home, she decided, though it should break her affectionate heart, to liberate him from all the promises he had made her of life-long and faithful devotion and marriage; and ask him, for his own sake—his own peace and happiness, and usefulness as a respected citizen, to seek a companion for life in some one who was not the object of hatred and persecution as she was.

She had the full sanction of her loving parents, to whom she had made known her intentions. They warmly commended her honest, self-sacrificing spirit, and had implicit confidence in the discretion and judgment of their daughter, who was the only object left them from their social wreckage as a staff of support and comfort.

Accordingly, when Mr. Henderson next visited her, she made known to him her resolution, and the reason for taking the step, assuring him his happiness and usefulness was her only consideration and desire. The pale features, the tear-dimmed eye, the visible nervous tension of the whole body, told him in unmistakable language that she spoke the truth; that it was wringing her heart to make this great sacrifice. At first he was unable to comprehend her meaning, and thought that her great grief had affected her mind, and unhinged her reason; but as she proceeded to give the *pros* and *cons* for her decision, in which she made the *pros* vastly predominate over the *cons*, that impression was quickly dispelled. The consciousness that the object of all his affections was about to separate herself from him, wonderfully brightened his intellect and quickened his reasoning faculties, and so helped him to decide how to act.

He asked himself the question, could he lose the fair, lovely, conscientious being who was prepared to make this sacrifice even in the midst of all her trials in order to secure his happiness; she for whom he built such splendid air-castles, and all because of a change of convictions regarding religious matters, convictions which even himself, aided by the learning of his minister, had been unable to shake or invalidate in the least, and which claimed number-

less facts to support them? Might she not, after all, be in the right, and himself in the wrong? No, he would not, he could not, give her up on such grounds. All this had been rapidly reviewed within his own mind and his decision taken before she had finished. She concluded with this pathetic appeal, "And now, James, in giving you back your promise, and with it your liberty, all I ask of you is that I may be allowed to call you my friend; that you will not turn coldly and disdainfully from me if we chance to meet each other, for such treatment from you would kill me. I shall ever pray for your happiness, that the one on whom you confer your name may prove herself worthy of you, and be a source of inspiration and comfort to you through life. Is it agreed?" she asked, as she extended her hand for the compact.

His answer was to start to his feet with a hot, flushed face, and before she was aware of his intentions she was clasped in his arms in a passionate embrace, and he exclaimed, "Florence, my darling, I will not, I cannot accept the liberty you proffer me. You have given yourself to me, and I will not relinquish my priceless treasure, let the consequences be what they may. I should be a heartless wretch, and I should despise myself were I to forsake you in your hours of trial and adversity. True love and affection ever yearns the most to help, to assist, and bless when its object is in greatest need."

This outburst of genuine and manly affection caused the tears to flow copiously down her pale and careworn cheeks. She deeply felt the need of such a true and manly heart, and realised more fully the greatness of her sacrifice. But, for his sake, to secure his peace of mind and future happiness, she felt she could not yield.

She gently but firmly disengaged herself from his arms, saying, "Oh, dear James, you do not realise the full meaning of your words. Look at our sorrowful home, with poor broken-hearted father gradually sinking before our eyes, despite all our efforts. Think of the contumely and disgrace that have been cast upon us, for our opinion's sake—because we can no longer attend the chapel, *your* chapel, and believe in the doctrines taught there. Think of our ruined social position, and the great gulf that lies between you and I in these matters, which are vital to your happiness and mine. Think how earnestly you have striven to turn my honest convictions, and what a source of pain and annoyance it has been to you to hear those coarse epithets applied to me when walking by your side. I now wish to free you once for all from this social disgrace which you dread so much."

"I remember all this, dear one," he said, tenderly. "I acknowledge the justice of your remarks. I have frequently wished you had never known this strange power, which now threatens to separate us. I have striven conscientiously to prove your error, but in every instance have been corrected myself, and the corrections have tended to weaken my faith in the authority of the Bible, which I have ever tried to make my guide, so that I am disposed to study and investigate this power in an unbiassed manner, a condition of mind which I have never before possessed towards it; and if I feel satisfied of its truth, I shall embrace it, and thus close the gulf. And if I do not—well, I had better not anticipate what I should do in that case."

"Dear James, let me beseech you not to raise hopes within my heart only to be cast down again; and as a

protection against your so doing, I shall absolve you of all promises of marriage."

"Dearest Florence," he rapturously exclaimed, "I never before realised what heroic strength and fortitude resided in the nature of the gentler sex. Here you are with a nature which is almost love personified, ready and willing to give me up, though it breaks your heart, and ask a blessing on my unworthy head at the same time. The one who is capable of that is the one to answer her own prayer in making me happy, and assisting me to be a useful member of society."

"True love," Florence replied, "is always unselfish. The man or woman who can stand in the way of another one's happiness, simply because they have had a promise of marriage made to them, testifies to the world their unfitness to become the wife, or husband, of that one. It is not love, but selfishness, and nothing but discord can come of such unions. Unions! no, there is no true unity of hearts and souls in such matches; they are simply legal ties giving social position, titles, homes, names, and pander to pride and vanity."

"I am afraid, Florence dear, that if the world were to be judged according to your rule, there would be very few found possessed of true love. Such a high standard seems to be related to a higher world than this."

"If we wish to have a foretaste of the heavenly loves, we must begin to cultivate them here. We only need better organised bodies for the divine nature of each child of God to become more manifest."

"The divine nature of each child? Do you not believe that each child is morally depraved, owing to the transgression of our first parents?" he asked, with astonishment at the boldness of her statement.

"I once did, dear, I am sorry to confess, but——"

"You are sorry to confess?" he interposed.

"Yes" she answered, "I am truly sorry that I once did believe anything so monstrously outrageous as this 'original sin' teaching. I consider it a foul libel on God's divine character," she said, warmly, as she felt the injustice of the soul-degrading doctrine. "I hold it to be nothing short of blasphemy to teach that a Father of divine love, wisdom and power would, or could, pronounce such a sentence, which was a curse on all the unborn millions of His children who were to people the earth he had just made."

"How so?"

"Because divine *wisdom* implies that He knew at the time He commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the forbidden fruit that they would be tempted beyond their power to resist; and divine *love* implies that He would never utter a sentence which should curse unborn and unoffending children, and be the means of causing nine-tenths of them to be lost souls through time and eternity, enduring the cruellest agony it is possible to conceive. And again, divine *power* implies that even supposing He had failed in the first two attributes of His character, and had acted in the blind, passionate, and despotic manner as taught, and which is peculiar of the Oriental who first conceived and promulgated this story, He still had it in His power to rectify His mistake, by absolving His children from the evil power which was working their destruction, and to restore all of them to their original state of purity and innocence."

(To be continued.)

Our Boys' Special.

MY CHEERFUL CHERUBS!

Two months does seem a long time to keep silent when we are so much interested in each other. It may not appear that there is any hardship in having to occasionally surrender our page to meet the growing demands upon the precious space of our little BANNER; but when we remember that we publish only once a month, and that so many of us are eagerly awaiting the appearance of the "little blue cover," and gathering up its variety of information and pleasant reading before the paper is many hours old, then it is that a break of a whole month becomes a cause for regret. I am not writing complainingly. I am simply stating the facts, and would exhort my readers to bear with patience that which, at present, is unavoidable. The rule affects the readers of "Bluebells' Page," and also those readers of the philosophic "Temperance Page," so ably contributed by Herbert E. Clarke. Nobody is to blame for these omissions, except Lyceumists and Spiritualists generally. If the demands for our little monthly were DOUBLED, doubtless the paper could be so increased in size as to meet most, if not all, requirements. In the meantime, let me urge upon you not to lose your interest in "our page" just because our columns are occasionally closed. Personally, I do not complain; neither can my readers justly complain so far this year.

In March, when no "Boys' Special" appeared, I was graciously invited to contribute the "Bluebell Page," and last month I occupied as much space as was filled by the thoughtful, timely, comprehensive, and practical address delivered by the President of the Union at the Conference. My deepest regret is that I was not at the Conference to witness the spiritualising effect which the delivery of my verses produced, recited by those dear children amidst appropriate surroundings. It afforded me pleasure to write the verses, as each line was prompted by the deepest sincerity to the respective workers. It gave me pleasure to know the verses were unanimously accepted by the Manchester District Council, but my greatest pleasure was experienced when I learned that the recital of the verses awakened such feelings of sympathy and love that remained manifest throughout the Conference.

I know that quite a large number of Liberty Group Members read this page, and now that the "Constitution Amendments" are not to occupy the largest share of attention for some years to come, I think the time is opportune to appeal to all such Group Members to turn their serious attention to improvements in the general curriculum of our Lyceums. I therefore submit, as a title for Competition Essays, conducted in this page, "WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING IMPROVEMENTS DESIRABLE IN OUR LYCEUMS?" All Lyceumists may compete, but I would specially urge Liberty Group Members of both sexes to write their thoughts upon this subject. My chief object in this is to furnish evidence to the Executive Council of the most important needs of Lyceums. If

members will compete in this, their efforts might be submitted to Liberty Groups all over the country for discussion, and, as a result, some excellent work be prepared for the next Conference. A Special Book Prize will be given for the best "Essay" sent in not later than July 18th. Only one attempt at the verse competition has been ventured this time on the subject of "Angel Ministry." Mr. W. Fletcher's contribution will be found on this page.

In reference to the Puzzle Competitions, I am advised to suggest some slight alteration in the rules. Please note this. In future, merit cards only will be given as prizes for correct solutions, unless voluntary help is forthcoming for special prizes. Only one member in a family will be supplied with a merit card for one month's correct solution, no matter how many members of the same family compete. The correct solution to the "May" Puzzle is Mr. Wm. Johnson (National). Ten correct solutions have been received. The button goes to Reginald Bowmer, Attercliffe; merit cards to all others. The correct solution of the District Puzzle is Mr. Alfred Bodell. The brooch goes to Miss Nina Smedley, Belper, for first correct solution received. Mrs. Bodell gives the first prize. Merit cards to others; six correct solutions have been received. Here are the puzzles for July:—

NATIONAL.

The initials are seen in any joke,
The worker is known to many folk;
Such men as he in our ranks are few,
What he dares to think he dares to do.
His surname contains just letters six,
You will not for long be in a fix;
"Anything you like" supplies the lot,
Don't give up till the name you've got.

DISTRICT PUZZLE.

(For Manchester District only.)

Amongst the good workers round Manchester way,
To whom I would draw your attention,
Is one who is well known to all, I dare say,
If his name I were only to mention.
So I'll hide his initials in "July" and "kin,"
And in "Yankee" his surname I'll hide it,
And invite all the District the first prize to win;
Don't give up until you can decide it.

Don't post your solutions before July 9th, or after July 19th. A special first prize of a button or brooch badge will be given by Mrs. A. E. Bentley for the first correct solution of District Puzzle opened on July 10th. Merit cards will be sent to all others correct, in accordance with the new conditions now published. Send essays and solutions direct to

Yours lovingly,
FRANK HEPWORTH,
2a, Cateaton Street, Bury.

"ANGEL MINISTRY."

LYCEUM BANNER COMPETITION.

To Mr. F. Hepworth.

Angels in our early life
Come to ward off care and strife;
Lead us on through childhood's day,
Ever watchful o'er our way.

Ministers unseen in youth,
Ever leading on to truth ;
Walk with us where'er we go,
Mindful ever what we sow.

Manhood's day may bring a gleam
Of the beauty of our theme ;
So that we may follow on,
In the grace that they have won.

And when age creeps o'er our forms,
Leaving trace of wintry storms ;
Still will angels in their love,
Lead us on to realms above.

MR. WM. FLETCHER,
5, Boothfield, off Walshaw Road,
Elton, Bury, Lanc.

"Bury Lyceum."

MARRIAGE AT HUDDERSFIELD.

A very pretty wedding took place at the Spiritualist Hall, Ramsden Street, on Wednesday, June 19th. The contracting parties being Mr. George H. Briggs, son of Mr. Joseph Briggs, for many years secretary and president of the Society, and Miss Ethel Heywood. The Hall was crowded with friends and well-wishers. During the assembling, Miss. Smith (organist) tastefully played selections upon the organ, and at the conclusion played the Wedding March. Upon the arrival of the bride, accompanied by her maids, Misses M. E. Briggs, M. Charlesworth, and prettily dressed children (nieces and nephew of the bride) carrying large bouquets of flowers, the entire audience rose, and Mr. Will Phillips proceeded with the service. It was a beautiful one in all respects, and right well did he tie the knot. The singing of appropriate hymns was very hearty. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Ughtred Briggs (cousin) and Mr. Horace Goodall as groomsmen. The bride was given away by Mr. Ethelbert Heywood (brother). The bride wore a white silk dress trimmed with beautiful lace, the maids being in pretty heliotrope coloured dresses. The presents from the bridegroom to bridesmaids were pretty gold brooches, and to bride, gold necklet and pendant. The present from the bride to bridegroom being a gold locket pendant. After the service the wedding guests proceeded to the "Castle," Beaumont Park, where the reception was held. Upwards of eighty guests sat down to the wedding repast. Mr. Phillips in a happy and felicitous speech proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, which Mr. John L. Sykes humorously seconded, and was well supported by Messrs. Craven and Wilks. The bride and bridegroom each responded. Then the company dispersed to enjoy the normal beauties of the park, afterwards assembling in the large room for dancing. Solos and other forms of enjoyment concluded a very happy evening at about 12 o'clock. The bride and bridegroom subsequently left for Colwyn Bay, where the honeymoon will be spent.

The presents (of which a full detailed list would be too lengthy here) were numerous, useful and beautiful, and included a carved oak barometer with suitable silver plate inscription, from the Society, Lyceum and Choir, of which both bride and bridegroom are members, which

was presented the previous evening. Mr. J. W. Gill, on behalf of the subscribers, made the presentation, supported by Mr. Hopkinson (choirmaster). The heartiest of good wishes go with the young couple in their new sphere of life.

WEDDING AT MASKELL STREET, MANCHESTER.

On May 25th, we had the pleasure of witnessing the marriage ceremony of two of our Lyceum leaders, Miss Sarah Ann Louise Stanley and Mr. William Barton, which was duly celebrated in our Lyceum. The bride was attended by Miss Candelett, Misses Alice and Winnie Stanley, and Miss G. Foster, and was given away by her father. Mr. J. Foster, cousin of the bride acted as best man. The bride was attired in a navy blue dress trimmed with white silk and chiffon and a large grey picture hat, and carried a shower bouquet of white flowers, as also did the bridesmaids. The ceremony was duly performed by Mrs. A. E. Bentley (district visitor and one of our own Lyceumists) in a very impressive manner. Our musical director, Mr. J. Reed, played suitable selections and accompaniments to the hymns, also rendering in grand style Mendelssohn's Wedding March, as the bridal party left the church. The ceremony was witnessed by quite a large number of Lyceumists and friends, who, by the warmth of their good wishes, showed the esteem in which Miss Stanley and Mr. Barton were held.

L. SIMS, Secretary.

In Memoriam.

BLACKPOOL.—We have to report the loss of another Lyceum scholar. A very impressive ceremony was witnessed at the Blackpool Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, 4th June, when Mr. Birch, Mr. Booth and Mr. Catlow officiated at the interment of Sarah Annie Shufflebotham, aged 19 years, who passed away very suddenly. Lyceumists and members of the choir, of which deceased was a member, met at the house of her parents, and afterwards walked in procession to the cemetery, where they met a large company of Church members. Fully 300 assembled, and sang several hymns. Arthur Catlow conducted.

STOCKPORT.—We regret to learn of the passing on of Thomas Edwards, of Stockport, on June 17th. The interment took place in the Borough Cemetery, on June 20th. Mr. R. A. Brown officiated, followed by remarks from Mr. Wm. Johnson and Mrs. Marston. Memorial services were held on Sunday, June 23rd. Mr. Edwards has been a staunch worker in the Spiritualist movement for 30 years. He was also the conductor of the Lyceum for a good number of years. He filled the office of Lyceum District Visitor on the formation of the Stockport District. His presence and counsel will be greatly missed both in the Lyceum and the Society.

We give thanks for the glorious knowledge that there is no death, and for the happy privilege of intercourse with loved ones gone before—even the true and loving spirits, who are indeed "comforters"; they tell us many (not *all*) things for which our hearts were hungry.

Bible Studies, No. 5.

THE CREATION.

The general idea of Christians concerning the creation is that Moses was divinely inspired by God to write it, and that, therefore, it must be true. The majority of Christians to-day think the world was created in six days, 4,004 years before the birth of Jesus. These convictions have been at the root of the opposition offered to the revelations made by scientists concerning the structure and age of the earth and also the mechanism of the heavens. But the facts of geology and astronomy could not be refuted and put aside for long, and ultimately the opposition of Biblical scholars had to give way.

On closer examination of the Biblical account of the Creation it was discovered there were two accounts which do not agree one with the other. We shall also find in due time that there are two accounts of the flood.

This may be startling to some of our readers, but I assure them the fact is fully admitted by learned Biblical scholars. Prof. A. S. Wilkins, when addressing the Salford Sunday School Union in 1895, said, "They knew now that they had two distinct traditional accounts of the Creation dove-tailed together in such a manner as to leave evident discrepancies, and even contradictions. They knew now that the narrative of Genesis was a blending of two accounts current about 800 years after the traditional date of Moses."

Prof. A. H. Sayce says that "Reflections of both accounts are found in the cuneiform tablets (clay tablets containing writing in characters shaped like little wedges), of Babylonia and Assyria. Portions of an Assyrian Epic of the Creation, describing it in a series of successive acts were first brought to light by Mr. George Smith. He pointed out that the remarkable correspondence which existed between the order of the days in Genesis, and the order of the tablets or books of the Assyrian poem, the first book of which describes the beginning of all things and the watery abyss of primeval chaos, while in the fifth tablet comes the appointment of the heavenly bodies to rule the day and night, and in the sixth an account of the creation of the animals." The learned professor goes on to say that even the Sabbath is of Babylonian origin and that the Biblical writer is acquainted, either directly, or indirectly, with these traditions.

When it is remembered that the Jews were carried as captives to Babylon in B.C. 800, and remained there for over 250 years we shall cease to wonder how the Jewish scribes were able to learn of the Babylonian story of the Creation. This time also agrees with the date given by Prof. A. S. Wilkins.

The two accounts of the Creation referred to are to be found in the first and second chapters of Genesis; the first account ends with the third verse of the second chapter. The term, translated God, is Elohim, and is plural, and is evidently intended to mean both male and female. This will help the reader to understand the making of man as recorded in verses 26 and 27 which should read as follows: (26) "And Elohim said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth,

and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (27) And the Elohim created man in their own image, in the image of Elohim created they him; male and female created they them."

The term Elohim occurs more than 2,000 times in the Old Testament and is generally translated God, as in the first account of the Creation. It was not held by the Jews to be as sacred as the term Yahveh, which, as we have already learnt was the name of their tribunal god.

In the second account of the creation, which commences at the 4th verse, Adam and Eve are not created at one and the same time, Adam is created before the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field. The LORD God, or Yahveh, brought them to Adam to be named, and "whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name . . . But for Adam there was not found an help-meet for him" (verses 19 and 20).

According to this account Eve had not been made when Yahveh forbade Adam to eat of the Tree of Knowledge (see verse 17).

It will also be observed that it is not till we arrive at this second account that we see the term LORD God used, and as this always signifies Yahveh, we have here clear evidence that the Jewish scribe did not hesitate to substitute the name of his God as being the Creator of the earth and the heavens, with the evident intention of elevating him to the highest possible rank for public worship. This device has succeeded too well with the Christian nations, who have been misled into the belief that the commands of "thus saith the LORD" to go and slaughter men, women and children, proceeded from the heavenly Father, whereas they proceeded from a jealous, revengeful, blood-thirsty spirit, who had constituted himself the guide of the Israelites.

As those early accounts of the Creation are now acknowledged to be based on myth and legend derived from the ancient Babylonian and Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions, let us treat them as such and revere them only as being evidences of the efforts of those ancient people to account for the Creation of the world, and the origin of sin and suffering in it. The true origin of sin and suffering is Ignorance and Selfishness, and not a talking serpent.

(To be continued).

What Benefit do I Derive by being a Lyceumist.

PRIZE ESSAY.

The benefits that I derive by being a Lyceumist are numerous and varied. The two chief being spiritual and physical benefits.

First, I am taught how to live. Secondly, I obtain the knowledge that no person or anything can be completely destroyed. Thirdly, I come in contact, or at least learn how to come in contact, with those who have passed the change called death, and thus I learn from them that the so-called death is but a change from a lower to a higher life. Also, they are willing and glad to help us at all times, and rejoice when they can be of benefit to us.

I am benefited physically in the following ways: The marching and calisthenics exercise every muscle

of my body, and thus enable me to become beautiful and strong. They also make all my joints supple, that they may be well developed, and thus become graceful both in my carriage and stature. And in conclusion it teaches me that the great point and rule of life is "To do right because it is right, and shun the wrong because it is wrong."

HILDA BAILLIE, age 12.

38, Tower Street, Heywood.

Correspondence.

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

(To the Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER.)

Sir,—In reading the reports as read at the Conference, and published in the L. B. in full, I for one think the time has come when we, as members of this Union, which is doing such good work amongst the children, should devise some ways and means to assist and to increase the funds, especially amongst the senior members and officers. I therefore offer the following suggestions, which, I hope, will meet with a favourable response :—

1st. That a membership roll be opened for all Spiritualists, and those who are unable to visit a Lyceum, or those whose Lyceum is closed; these members to have the same benefits as the affiliated Lyceums. Membership fee, 1/- per year. This affiliation fee to go to the P.S.F.

2nd. That all district visitors pay their own expenses. This would help the Union funds, and these D.V. would show their love for the Union and the children's cause by making this sacrifice.

3rd. That all leaders and teachers of groups pay special attention to their scholars' welfare, and pay them a visit during the week if they have been absent, and also pay special visits if they are absent through sickness. Thus we should increase our Lyceum membership, and teach the children to love us as we love them.

A LYCEUM WORKER.

TRUTH'S VICTORY.

Victorious yet the Truth shall be,
When by its teaching, men set free
From slavish superstition's chain,
Shall rise, a higher life to gain.

A higher life than we have known;
When ignorance is overthrown,
And knowledge rises in its place—
Thrice happy then the human race.

Now comes that joyous morning's dawn;
Truth's bannered host advancing on,
Its banners gleam with heavenly light;
Its warriors conquer in the fight.

But not by bloodshed shall they win,
Love's power shall conquer dark-browed sin,
And love shall reign where hate prevailed,
Where Truth upon a cross was nailed.

The fight has long and arduous raged,
Inscribed on history's blackest page;
Millions have fallen in the past,
Tortured and suffering to the last.

Rising from thence to worlds of light,
Yet still directing freedom's fight;
Now are they leaders of Truth's host,
Earth's tyrants well may fear them most.

No longer will mistaken priests
Bind human souls to faith in feasts
Of human flesh and human gore;
Produced, they say, by priestly lore.

For not by faith in rites and creeds,
But men of noblest, richest deeds,
And purest hearts, aspiring, rise
To highest place in paradise.

And when, o'er all the lands of Earth—
From sunny South to frozen North,
And ancient East to newer West—
The human heart at last finds rest.

This world will be a paradise;
For men will love and men will rise
To one vast human brotherhood
Of loving hearts, all wise and good.

Hail! glorious prospect, golden day,
For which we all may work and pray;
Truth's Victory arrives at last,
Its sun no more is overcast.

JOHN AULD.

THE DREAM SHIP.

When the world is fast asleep
Along the midnight skies—
As though it were a wandering cloud—
The ghostly dream-ship flies.

An angel stands at the dream-ship's helm,
An angel stands at the prow,
And an angel stands at the dream-ship's side
With a rue-wreath on her brow.

The other angels, silver-crowned,
Pilot and helmsman are,
And the angel with the wreath of rue
Tosseth the dreams afar.

The dreams they fall on rich and poor,
They fall on young and old;
And some are dreams of poverty,
And some are dreams of gold.

And some are dreams that thrill with joy,
And some that melt to tears;
Some are dreams of the dawn of love,
And some of the old dead years.

On rich and poor alike they fall,
Alike on young and old,
Bringing to slumbering earth their joys
And sorrows manifold.

The friendless youth in them shall do
The deeds of mighty men,
And drooping age shall feel the grace
Of buoyant youth again.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890, BY J. J. MORSE

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

Transferred to the above Union, as a Free Gift by the Founder, May, 1902.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, *Editor.*

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Send your orders not later than the 23rd of each month.

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Office--Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

JULY, 1907.

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

Our June issue has given our readers great satisfaction. Hearty congratulations have reached us on its excellent contents. The whole edition was speedily sold out.

* * *

We desire to tender our hearty thanks to those 10 Lyceums who, in response to our appeal last month, have increased their orders for the LYCEUM BANNER from 12 to 18 copies per month. As the BANNER is the Lyceum Union's official organ, and is owned by all the Federated Lyceums, we feel fully justified in stating the case plainly so that they may see the need for co-operation.

* * *

In adopting the parcel post system for the conveyance of the LYCEUM BANNER, in preference to the railway co's. "newspaper rates," we incur an increased charge of 3d. on all parcels of 12 copies. As there are 72 Lyceums whose orders do not exceed 12 copies per month, it will readily be seen that the change will effect a loss of nearly £1 per month. Having thus placed the facts before our readers we trust that as many as possible will increase their orders to 18 copies.

* * *

The new service of song, called "Unseen Hands," by Mr. Oscar A. McBrine, of Burton-on-Trent, is now ready, price 2d., by post 2½d. 1/6 per doz., or 50 copies for 6/-. See advt.

* * *

We learn from the *Two Worlds* that a copy of the LYCEUM BANNER, and the *Lyceum Manual*, along with copies of the *Two Worlds*, and the *Nelson Leader* were placed in the cavity under the foundation stone, laid by Mr. J. J. Morse, the Editor of the *Two Worlds*, of the Nelson new Church, on June 22nd, 1907. We wish hearty success to the efforts of our Nelson friends.

The Liberty Group of the Harpurhey Lyceum has decided to commence a study of comparative religion. The subject should prove to be deeply interesting, and highly educational. It has been said that those who understand only their own religion understand none.

* * *

We are indebted to our esteemed friend Mr. J. Knight, of Bury, for the splendid illustration of Mr. Holden's camp. If such can be enjoyed under such wet weather as we have had during this season, what must be the pleasure and invigorating effects in congenial weather?

* * *

We are glad to learn that the Royton Lyceum is making good progress. They are forming a Lyceum choir which promises to be a success. Two of their members are going out to New Bedford, U.S.A.

* * *

Smethwick Lyceum recently celebrated its 12th anniversary. Mrs. Burchell, of Bradford, was the speaker. They had a record attendance and collections.

* * *

The following appreciative remarks of our *Lyceum Manual* appeared in the *Two Worlds* of June 14th, from the pen of Mr. Thomas May, London:—"Why not adopt the *Lyceum Manual* as a Bible, to go on with while the Anthology is being prepared? I find Spiritualists are fast asleep over the Lyceum movement. We want Lyceums for grown-up babies. All the questions that people ask about Spiritualism at our meetings are logically answered in the *Manual*. I staggered some grown-ups recently at a meeting by quoting from the *Manual*!"

* * *

We are glad to see such good evidence of awakening interest in the Lyceum work. In a few more years all Spiritualist Societies, worthy the name, will feel that it is not the least important of their duties to train the children in the facts, teachings, and religion of Spiritualism.

* * *

A friend from America bears the following testimony to the value and worth of our *Lyceum Manual*:

"While in Philadelphia, Pa. lately I first saw your *Lyceum Manual*, and purchased one. I have read portions of it, and it is *fine*, yes *superfine*. I think it the best one I have ever seen. Surely children taught from this book will understand Spiritualism. We need this *Manual* in every Lyceum and Society in the United States, and it ought to be placed in every home!"

E. W. SPRAGUE.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

Rothwell Lyceum, 1/6; Mr. Horne, Johannesburg, 6/8; Mr. Wilkinson, 10/-; Mr. Smith, Hull, 5/-; Stockport Lyceum, 5/-; Mr. Kitson's services:—Belper, Hebden Bridge, Preston, Blackburn, Middlesbrough, and Nottingham, 30/-; Mrs. Law, 5/-; Mrs. Veary, 5/-; Mr. J. W. Thompson, 2/-; Maskell Street Lyceum, Manchester, 10/-. These have been duly acknowledged.—Sincerely yours,

JESSY GREENWOOD,
Ash Leigh, Hebden Bridge.

Halifax and Huddersfield District Council.

The above Council will hold its annual meeting at the Halifax Alma Street Lyceum on July 21st, at 10-30 a.m. The following nominations have been received: President, Messrs. B. Dyson, F. Barraclough and G. E. Baker; Vice-President, Messrs. Bedford, Dyson, and Wilson; Secretary, Messrs. Baker and M. Farrington; Treasurer, Messrs. B. Dyson and E. Bottomley; District Visitor, Messrs. A. Barraclough and F. Barraclough; Auditors, Messrs. W. Rawson, Wilby, Whiteley (Alma Street), and Gill. Mr. G. E. Barker begs to withdraw from the position of secretary.

G. E. BAKER, Sec.

Rochdale and District Council of Spiritualist Lyceums.

The Rochdale District Council held their quarterly meeting on Saturday, June 1st, at Oldham (Elliot Street Lyceum). It was decided to hold the annual demonstration on the 6th July at Bacup. The Bacup Change Reed Band will head the procession, which will assemble on the Market Ground, and proceed by way of the principal streets to the Bacup football ground, where a display of marching and calisthenics will be gone through. The procession will afterwards proceed to the Co-operative Hall, where tea will be provided at a charge of 6d. each for adults and 4d. for children. A meeting will be afterwards held in the Bacup Spiritual Temple, Market Street. Addresses will be given by prominent Lyceum workers in the district.

Associates were enrolled, and the D.V. and Conference reports were given. The essay competition for children over 12 and under 16 years was won by Hilda Baillie, of Heywood Lyceum, and a request is made that the prize essay may be published in the BANNER.

It was decided to hold two more competitions, one for children of 12 to 16 years of age, on the subject, "Why should I behave myself in the Lyceum," and one for Lyceumists over 16 and under 21 years on the subject, "How can we best improve our Lyceums." A prize of 2/6 to be awarded to the winner in each instance. Essays are to be sent in to the secretary not later than the 15th September, 1907.

The annual meeting and election of officers will be held on the 22nd September, 1907. G. F. KNOTT, Sec.,
30, Whitehall Street, Rochdale.

Regent Hall Lyceum, Rochdale.

PRESENTATIONS, ETC.

During the last month, at an open session, conducted by Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, of Hebden Bridge, a framed photograph of the whole Lyceum was presented by our speaker to the Lyceum and Society on behalf of two Lyceumists, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Spencer, who left us for Canada twelve months ago, and was suitably received by our conductor, Miss Jenkinson. We feel a touch of grateful pride that our friends over the sea are still with us in their thoughts.

On the 11th June, at a farewell social, we said good-bye and God-speed to two more of our Lyceumists. Mr. Lindley, who went to Canada some four years ago, returned to claim Miss Emma Gray, our calisthenic conductor, as his bride. Mr. Lindley has been leader of the Liberty Group, and Mrs. Lindley has been brought up in

our Lyceum from infancy, taking her place as a teacher and leader of the children for many years. The Lyceum and Society presented to them through Mrs. Lizzie Nurse a handsome photo album and a post card album, which contained photos of Lyceumists and local views, and also a symbolic picture of the Lyceum movement containing photos of Mr. A. J. Davis, Mr. Alfred Kitson, Mr. Joshua Nurse, and the Regent Hall Lyceum, with a suitable farewell poem.

If circumstances permit, it is our two friends' desire to some day have a Lyceum in British Columbia, where our friends are to make their new home, to which we say Amen.
30, Whitehall Street, Rochdale. G.F.K.

Another Lyceumist for Canada.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—On Monday evening, after the usual service, on May 27th, a few friends of Mr. Charley Birch met in the above Church to wish him bon voyage. Charley, as he preferred to be called, will be greatly missed in many ways. He is one of the oldest, if not *the* oldest Lyceumist on our register. An ardent worker for both Lyceum and Church. Several persons spoke at the social and supper, testifying to his good qualities. One person wished him luck in handing him a sum of money, but, "Charley like," he said he wanted no luck but simply health to work, and money for work done. Truly our loss is Canada's gain.

ARTHUR CATLOW, Conductor.

Lyceumists for New Zealand.

The Lyceum movement in Lancaster has lost two good workers in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Isherwood (Mr. Isherwood was formerly of Bolton). They sailed for their new home on June 14th. Among the friends who saw them off at the docks were Mrs. Isherwood's four sisters, Mrs. Butterworth (vice-president of the Society), Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. Stephenson (Lyceum conductor), Mr. Preston, and others. The friends joined in singing "God be with you till we meet again." We trust they will advocate the truths of Spiritualism in their new home, and be able to form a Society and Lyceum there.

H. STEPHENSON, Lyceum Conductor.

The British Spiritualist's Lyceum Union.

The Executive Council will visit Belper on Saturday and Sunday, July 13th and 14th, 1907. Propaganda meetings will be held in the Jubilee Hall at 10-30 a.m. and 6-30 p.m., when the following ladies and gentlemen will address the meetings:—Mr. A. E. Keeling (President), Councillor John Venables (Treasurer), Mrs. Jessie Greenwood (Hon. Sec. P.S.F.), Mrs. Annie E. Bentley, D.V., Manchester; Mrs. L. Nurse, Rochdale; Mr. W. Johnson, Hyde; Mr. A. Wilkinson, Nelson; and Mr. F. B. Smedley, Belper.

A Lyceum Session will be held at 2 p.m. in the above Hall, at which the members of the E.C. will be present.

Collections at all meetings to defray expenses.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,
Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

Lyceum Lesson Plan for July.

BY JESSY GREENWOOD.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	M.R.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
July 7	396	30	220	121	398
„ 14	88	8	239	119	387
„ 21	25	28 & 34	232	113	99
„ 28	38	40	228	114	475

Precepts or Pearls.

(To be committed to memory by the Lyceum.)

July 7th.—“What do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for each other?”—*George Elliott*.

July 14th.—“Life is not so short but there is always time for courtesy.”—*Emerson*.

July 21st.—“Good thoughts are blessed guests, and should be heartily welcomed, well fed, and much sought after.”—*C. H. Spurgeon*.

July 28th.—“The way to gain a reputation is to endeavour to be what you desire to appear.”—*Socrates*.

LESSON JULY 21ST, 1907.

“THE SEVEN LAMPS.”

(A poem in the *Millgate Monthly*, of May, 1907).

AND first the Lamp of *Sacrifice*,
Teaching that man must give
To all their work, of all their best,
If they would truly live.
Next the fair *Lamp of Truth* shines forth,
To guard us from deceit;
“Use solid wood and solid stone,
In sanctuary or in street.”
The *Lamp of Power* comes third to show
The strength of iron coast;
Compared with which how mean and poor
The works of which men boast.
The rays of *Beauty's* Lamp stream forth
To make it clear and plain
What “the most lovely forms and thoughts”
From Nature's self are ta'en.
The Lamps of *Life* and *Memory* glow
With passion's fervid fire;
“Each good man's house a sanctuary,”
Awakening Memory's lyre.
Obedience Lamp shines brightly last,
And with no flickering flame
Shows how the Law of Liberty
Must rule ere men can reign.
Seven lamps in all, and each aflame
With zeal for human needs;
Pouring a needed light on all
False economic creeds.
“Reform in building” is the theme,
And men are Builders too,
Laying the stubble of the stone
In all the work they do.

I. SYNOPSIS.

(a) Theoretical. Notice the word “seven,” its use in ancient writings notably the Scriptures. Sacred symbol. Also the word Lamp. Refer to John Ruskin's book, “The Seven Lamps of Architecture,” which Liberty Group might read and discuss—the basis of this poem.

Enumerate the Seven Lamps as follows:—

The Lamp of Sacrifice, Truth, Power, Beauty, Life, Memory, Obedience.

DEFINITIONS:—*Sacrifice*. To devote with loss, to destroy or give up for something else

Power. The faculty of doing or performing anything—animal strength, energy, ability, influence, command, authority, etc.

Truth. Conformity to fact, veracity, certainty.

Beauty. Whatever in sensible objects pleases, from symmetry, harmony, proportion, color, etc. Applied also to thoughts, feelings and conduct, and likewise to the expression of them in works of art or literature; and very handsome persons; any beautiful object.

Life. A state of being animated or living, energy, spirit, exact likeness, history of life, happiness, supreme felicity, author and giver of life and happiness, quickening and animating moral principles.

Memory. The faculty by which ideas are retained in the mind, the time within which past events can be remembered.

Obedience. Compliance with a command or rule of duty. (Webster's Dictionary).

(b) Practical.

See Longfellow's Poem, which so admirably sets out the building operations to be observed by a student of God; also refer to 51 Manual. Illustrate building operations (“to build is, by common understanding, to put together and adjust the several pieces of any edifice or receptacle of a considerable size. Thus we have church building, house building, ship building, and coach building. That one edifice stands, another floats, another is suspended on iron springs makes no difference in the nature of the art of building.”)

II. APPLICATION.

Mental, moral and spiritual building makes us what we are, and what we shall be depends on present materials used in the building of ourselves. The prospective happiness of a soul depends on the kind of thoughts, words and deeds we own.

Obviously the lesson is, think purely, act fairly and honour conscience.

BLACKBOARD LESSON.

SEVEN LAMPS.

SACRIFICE.	TRUTH.
POWER.	BEAUTY.
LIFE.	MEMORY.
OBEDIENCE.	

Bluebells' Page.

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

What with the absence of the Bluebell Page from the BANNER for last month and the month before, no wonder the Bluebells wanted to know if Flora Belle was dead, and if the editor of the BANNER had forgotten all about us! I am not dead, no such dreadful thing has happened, while our editor has not forgotten all about us. But there was so much to print last month and the month before that he was unable to insert our monthly letter. However, we can have our usual chat this month, and as I have quite a long list of new members, and also one or two very nice letters, it shows we have been in the minds of some of our members even whilst we have not been appearing in print, and more especially is this shown when such enquiries reach me as above stated.

Ted is grumbling every day about the weather. Bob and he were going together to the same farmhouse where Father and Mother took us a year or two ago, but owing to the miserable wet weather Father says it would not be very beneficial to their health, and they are having to postpone their holiday until the weather is better. Ted says goodness knows when that will be. The result is, he does not know what to do with himself, therefore he plagues the dog, he teases the cat, upsets all cupboards and drawers, and makes himself a regular tease to everybody in the house. But Mother says it is just like a boy. He will be so wild when he looks in the Bluebell Page and finds I have told you some of the things he has done. He generally tries to be at the door to meet the postman when he knows the BANNER is due, so he may read what I have written, and, of course, take a brother's privilege and criticise all the while he is reading.

Oh, by the way, I must not forget to tell you we have had some *extra special* prizes offered to us by Mr. Knight, of Bury, he has written to say he has placed a sum of money in the hands of the editor for special prizes, and I think we might commence and see who can win them. I have been talking to Mother about it, and she thinks we might have papers written and sent in for next month on "Where to spend the holidays." She tells me people tire of going to the same place year after year, and yet they do not like to venture on places they know practically nothing about, therefore she thinks if some of you could describe some of the places you have visited, it might help some of the other Bluebells to decide on where to go as soon as the weather is favourable. So don't forget a special prize will be given to the Bluebell who sends in the best paper before July 20th on "Where to spend the holidays." I have had sent to me this month a nice little note from the Bloomsbury Progressive Lyceum which reads as follows:—

DEAR FLORA BELLE,

It is with much pleasure I pen these few lines to you. In doing so I wish to swell the increasing numbers of your Guild, which, I sincerely hope, will continue to prosper in its good work. The following is a list of Lyceumists who wish to be enrolled as members. I may say our Lyceum is progressing favourably, and I hope to be able to send you more names in a week or two.

I remain, yours in Friendship,
E. E. LAXTON, Conductor.

I have also a letter from the gentleman known as Uncle John Seeker, from Gateshead, who writes as follows:—

DEAR FLORA BELLE,

It is with pleasure that I again send you more names for membership to our Bluebell Guild. Trusting that the interest in your page may be increased, and that a larger sale of the LYCEUM BANNER will be the result.

Yours sincerely,
UNCLE JOHN SEEKER.

I am sure I should be delighted to receive more of such letters, and I shall certainly do my best to publish them as encouragement to others to establish more fully the objects of our Guild, which are, Gentleness, Kindness and Good Behaviour.—Your loving sister,

FLORA BELLE.

BENWELL LYCEUM, NEWCASTLE.

2135	Ralph Oliver.	2142	John Turnbull.
2136	Lily Harrison.	2143	Mabel Salkeld.
2137	Carry Duckworth.	2144	Mary Salkeld.
2138	Maggie Oliver.	2145	Thomas Hayton.
2139	Maggie Russell.	2146	Willie Reed.
2140	Charles Simpson.	2147	Bert Britten.
2141	Tissey Turnbull.		

KING STREET LYCEUM, SOUTH SHIELDS.

2148	Richard Humfress.	2168	Gertie James.
2149	Thomas Jarves.	2169	Elsia Hails.
2150	James Lawrence.	2170	Ethel Turnbull.
2151	James Turnbull.	2171	Elizabeth Robson.
2152	William Short.	2172	Olga Shotton.
2153	James Thompson.	2173	Vera Shotton.
2154	Thomas Graham.	2174	Mary Isa Gulley.
2155	Louis Shafer.	2175	Hilda Gulley.
2156	Fred Warching.	2176	Anis Dockuray.
2157	Mary Cummings.	2177	Maggie Angus.
2158	Mary Murray.	2178	Mary Coulthard.
2159	Harold Humfries.	2179	Annie Thompson.
2160	Cyril Gulley.	2180	Thersa Lawrence.
2161	John Wm. Young.	2181	Jennie Oliver.
2162	Robert Coulthard.	2182	Polly Mountain.
2163	Thomas Coulthard.	2183	Mary Mountain.
2164	Ernest Turnbull.	2184	Samina Mountain.
2165	Joseph Thompson.	2185	Ethel Pattison.
2166	Robert Thompson.	2186	Lily Pattison.
2167	James Smeetin.	2187	Hilda Pattison.

BLOOMSBURY PROGRESSIVE LYCEUM.

2188	Annie Thompson.	2193	Emily Greenfield.
2189	Poly Shergold.	2194	Alice Burrows.
2190	Dora Shergold.	2195	Eva Burrows.
2191	Ethel Franklin.	2196	Albert Burrows.
2192	Arthur Franklin.		

MARRIAGE AT DARWEN.

On Saturday, June 22nd, a pretty wedding took place at the above Lyceum, the contracting parties being Mr. James Nightingale (secretary to the Society and treasurer to the Lyceum), and Miss Charlotte Stuttard, one of our Lyceumists. The best man was Mr. A. Stuttard (brother of the bride), and the bridesmaid was Miss Lizzie Atkinson. The nuptial ceremony was performed by Mr. H. Holgate. The choir was in attendance, and sang "Courage, brother," and "How to live." The members of the Society and Lyceum extend to Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale the best wishes for their future welfare and happiness.

L. HEWITT, Assistant Secretary.

All are architects of fate,
Working in these walls of time;
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

Mrs. Ellen Green's Missionary Tour in South Africa.—V.

I have already said what a beautiful city Durban is. There is a magnificent beach and there is a grand view of the sea from it. There is also a very fine Town Hall, and close by a splendid statue of our late beloved Queen Victoria. Many of the buildings have striking exteriors; the streets are wide and well lighted by electricity, and electric trams run along the principal streets.

On Thursday, November 4th, 1905, Mrs. Lorrimer and I were invited to take tea with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knox. After tea we went to see a Kaffir war dance by torchlight, to commence soon after 8 o'clock. This was a treat kindly arranged by Mr. Knox. A good number of Kaffirs took part in the dance; they all had sticks or knob-curries. The music was all one tune. I shall never forget the look on their black faces as they tossed their arms and legs about, uttering wild, strange cries and working themselves into a frenzy of excitement. The dance lasted about half an hour.

On another night I went with Mr. Knox and an interpreter to the mosque of the Mohammedans to see their mode of worship. We each had to take off our shoes. There would be about one hundred Arabs present; it was a most impressive sight. There were two courts to worship in—an inner and an outer. They all stood with their faces to the East, while a venerable priest recited from the Koran. The mosque was brilliantly lighted with hundreds of lights, and each Arab had his own small carpet to kneel on. These carpets were all oriental in make and colour. The Arabs themselves were clad in pure white, making a picture not easily forgotten. Outside the inner temple there was a large basin of water with stone seats round it, and here the worshippers sat while they washed their feet. At one part of the service they all bowed down to the earth and then held out both hands; we asked the meaning of this and were told that they had just asked God to give them what was good for them and held out both hands to receive it. I think if *we* believed more in prayer we should receive more of the good we pray for, our lives would be happier. We remained about an hour and a half and left them still praying. They told me that the Arabs are good men, and no doubt they worship God as well as they know how, but to *us* all these repetitions of words seemed strange.

We had public services in Durban every Sunday, and twice during the week; also circles and private sittings. Our services were spiritually blessed and great numbers had their lives brightened by the glorious gospel of spiritualism and spirit return. At some of the services Mr. King sang solos in a beautiful manner; indeed the singing was at all times good. Great good was accomplished and a spirit of inquiry was abroad as a result of the services. The resident ministers took the matter up. Articles appeared in the daily papers. All this did us good and induced the people to attend the services. On the King's

birthday there was a general holiday in South Africa. The rain came down in torrents, and it does rain in South Africa.

On Friday, November 10th, one of Mr. Knox's Kaffir boys died, and Mrs. Knox made a wreath which she placed on the box containing the body. I had a talk with a Kaffir minister and found him very intelligent.

Our public services during this time were very well attended, the hall being frequently crowded, and great good was done at the public circles. I also held a few circles at the house of a minister, with good results. Many dear ones manifested their presence.

From the commencement of the mission the Durban friends had discussed as to how we should form a Lyceum in connection with the society. At the Sunday services the children were publicly invited to meet me at Mr. Lorrimer's house.

On the following Saturday, Mrs. Knox and Mr. Sink came along with several little children to take their first lesson in calisthenics and Lyceum work; dear little people—they look so pretty standing under the trees in their white dresses. I was much helped by Mrs. Mellor, formerly Miss Lawrence, a Lyceum scholar of Higher Broughton Lyceum.

My friend Mr. Harry Lorrimer took a photograph of this group forming the first Lyceum in Natal. I saw many children from the Summer-land with garlands of flowers, delighted to help us with their sweet influence. We continued to teach the children until the Lyceum was opened.

One day a great cloud came over the sky formed of a swarm of locusts. I never saw anything like it; as far as the eye could see there were millions of them, and until they passed the sky was darkened. They cause great distress amongst the Kaffirs and farmers; they eat everything that grows, thus destroying the result of much work in the mealie crops, etc. They are a great pest in S.A. and as yet no one has found a safe means of destroying them.

I went with some friends to visit the Trappist Brotherhood in Pine Town, about thirty miles distant from Durban. We were met by a Trappist brother who provided refreshments for us. We then visited the convent and were conducted by one of the Sisters through the school and grounds, which are very fine. 130 Kaffir children are taught here to make pillow lace, stockings, and all manner of garments. Many nuns are in this convent who have taken the veil and never come into contact with the outer world. The Sister who conducted us was allowed to answer our questions; she told us there was only one English lady in the convent. The Brother who escorted us to the convent returned with us to the monastery where lunch was provided. Much hard work is done in the monastery by the Brothers, boot-making, tanning leather, carpentry, painting, in fact every kind of work. In the Chapel were some fine specimens of their paintings. I heard them sing and thought it divine. Some of them have beautiful features.

On December 3rd, I had the great honour and happiness of opening the first Lyceum in Natal; it was a complete success, about 50 children being pre-

sent. The little children were named and dedicated to the Lyceum, it was indeed a beautiful sight. At 8 p.m. we had a grand public service in the Good Templar's Hall. How strange it seems—summer with blue skies, brilliant sunshine; at home it will be winter with bitter cold and probably snow. Christmas day was filled with memories of home. On the 12th of January, I left Durban for Pietermaritzburg.

(To be continued.)

What our Lyceums are doing.

All Reports should reach us not later than the 23rd of July to ensure insertion in our Aug. issue. Short, pithy reports are preferred. No event can be printed that took place before June 25th. No report must exceed 120 words. Write on one side of the paper only. Commence with the name of your town, street in which your Lyceum is located, and date of session, and sign your name at the end. Any remarks for the Editor should be made on another sheet of paper.

ASHINGTON—The anniversary services of the above Lyceum was held on June 2nd, the speakers being Mr. J. Lawrence and Miss Rust, both of Newcastle. The children sang choice hymns and recited the silver and golden chain recitations before a large audience. Four prizes were awarded by Mr. Lawrence in appreciation of the creditable manner the children acquitted themselves. The services were continued on June 9th, Mrs. Hume, of Newcastle, being the speaker, Mr. D. Robinson, of Bedlington, occupying the chair, accompanied by the children, who ably set forth the Lyceum method of training. The reciting, singing, marching, and calisthenics were well gone through, the speakers and audience being high in their praise. The whole of the services were a spiritual and a financial success.—Charles Smith, secretary.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE (Burlington Street).—On Sunday, June 2nd, we held our monthly open session. Miss Mabel Simpson recited "Hints on Health," and ten Lyceumists gave the "Spiritual Commandments," several pearls were also given. Mr. J. H. Mortin made a few remarks which were the means of drawing forth suggestions from other Lyceumists by which our sessions and other gatherings might be greatly improved. May the suggestions be acted upon in the near future is our earnest wish.—W. Dransfield, secretary.

BARNOLDSWICK (Market Street).—On Sunday, June 2nd, an open session was held, Mr. G. Bradley conducted. S.C. 78, with its splendid "Invitation to the Lyceum," was led by Mrs. Bell. This recitation is particularly suited to occasions when parents and strangers are present; it is something more than an invitation, it is an explanation. That well-worded M.R., "Scatter seeds of kindness," sounded as sweet as ever. G.C. 136, "The teachings of Spiritualism," and one or two other golden chains would make a splendid pamphlet on our philosophy. Recitations were readily given by several of the children, and a duet, "Swiftly time is bearing us away," by Mrs. R. A. Webb and Mr. G. Bradley.—Reuben A. Webb.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—We celebrated our 18th anniversary on June 2nd and 3rd. We had an open session on the Sunday, and two services at which the children rendered quite a lengthy list of songs, solos and recitations, and also again on the Monday evening. Their efforts reflect great credit on their abilities. We had with us Mr. Reuben Latham, of Burnley, late president of the Lyceum Union, whose addresses at the open session and at the following services were highly enjoyed and deeply appreciated. Short addresses and recitations were also given by Mr. D. Griffiths and Mr. John Owen. Great praise is due to Mr. Kellert as conductor.—John Kendall, secretary.

BATLEY CARR.—Our ordinary sessions continue to be highly educational. The remarks or comments on the various chain recitations by our esteemed conductor, Miss Lizzie Mortimer, are very helpful to young and old alike. On June 22nd we gave the children an outing to Woodkirk Pleasure Gardens. The gardens are nicely laid out. The pleasure of the children was catered for in various ways. A pleasant time was spent until a severe thunder storm caused all to seek shelter. Tea was served during the storm, and greatly enjoyed.—H.H.D.

BIRMINGHAM (Saltley).—We held our annual session on May 26th. The rendering of the recitations and readings was excellent. Mr. A. Shergold gave a good essay on "The improvement of our Lyceum;" this being his first attempt we heartily congratulate him on the result. On June 9th, Mr. E. E. Laxton presented Mr. and Mrs. H. Reeves with an illuminated address, with a few well-chosen remarks. Mr. Reeves suitably replied. On Saturday, June 15th, we held our annual outing, going in brakes to Warings Green. The weather, being wet, curtailed our sports, so we held them in the pavilion. We returned home at 10-30, having spent an enjoyable half-day. Our Lyceum is progressing nicely.—Miss E. Burroughs.

BLACKBURN (Northgate).—On June 2nd we held our flower service, conducted by Miss E. Newell. We had a splendid day with Mr. Howarth, of Rishton, who named three babies in the afternoon, and gave good addresses. Besides the marching and calisthenics, we had selections from the *Spiritual Songster*, which were well rendered.—R. Sharples, secretary.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—On May 26th a most successful open session was held. The attendance was large, and a general brightness and earnestness reigned through the whole of the afternoon. Mr. A. Kitson complimented us upon our session, and then spoke on "The language of flowers," finishing with a most encouraging report of the growth of the Lyceum movement. In the evening we held the Lyceum flower service. The ladies had tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. Kitson gave a very able review of some religious ideas and systems, and then contrasted them with Spiritualism. Finally, he earnestly exhorted Spiritualists to study their religion and live by it daily. The choir added greatly to the attractiveness of the day.—E.H.

BLACKPOOL.—On June 11th we had our annual outing to Ealsursk, when a good number availed themselves of the chance of a day's outing. The day turned out fine, and everybody was satisfied. Racing and various sports and games were indulged in. Prizes were awarded to all, win or lose. We arrived safely back at the church after spending eleven happy hours in the country.—A. Catlow, conductor.

BRADFORD (Dudley Hill).—We are pleased to report continued progress in our Lyceum, and that we have been able to render a little assistance (£1 16s. 8d.) to our late D.V., Mr. H. Arnold, who has been off work some time owing to an accident. I trust our Lyceum may continue to prosper and be ever ready to extend a helping hand to those in need.—Mrs. J. Ramsden, secretary.

BRADFORD (Westgate).—We held our open session on May 26, when songs, solos, and recitations made an enjoyable session. Solos and duets were sung by Mrs. Carter, Misses A. Ramsden, E. E. Stebbings, Ida Fearnley and Alice Carter, and Mr. J. Fearnley. The following recited:—Mr. H. Rowe, Miss L. Rowe. Masters A. Dennison and J. W. Garrod sung. Misses Alice Carter and Amy Ramsden gave a musical reading, and Mr. H. Rowe made a few remarks containing good advice.—J. Fearnley.

BRIGHTON (Manchester Street).—Children in neighbourhood are manifesting marked interest. Steady progress maintained. During month vocal and instrumental solos have been contributed by Bertha French, Gwennie Leach, Ivy Collins, Winnie Goodwin, Chrissie Murray, Leonard Harris and A. G. Severn. Recitations by Edith Cager, Cassie and Vida Goodwin.—Frank G. Clarke, secretary.

BURY (off Paradise Street).—Annual procession and field day on Whit Friday, May 24th, when we displayed, for the first time in procession, our Band of Hope Banner. Splendid weather prevailed until about 3 o'clock, followed by a rain storm. We adjourned from the pleasure field to the Hall, concluding with a convivial social. A good attendance of Lyceumists and Friends, preceded by "Walkden Prize Band." June 15th, Social in aid of the fare to juveniles attending Rochdale D.C. Demonstration at Bacup, on July 6th. Songs, recitations, dancing, &c., were well enjoyed. Messrs. H. Metcalfe and Joe Swarbrick as Chairman and M.C. respectively. A good attendance.—Wm. Fletcher, assistant secretary.

CLECKHEATON (Old Robbin Street).—We had a good gathering on June 16th, there being friends from Heckmondwike and Liversedge Lyceums. Miss F. Flinn sang "Over the river," Mr. M. Dawson sang "Never give up the right way," Miss M. Dawson recited "They thought they would stay at home." Mr. Ainger, of Leeds, recited several selections from the Manual and some of his own. Silver and golden chain recitations, a musical reading, with marching and calisthenics, made up a session so good that I do not remember ever having had one to equal it. I hope we shall have many more as good.—B. Walshaw, secretary.

CREWE.—The Sessions are still being well attended. During the month recitations have been given by R. Spencer, E. Reay, T. Wood, G. Robins, L. Sinclair, A. & J. Reay, G. and D. Purslow, and songs by M. Cooper and D. Purslow.—H. Walker, secretary.

GLASGOW (Bath Street).—I am pleased to say the work of the Lyceum continues to progress. Teachers and scholars alike show a hearty interest in the work. Marching and calisthenics continue to be a prominent feature of our Lyceum sessions. The liberty group has enjoyed a series of interesting lectures on "World in the making," by the leader, Mr. Burnett, which have been much appreciated, while other members contributed essays on various topics. The Rambling Club has commenced its summer session, and gives promise of continued success. A splendid syllabus has been arranged. We have been favoured by a visit from Mr. Walter Howel, whose presence and kindly words were highly appreciated.—Wm. G. McPherson, secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our open session on June 2nd. Mr. Baxter led the silver chain recitation; Mr. J. T. Eastwood led the golden chain. Misses L. Holt and Annie Thornber and David Houghton read the connective readings of the musical reading. Recitations were given by Annie Thornber and H. A. Eastwood. Solos by Mrs. Baxter, Misses Martha Houghton and Waring.—Henry Waterhouse.

HEBDEN BRIDGE.—On Saturday, June 22nd, our Band of Hope took part in the demonstration of the local Band of Hope Union. Three prizes were offered for the best effect, and although we were unsuccessful, owing to our late application, yet we were congratulated upon our efforts. Half-hoops, decorated with flowers and evergreens, were each carried by a boy and girl, and the youngest scholars walked underneath carrying baskets of flowers with a parti-coloured cord running on each side. The spectators along the route manifested great interest in the Lyceum District Council Banner (kindly loaned by our Elland friends for the occasion), and was declared to be the nicest and best in the whole procession.—Wm. Rawson, Lyceum secretary.

HYDE.—We held our usual open session on June 16th, when we had marching, calisthenics, singing, etc. There was a good audience, which listened very attentively to Mr. Burgoyne, a local preacher, who spoke on "Brotherly and sisterly love." Mr. Burgoyne seemed well pleased with our Lyceum mode of teaching, and his remarks were instructive and good.—Joseph Smith, secretary.

KEIGHLEY (Heber Street).—On Sunday, June 9th, we held a combined open session for the benefit of Mr. Arnold, late District Visitor. Songs were sung by Miss M. Pollard, Masters T. A. Pickels and Master H. Clark. A duet by Master V. Clark and Miss G. Clark, two of our youngest scholars. A recitation by Mr. H. Kay, and a pianoforte duet by Miss L. Houldsworth and Miss A. Hoyle.—J. Harris, secretary.

LEEDS (Joseph Street).—The children's trip to Scarborough was a very enjoyable one. The realisation came fully up to the anticipation. After the children had had a romp over the rocks in search of crabs, star fish, etc., they were conducted to the North Street Spiritual Rooms, where tea was served. After a hearty meal the children visited the break-water, harbour, and lighthouse. They were again served with refreshments in the Spiritual Church before starting on the return journey. Our thanks are due to Mr. Davison and all Scarborough friends for their hearty invitation and help.—Alice Hesp, secretary.

LITTLETON (Well Street).—On June 2nd we held our open session, when a good number of scholars were present. Recitations and songs were rendered by Miss Sarah E. Westcott, Miss Edith A. Poulkitt and Mr. James Burdon. Miss F. Brook conducted the marching and calisthenics.—J. Westcott, secretary.

LIVERPOOL (Mount Pleasant).—We had an interesting session on Sunday, 2nd June, on which occasion we had with us Mr. Richard Owen, the District Visitor, who complimented us on the increase in

our ranks since his last visit, the number present being 47, as against 17 on Mr. Owen's previous visit, which shows well for the efforts of the Lyceum officers. Miss Macadam sang "The flight of ages" in excellent style, which was well received; Miss Pullan recited "The road to Heaven" in a most creditable manner; W. J. Adamson recited "The purse of gold;" Mr. Langley and Miss Cretney recited "Children in spirit life." The session was successfully terminated by the singing of "God speed the right."—W. J. Adamson, assistant secretary.

LONDON (Battersea, Henley Hall).—The anniversary services were well attended by the Lyceumists. A beautiful collection of primroses was presented by Miss Hayward from a friend at Cromer, and afterwards given to the children to carry home. Special hymns and recitations by the children. The piano accompaniment by Miss Margaret Smith, and violin accompaniment by Horace Smith, both of them Lyceumists, were good. The address was given by Miss Hayward in the afternoon, and by Mrs. Ball, of Acton, in the evening. Service special for children. A very enjoyable day was spent. Tea was prepared for all who cared to stay.—E. Bolton, secretary.

LONDON (Chiswick).—Saturday, June 8th, was a red-letter day for our Lyceum children, who joined the friends of the parent society on their outing to Sudbury Hill. The weather was ideal, and the children engaged in various games and amusements during the afternoon. At five o'clock all assembled for tea at the Ballet Box tea gardens, after which the children took part in sports, and prizes were generously given by Mr. Percy Smyth. About 8-30 we all returned to the hotel, where we enjoyed songs and recitations from the children and friends. An hour later brought the day to a close, and we returned home with pleasant memories of the happy time we spent at Sudbury Hill.—B. Imison, hon. secretary.

MANCHESTER (Princess Hall, Princess Road).—On Whit-Friday we held our annual picnic, at which all spent a very enjoyable day at Lymm. The weather was very nice with the exception of a sharp storm after dinner. The catering was excellent. Great credit is due to the children for their splendid behaviour, and also to Mr. Rastall, our conductor, and Mr. Chappel, assistant conductor, for their devoted care of the children. Prizes were distributed to the children for their races. Everybody went home satisfied with their day's outing.—June 16th we had the pleasure of welcoming one of our old Lyceumists, Mr. Dabbs, and enrolling him as one of our members once more.—T. Robinson, secretary.

MOTHERWELL.—On June 2nd we held our open session. After our usual course of lessons we had a splendid address on "Natural History" by our esteemed friend Mr. McKenzie. It is really wonderful the splendid lessons that can be derived from the study of natural history. The address was clothed in simple language, so that the youngest had no difficulty in understanding the many facts brought to view. All present heartily applauded the address, and look forward with pleasure to a continuance of the same.—J. Porteous, sec.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (Northumberland Hall).—On June 9th we held our anniversary services, Mr. G. Clarke, D.V., in the chair. The service of song, "Rest at last," was well rendered, Mr. G. A. Martin being the reader. The selections were ably rendered by Misses L. Clark, C. Smith, A. Smith, E. Spark, F. Lamb, L. McCloud, M. Winter, L. Hume, N. Bentley and I. Sced, Messrs. R. Winter, A. Brown, and Master J. Bentley. A collection piece, written by Miss A. Smith, was recited by Miss Isabella Sced and Master E. Mein with marked effect; we hope to see it appear in the BANNER. Mr. G. M. Martin provided tea for the children. Our thanks are due to all for their gifts of flowers.—A. Brown, secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Hyson Green).—On Saturday, June 15th, we held our annual tea and social. During the evening recitations, songs, and zophonophone selections were well rendered. On Sunday, June 16th, we celebrated our anniversary. The services were addressed by Mr. A. Kitson. Special hymns and recitations were well rendered. We were pleased to see amongst the friends present Mr. J. J. Ashworth, D.V., Mr. Burrows, Mrs. and Miss Twelvetree, and scholars of the Parliament Street Lyceum. In the evening the hall was full. The scholars again rendered special hymns and recitations. Mrs. Spencer rendered "The Golden Age," the scholars joining in the chorus. Mr. Kitson spoke on "The Lyceum and its growth" and on "The philosophy of Spiritualism." Mr. F. Todd ably presided.—E. Gratton.

NOTTINGHAM (Mechanics' Hall).—On June 2nd the Lyceum Anniversary was held, Mrs. Greenwood, of Hebdon Bridge, being the speaker. A good recitative and musical programme was provided which was listened to by good audiences both morning and evening. This was repeated on June 16th, with a diversion in the

solos and recitations. At the evening service Mr. J. Fraser Hewes, the Society's President, spoke on Lyceum work. Solos were sung by Misses A. Rayner, I. Rayner, A. Dexter, M. Squires, and Master H. Farnath. Recitations were given by Master J. Dakin and Misses A. Brown, E. Brown, E. Farnath, M. Bullivant, H. Horne and V. Rayner. Both services were a decided success. Plumtree has been decided upon for the party to be held on July 20th.—Lewis Cooke, secretary.

OLDHAM.—The re-opening of this Lyceum is very satisfactory indeed. The harmony which prevails is all that can be desired; with such an influence we are bound to achieve success. On Sunday, June 9th, we had some very encouraging remarks given unto us by the Rev. George Cole, of Middlesbro', and our old friend Mr. Brown, of Bacup. The following officers were elected:—Conductor, Mr. Chisnell; assistant conductors, Mr. Joseph Leonard and Miss Entwistle; sec., T. Whitehead; Mrs. Ogden and Miss Dillon, leaders of the girls' groups; and Mr. Chind and Joseph Leonard leaders for boys' groups; leader of liberty group, Mr. Lester; guardians, Miss Greenwood and Miss Chapman; librarian, Albert Ogden; musical director, Mr. Herbert Buckley.—Thos. Whitehead, sec.

PENDLETON (Ford Lane).—Sunday, June 9th, was a red-letter day with us. We had Mrs. Bentley, the D.V. We had also visitors from Leaf Square, Maskell Street and Princess Hall. At 1-30 we formed in procession and marched round the district, distributing the leaflet "A Lyceum: what it is." On reaching our Hall for the afternoon session the Harpurhey, Cheetham and Higher Broughton Lyceums were well represented. We had splendid programmes for both sessions, consisting of songs, solos and recitations, ably assisted by members of the other Lyceums. In the evening we had addresses from Mr. J. Knight, of Bury, and Mrs. Bentley, our conductor, Mr. J. Jackson, ably presiding. Special hymns were sung by the children.—J. Kenyon, sec.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—We held our anniversary on June 16th. We had an open session in the afternoon, the attendance was good, and the marching, calisthenics, pearls, etc., were well rendered. Recitations were given by Miss J. A. Share, E. Brabury, D. Dixon, Mr. Farrow, and Mr. G. Robinson, from Regent Hall Lyceum. In the evening Mr. Cumberbirch, of Regent Hall, led the golden chain, and made a few remarks thereon. Mr. J. Dixon, one of our Lyceumists, was the speaker, and spoke on the value of correctly training the children's minds so as to be able to face the outside world. Mr. Wm. Brown presided over the service.—Wm. Brown, secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Hall).—Owing to the special efforts we put forth in connection with our recent Anniversary Lyceum Services, our open Lyceum Session on the 2nd June passed off without any particular programme being submitted. Miss Lizzie Bolton recited "A Boy's best friend," in her usual pleasing and effective manner. On the 16th we received a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Peters of Liverpool (Daulby Hall). The latter addressed the Lyceum and gave us every encouragement. On the 30th June we are looking forward to a planned visit from that active and vigorous worker on behalf of the children, Mr. Will Edwards, D.V.—Miss Elsie Guest, Sec.

SOUTHPORT (Queen's Hall).—Our Lyceum held its open Session on June 2nd. We had a splendid meeting, a good number of visitors and members were present. The marching was dispensed with, as the programme was very long. The following took part:—Recitations by Leo. Smart, Miss Kenway, Mrs. Randall, Baby Randall, Reggie Randall and Alice Smart; Songs, Eva Grimshaw, Willie Jones, Minnie Hunt, Mr. Jones; Harp Solo, Mr. Lyddington; Duet, Miss Maberly and Miss Henway.

SOUTH SHIELDS (King Street).—On May 26th, Mr. Seeker, Miss Seeker and Mrs. Elsdon visited our session and were well pleased with the progress made since last visit. A good many of the children gave recitations and responded well to the gold and silver chain recitations. On June 2nd we enrolled new members, and if our progress continues we will need a more spacious hall. On the 16th Mr. Seeker gave us another visit and brought with him membership cards for the Bluebell's Guild, which were presented to the children by Mr. Lawrence, our conductor. Marching and calisthenics were all that could be desired. Recitations were rendered by Elizabeth Robson, Anis Dockwray, John Wm. Young, Robt. Coulthard, Lily Pattinson and Hilda Galley. Some very encouraging remarks to the children were given by Mr. Seeker, which brought a very successful session to a close.—Thomas James, Sec.

SOUTH SHIELDS (Robinson Street).—We held our open session on June 2nd, when there was a big increase of scholars. Recitations were given by Misses F. Thompson, V. Oldroyd, Emma Longstaffe, and Master H. Hume. On the 16th we had another nice day, all the children practically taking part. Miss Thompson sang a beautiful solo. A deeper interest is being manifested in the marching and calisthenics. We are arranging for a tea and field day for our Lyceum, everything points to it being a success.—Thos. Longstaffe, conductor.

STALYBRIDGE (Bennett Street).—On Whit-Friday, May 24th, we had a waggonette trip to Styal. Over 40 enjoyed the drive into the country. Through the kindness of friends, and collections made in the Lyceum, we were able to take 20 of the little ones free of charge. We set out on our drive at 9 a.m., and reached Styal at 12. The weather was grand, and we spent an enjoyable time amongst the fields and woodlands. We commenced our return journey at 6-30, the children singing their Lyceum hymns by the way. We had only one regret—the absence of our conductor, Mr. Croasdale, on account of business.—T. Knowles, Secretary.

TODMORDEN.—On Sunday, June 2nd, we held our usual monthly open session, when the following items were rendered:—Song by Mr. C. Golding; quartet by Mr. W. Clark, Masters F. Johnson, W. Sutcliffe, and W. Crossley; quartet by Misses Emmett, Crossley, Sutcliffe, and Wadlove; recitation, "Make a Start," by Mr. W. J. Braund; glee by seven scholars; recitation, "A Parting Friend," by Mr. Stell. A vote of good wishes for success was passed to Mr. C. Golding, who is leaving and taking up his residence at Bury. At the open session there was the naming of two babies—Mr. W. J. Braund's, a son, and Mr. C. Golding's, a son. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Golding, of Bury.—George Crossley, Sec.; A. Emmett, Assist. Sec.

WEST PELTON.—On Sunday we held our anniversary, when Mrs. Reed, of Newcastle, was the speaker. The children rendered a good selection of pieces before a good audience. The choir gave selections of hymns, solos, and duets. The children also gave some recitations at the evening service. On Saturday the children's treat was held in a field kindly loaned for the occasion by Mr. Turnbull, of Grange Villa. A splendid tea was given by the members and friends, and a pleasant afternoon was spent. Various prizes were given to the children. To show our appreciation of Mrs. Grievson's kindness, the children sang the Lyceum hymns at her door.—A. Connell, Sec.

WINDHILL.—I am pleased to say that since Whitsuntide there has been a great increase of scholars. We held our second annual Bluebell Day. The hall was tastefully decorated with Bluebells, and we had good audiences both afternoon and evening. Recitations were given by N. Copley and E. Myers; readings by N. Copley, M. Butterfield, E. Hearthill, A. Netherwood and A. Rosebrook; solos were sung by Miss A. E. Copley, I. Slater and Emma Beanland. The affair was highly enjoyed.—H. Alderson, Secretary.

YEADON (Abbey Lane).—We held our open session on June 2nd. The marching and calisthenics were fairly well gone through. Recitations were nicely given by Masters F. Brown, H. Myers, Lawrence Slater, H. Marshall; Misses Clarice Myers, Nellie Myers, Lily Lumb, F. Hargreaves, and a reading by Amy Myers. Solos were given by Misses M. A. Myers, Clarice Myers, Evelyn Marshall Mr. Joe Long and Alderman Hardaker. A dialogue "Presence of Angels," was given by Fred Brown and Sarah E. Myers and Mr. Smith of Rawdon, which completed a most enjoyable session.—Miss A. Lumb, Sec.

YORK (St. Saviourgate).—Moderate audiences attended our sessions on June 9th., in the afternoon and evening, when, on each occasion, a varied programme of solos and recitations were rendered. The officers took the silver and golden chain recitations and made suitable comments on the same. The following Lyceumists gave solos and recitations:—Bertha Rutherford, Gladys Middleton, Mabel Parker, Mrs. Robson, Daisy Stead, Edwin Apedaile, Frank Apedaile, Harry Apedaile, Edward Hawley, and Ronald Rush. Vocal items by Mrs. Parker, Miss Spencer, Laura Rush, Sarah Apedaile, Ruth Wells, Bertha Middleton, Gladys Middleton, Beatrice Webley, Gertie Wright. The musical part of the programme was under the conductorship of Miss Longley, and reflected great credit upon her. Altogether we had a most harmonious time.—Chas. Hall, secretary.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

INSTITUTED AT OLDHAM, MAY, 1890.

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

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

- Accrington**, Argyle st., 10-30 a.m., J. T. Hibbert, 181 Burnley road
" China-st., at 10 a.m., Mr. J. F. Shuttleworth, 1 Lion-st., Church
" Carter-st., 10-30, G. R. Sutcliffe, 60, Pendle street
- Altrincham**, Station rd., 2-30 p.m., Mr. J. Bardsley, 1, Daisy Bank, Bloomsbury Lane, Timperley
- Armley**, Theaker lane, 10 a.m., Mr. S. Lee, 12, Paisley-st, Armley, Leeds
- Ashington Colliery**, 2 p.m., Mr. C. Smith, 25 Roslynd terrace, Hirst, via Morpeth
- Ashton-under-Lyne**, Burlington street, 10-30, Mr. W. Dransfield, 13, Russell-st, Hurst
- Bacup**, Market street, 10 a.m. and 1-45 p.m., Mr. B. J. Riding, 151a, Rochdale road
- Barnoldswick**, Green street, 10-30 and 1-30, Miss N. Pickering, 4 Stuart-st.
- Barnoldswick**, Market-st, 10 & 1-30, Richard Ashley, 10, Powell-st.
- Barnsley**, George Yard, 10-30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Mr. C. H. Scholey, 26 Blenheim road
- Barrow-in-Furness**, Lyceum Hall, Mr. J. Kendall, 25, Osborne st.
- Barrow-in-Furness**, Berry's Buildings, 10 and 2, Miss Ada Lawton, 16, Dalkeith-st.
- Barry Dock**, Newland-street, 2-30, Mr. E. Brittan, 117, Woodland-rd.
- Batley Carr**, Carr st, 10 and 2, Miss Ethel Myers, 15 Cross Mount-st, Warwick-rd, Batley
- Belper**, Jubilee hall, 10 and 2, Mr. J. Hawkins, Brook side.
- Birkenhead**, 161 Grange road, 11 a.m., Mr. John Parry, 42 Frodsham street, Tranmere
- Birmingham**, Sattley, Spiritualists Society 2-45 p.m., Miss J. Reeves, 3 Marlborough-place, Mount-st, Nechells
" B.S.U., 11 a.m., County Chambers, Martineau Street. Miss F. Davis, 77 Murdock road, Handsworth
" Smethwick, Central hall, cape hill 2-45, p.m., Mr. Fred Purcell, 97, Cheshire-road
- Blackburn**, St. Peter st, 9-30 and 1-45, Mr. E. Holding, 46 Sandon street
" Northgate, 9-30 1-45 Mr. R. Sharples, 7, Mary Ann st.
- Blackpool**, Albert rd, 9-30, Mr. Wm. Critchlow, 69 Albert road
- Bolton**, Bradford st., 10 a.m. Mr. R. Rastron, 32 Philip street
- Bradford**, Ivy Rooms, 10-30 a.m., Mr. J. Wright, 10 Agar terrace, Gillington
" Otley rd., 10-30 a.m., Mr. F. Holmes, 68 Dover street.
Westgate new hall, 10 a.m., Mr. Henry Barnes, 985, Grangefield-avenue, Leeds Old road
" Dudley Hill, Shirley-road, 10 and 1-45, Mrs. J. Ramsden, 17, Loris-st.
- Brighouse**, Martin st, 10 a.m., Mr. George Crowther, 10, Piggott-st.
- Brighton**, Manchester-st., 2-45, Mr. F. G. Clarke, 9, St. Margaret s-place
- Burnley**, Hammerton st, 10 a.m., Mr. Lawrence Tattersall, 24 Hornby-st
- Burnley**, Fulledge, Richard st, 10 a.m., Miss J. Cooper, 18, Sussex-st.
- Burnley**, North st, 9-30, Mr. Herbert E. Laycock, 16, Renshaw street.
- Burton-on-Trent**, Hurninglow Wharf, 10 & 2-45, Mr. George Forrester, 54 Gordon street
- Bury**, Paradise st., 10 a.m. and 1-45. Mr. F. Hepworth, 2a Cateaton-st.,
- Cardiff**, 58, Queen-st., 2-45 p.m., Mr. F. Silby, Clive street, Canton
- Castleford**, Britten hall, 10 a.m., Mr. A. Attack, 100, Hugh street, Beacroft road
- Chesterfield**, Old Falcon Assembly Rooms, 10-30, Mr. J. Martin, 16, Valley-road, Spittal
- Clayton-le-Moors**, 10 a.m., Mr. James Simpson, 80, Pickup-st., near Accrington
- Cleckheaton**, Old Robin-st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. B. Walshaw, Listing Lane Cottages, Gomersal, near Leeds
- Colne**, Cloth hall, 9-30, E. Hargreaves, 28, Patten street
- Crewe**, Mill-st., 10-30. Hy. Walker, 26, Stamford avenue
- Crompton**, near Oldham, Rochdale-rd., 10 a.m., and 2-15, Mr. J. Dransfield, 23 Horton terrace, Shaw, near Oldham
- Darwen**, Church bank-st, 9-30, & 1-45, Mr. J. Clarkson, 116 Elizabeth-terrace, Red Earth-rd.
- Dearnley** near Rochdale, 10 Mr. Thos. Pinchbeck, 555 Halifax road, near Rochdale
- Derby**, Traffic st., 10-30 Mr. E. W. Stanton 80 Yates st.
- Dewsbury**, Bond st. 10 and 1-45, Miss C. Falla, 96, Upper-rd., Batley Carr, Batley
- Doncaster**, 11, Wood-st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. A. Bates, 12, Belmont Avenue, Balley
" Netherhall Road, 10-30. Mr. A. R. Harrison, Carr view, Green Dyke lane
- Dukinfield**, Railway st., 10-30, Geo. Ellis, 26 Portland place, Portland st., Ashton-u-Lyne
- Dundee**, Camperdown Hall, Barrack st., 12-30, Mr. J. Inglis, jr., 22 Dundonald st., Clepington
- Dundee**, Foresters' Hall, 12-20, Mr. George Duff, c/o Mr. Thallon, 44 Calderum street
- Edinburgh**, Queen-st., 2-30, Mr. J. Lewington, 22, West Saville Terrace
- Elland**, James st., 10, Miss M. A. Marsden, 82 Longdale-street
- Falkirk, N.B.**, Co-op. Hall, 1 p.m. Mr. C. H. Wann, 7, Glebe st.
- Gateshead**, Coatsworth rd., Beaconsfield Hall, 2-30 p.m., Mr. Wm. Hall, 34, Balfour-st, Bensham
- Glossop**, Edward-st., 10-30 a.m., Miss C. Hollingworth, 17, Charlestown-rd, Cheshire.
- Glasgow**, Assembly Rooms, 136, Bath st., 4 p.m., Mr. W. G. McPherson, 10, George Drive, Govan
- Great Harwood**, Westwell-st, 10 a.m., Mr. Hy. Waterhouse, 55 Church street
- Greenock**, Cathcart-st., Shepherds Hal, 4-30 p.m., Mr. Alex. Peacock, 71, Ann street
- Grimsby**, Miss Daisy Scott, 94, Stan ey-st., New Clew
- Hadfield**, Albert-st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. John Williams, 59a, Osborne Place
- Halifax**, St. Paul's, Alma st, 10 and 1-45, Mr. Fred Townsend, 4 Green terrace sq., Savile Park
" Raven-st., 10 and 1-30, Mr. J. Whiteley, 6, Cromwell-st
- Hebden Bridge**, Victoria Hall, 10-30 a.m. and 1-45 p.m. Mr. W. Rawson, Post Office, Mytholmroyd, S.O., Yorks.
- Heekmondwike**, Tower-st., 10-30 and 2, Mr. W. R. Lunn, 3, Commercial-st.
- Heywood**, William st., 10 a.m., Mr. Harry Diggles, 103, Miller-st.
- Higher Broughton, Salford**, Hilton st, 10-30 and 2, Mrs. Craig, 16, Harrietta st. Higher Broughton.
- Hindley**, Bridge-st., 10 a.m., Mr. J. H. Hutchins, 5, Hill st.
- Hollinwood**, Byrom-st., 10-30, Mr. Fred Snape, 91, Chapel-rd., nr. Oldham.
- Hollinwood**, Bower Lane, 10-30, Mr. F. Clark 177 Chapel road, near Oldham
- Horwich, nr. Bolton**, Beatrice st, 10-30, Mr. D. Emsall, 4 Abraham st.
- Huddersfield**, Ramsden st., 10, Mr. A. Jagger, 8, School-st., Mold Green
" St. Peter st., 10-15, Mr. Wallis, 43, Clara st., Far-town
- Hull**, Lime-st 10 a.m. Miss Ethel Wright, 122, Severn-st.
- Hyde** Clarendon-st, 10 a.m., Mr. Joseph Smith, 11 Melbourne street, Denton, Manchester
- Idle**, Back Lane, 10-30 & 2-9, Mrs. M. J. Whitworth, 151, Bolton Hall rd, Bolton Woods, nr. Bradford.
- Johannesburg**, Mr. Joseph Horne, P.O. Box 6200, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Keighley**, Heber st., 10 and 1-30, Mr. J. Harris, 2 Moss street, Keighley
- Lancaster**, Athenæum st. St Leonards gate 10-30 Mr. A. H. Dawes, 31 Sterling rd., Moorlands.
- Leeds**, Bethel st, 10 a.m., Mr. A. Robinson, 10, Coupland place, Lady Pit-st., Beeston Hill
" Psychological hall, Grove house lane, 10-30, Mrs E. Beman, 75 Tonbridge street
" Joseph-st, 10-30 and 1-45, Miss Alice Hesp, 33, Sunbeam-st., Beeston Hill, Leeds.
" Hunslet, Church-st, 10-30. Miss Warburton, 3, Brandling-st., Hunslet.
- Leicester**, Queen st., 10-30 Mr. James Bishop 10, Mere rd
" Albion-st, 10 and 2-45 p.m. Mr. J. Hurst, 36 Jermynt street, Belgrave
- Lincoln**, Frances Court, High-st., Mr. Sidney A Miles, 50, Belmont-st.
- Littletown**, Well-st., 10 and 2, Mr. J. Westcott, Benjamin street, Union road, near Liversedge
- Liverpool**, Mount Pleasant, 2-45, Mrs. Madge Parker, 2 Spofforth road, Edge Hill
" Daulby hall Daulby st., 10-30 a.m., Mr. E. R. Evans, 42 Walton Breck road
- London**, Battersea park, Mrs Bolton, 35 Beauchamp-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.
- London**, Clapham, Gauden-rd., 11-30, Mr. H. Boddington, c/o Assembly Rooms, Gauden-rd., Clapham.
- London**, Manor Park, Wakefield-street, East Ham, 3-15 p.m., Mr. T. Glennie, 48 Ruskin-avenue, Manor Park, Essex
- London**, W. Chiswick, 2-45, Mr. B. Imison, 165 St. Albans Avenue, Bedford Park, W.
- London**, Tottenham, 193, High-rd, 3 p.m., Miss Phyllis Cole, 31 Pembroke rd., South Tottenham, N.
- Longton**, Stone-road, 10 and 2, Mr. H. McCartney, 12, Littleshall-st., Florence.
- Macclesfield**, Cumberland street, 10 a.m., Mr. Herbert E. Mutton, 99 Kyle street
- Manchester**, Cheetham, Halliwell lane, 10-30, Mr. Albert L. Williams, 28, Bellott st., Cheetham
- Manchester**, Collyhurst, 10, Mr. Arthur P. Anyon, 88, Thornton-st., Collyhurst
- Manchester**, Junction St. Hulme, 10-30 and 2-30, Mr. Geo. Vernon, 73, Mytton st Hulme
- Manchester**, Harpurhey, 10 a.m., Mr. T. Edmondson, 13, Wellington rd., Crumpsall.
- Manchester**, Higher Openshaw, Beaulah st, 2-30 p.m., Mr. Wm. T. Weitzel, 90, Church lane, Gorton
- Manchester**, Longsight, Chell-st., 2-30, Mr. S. R. Bolton, 43, Forbes st, Hyde rd., West Gorton.
- Manchester**, Maskell-st., C. on M. 10-30 Miss L. Simms, 96, Cranworth-st. C. on M.
- Manchester** South, Princess Hall, Princess rd, 2-30 p.m., Miss T. Robinscn, 11 Wellington avenue, Whalley Range.
- Manchester**, West Gorton, William-st, 2-30 Mr. Noel Pearson, 7 Bunyon st., Ardwick
- Middleton**, nr. Manchester, Gilmour st. 10-15 J. K. Dooley, 371, Oldham-rd.
- Middlesbro'**, Grange rd., 10 a.m., Mr. W. Cowell-Pugh, 61, St. Paul s-rd.
- Millom**, Main-st., 10 and 2, Mr. Wm. Tyson, 5 Kathrine street
- Morley**, Fountain-st., 10 a.m., Mr. Herbert A. Hill, 2, Tomlinson Buildings, High Street.
- Motherwell**, Park-st., Socialist Institute, 3 p.m. Mr. Jas. Porteous, c/o Mrs. Cutler, 4 Flemington street, Flemington
- Nelson**, Every st., 10 a.m. Mr. Jehu D. Butterworth, 53, George st.
- Newcastle** Northumberland hall, High Friar-st. 2-30, Mr. Albert Brown, 91 Amelia st., Elswick
- Newcastle**, Benwell Co-op. Hall, 2-30, Mr. Frank E. Brittain, 3 Victoria street, Newcastle
- Newcastle**, Benwell, Atkinson rd, 2-30, Mr. J. W. Londrom, 114, Ethel st., Benwell
- Newcastle**, Heaton Spiritual Institute, Mr. A. N. Gay, 112 Tynemouth road, Heaton, near Newcastle
- New Hirst**, Ashington, Miners Hall, 2 p.m., Mr. Ronald Johnstone, 11, Clyde-st., Hirst.
- Nottingham**, Gladstone hall 2-30, Miss E. H. Yates, 51 Brook Oak street
- Nottingham**, Hyson Green, Hawarden-ter., 10-30, and 2 to 3, Mrs. E. Gratten, 11, Lake street, Hyson Green.
- Nottingham**, Mechanics' hall, 2-30 Mr. Lewis Cooke, 195 Wollaton-st
- Nottingham**, Parliament Street, 10-30, Mr. Joseph E. Lister, 1 Lake street, Hyson Green
- Oldham**, Coronation st., 10 a.m., Mr. T. Whitehead, 158, Roundthorn road
- Oldham**, Elliott st, Lower Moor, Mr. John Frost, 203, Rochdale road
- Padiham**, Ightenhill-st., 10 a.m. J. W. Hoole, 83, Lowerhouse lane
- Parkgate**, Ashwood-rd., 10 a.m., Mrs. Frances Hague, 48, France-st., near Rotherham
- Pendleton**, Broad-st., Leaf-square, 10-30, Miss Nellie Dean, 15 Sedan st., Clarendon rd., Salford
- Pendleton**, Junction: Ford Lane and Broad-st. 10-30 and 1-45, Mr. J. Kenyon, 279 Broad street, Pendleton
- Preston**, Walker-st., 10 a.m., and 2 p.m. Mr. C. Fisher, 27, Ashton-st.
- Rawtenstall** Back ormerod st., 10-15 to 11-45, Mr. Geo. Henry Foster, 17 Haslam c/o Mrs. Rhodes, 9 Walmley street, near Blackburn
- Rochdale** Regent hall, Regent st., 9-45 & 2 p.m., Mr. J. J. Farrow, 67 Grouse street
- Rochdale**, Penn st, 10 a.m. Mr. Wm. Brown, 7 Grafton st
- Rotherham**, Howard-st., Mr. John Hy. Barker, 21 Bridgegate
- Rothwell nr. Leeds**, Commercial-st., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Mr. Ernest Heaton, Cross-st.
- Royston**, Union st., 10 a.m., Mr. J. N. Cockcroft, 2, Highlands-rd., nr. Oldham.
- Salford**, Chapel st., 10-30, Mr. Harold O'Neill, 11 Sligo street, Pendleton.
- Scarborough**, North st., 10-30, Mr. V. Davison, 5, St. John-st
- Seacombe & Egremont**, Brighton street, 2-30, Mr. H. Williams, 20 Edith road
- Sheffield**, Central Paradise square, 9-45, S., Beedham, 17, Wath road.
- Sheffield** Attercliffe, 10 a.m. Mr. W. H. Nuttall 46 Coleridge-rd., Attercliffe
- Sheffield**, Darnall, Stanforth road, 9-45 and 2, Miss Alice Mason, 240 Alfred road
- Sheffield**, Heeley, 379, Bramhall lane, 10 a.m. Mr. A. Horton, 11 Broomhall street