

The LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

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ONE PENNY

"SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND."

BY CHARLES TABERNER.

CHAPTER II.

He stood for some time undecided, after giving expression to the thoughts which had so long occupied his mind. The death of his mother, and the conversation between his father and Mr. Walmsley, had made so deep an impression upon him, that he decided, if possible, to solve the difficult problem for himself, and though his mother had been dead for more than three years, it was only lately that he had made up his mind to investigate the subject, and if possible find proof of a future life, or be satisfied that there was nothing after death. Thus it is that we find him occupied with the details of that sorrowful time which had given birth to the determination, which was now brought more forcibly before him.

"I am perplexed as to how I am to begin my investigations, or where to look with any hope of gaining the slightest evidence upon which I may build a secure foundation," he said to himself. "Ever since my mother's death, I have felt at times as though she was forcing me on to some given end. But how, or why, these thoughts come I cannot understand, unless they are the outcome of my thinking so much of her, for I cannot admit for one moment that her presence is here, or make myself believe that she has gone beyond the grave. But the thought of her presence is ever with me, and I find myself in my sleep giving utterance to strange words, which cause one to waken up with a start, and a feeling upon me that I am not alone, and when I am tempted to argue from the old position, that all is the outcome of chance, there comes to me a thought, or impression which seems to say to me, "SEARCH AND THOU SHALT FIND!" But this is easier said than done. Yet I feel it imperative that I must do something to relieve the tension such thoughts are producing upon me."

Having expressed himself as above, he started again upon his walk, and had proceeded only a short distance, when he saw before him, coming in his direction, a man, past middle age, with a bright open countenance, and a swinging gait in his walk, which struck Walter as belonging to one who felt himself free from care and worries of any description, and on closer approach he was more struck with the general bearing of the man, and a feeling stole into his nature that he would like a talk with him. Here was another instance of those unaccountable thoughts, and after-events will show that it was to the interest of Walter to know this man, and time will show how his meeting with this stranger was in a measure responsible for the revolution which was to take place, which would change the whole aspect of his

future and lead him on to recognise, not only the existence of a future, but the important part that future was playing in the evolution of the present. They passed each other with a simple nod, but almost immediately, both their attentions was directed towards the river some distance away, when to their horror they saw a woman standing upon its banks, she gave one shriek, and then plunged out of sight into its deep water. Both men rushed to the scene of the tragedy, but Walter being younger, soon outdistanced his companion, and seeing the woman struggling in water, he did not hesitate, but immediately plunged in to her rescue, and when the other reached the bank, Walter had the woman safely in tow, but owing to the heavy rush of the stream, he was experiencing great difficulty, when the older man threw off his coat, and plunged in to his assistance, and by their united efforts, they had little difficulty in bringing the woman safely to land.

"Why did you throw yourself into the river?" asked the elder of the two men when they had seen to her, and were satisfied that she was little worse for her immersion. This caused the woman to burst into tears, then she turned upon them saying "Why did you save me? My life is a perfect hell of misery, and I cannot longer face it. Why did you not let me die out of my misery? God help me."

"My good woman," replied the stranger sadly, I know not who, or what you are, or what led you to your attempting to take your life, but I do thank God that we have been able to save you from an awful weight of remorse, when the full responsibility of your act dawned upon you in that world to which you have sought a coward's passage. But this is not the time for explanations. We are all drenched, and must seek immediately some place where we may get a change of garments. Do you know of any place sir, he asked turning to Walter? I am a stranger here."

"If you care to go to my place," replied Walter? "My landlady will no doubt assist this poor woman, and I think I shall be able to find us both a change of clothing. It is only about half-a-mile distant."

Thank you. Will you please lead the way. Then they started towards the farm where Walter was staying, and a strange picture they would have made, with their saturated clothing dripping as they went, and truly could they be termed a miserable dejected trio. The woman seemed ill pleased at being rescued, and retained a stolid silence until they arrived at the farm, when she refused to enter. But she was helpless in their hands, and seeing no chance of escaping from them, she reluctantly entered the farm, and after a whispered conversation between Walter and his landlady, the woman was left in her charge, while the two men went to Walter's room to change their wet clothing.

To be continued.

After Many Days:

OR

James Henderson's Conversion to Spiritualism.

By ALFRED KITSON.

CHAPTER XV.

WHEN Mr. Henderson tendered his resignation as a teacher and member of the Wesleyan body, it caused great excitement and discussion. Had a bomb been suddenly dropped and exploded in their midst it could not have caused more sensation. What was the world coming to, a number of them asked, when such a promising member could send in his resignation, and assign as his reason for so doing that he could no longer subscribe to their tenets, and that they were no longer binding on his conscience? A few scornfully remarked that Mr. Henderson had been fascinated by the charms of Miss White, and obsessed with some lying spirit, and another ventured to add that it would have been a blessing if she had died instead of her father, as it would have saved Mr. Henderson from being deluded and induced to leave the Church, and imperil his soul. Thus the uncharitable outpouring of opinions went on, until his friends, those few bosom companions he had had, could stand it no longer, and said, with a firm voice: "You may depend upon it, friends, that Mr. Henderson's reason for taking the course he has done, which had caused a few of us much pain and grief, for we cannot but regret the loss we thus sustain to our ranks, are valid ones in his opinion, an opinion that has been arrived at against his inclinations, for we know his one hope, his one prayer, was to disprove the facts and teachings of Spiritualism, and to that end he sought and obtained the scholarly assistance of our late lamented minister."

These remarks were approved by nearly all, seeing which the speaker continued: "I beg leave to move that the resignation be accepted, and that our secretary write him expressing the deep regret that is felt in general at the step he has taken, and ask him to reconsider the matter, and that we shall be pleased to welcome him back to our fellowship." This was eventually agreed to, thanks to the calm judgment of those who knew Mr. Henderson best.

The new minister who had come to fill the late Rev. J. M. Dale's place was possessed of more liberal views, and had a more tolerant spirit than his predecessor, which saved the society much friction and uncharitableness.

When Mr. T. C. Ward, the head of the firm at which Mr. Henderson was employed as clerk, heard of the resignation, he was greatly surprised, and sought an explanation at once, for which purpose Mr. Henderson was summoned into the inner private office. He had noticed that his employer had worn a troubled look ever since the death of Mr. White, as if he were in some way connected therewith, and felt in part guilty of being the cause. He had often wondered if their late minister had anything to do with it, knowing what he did of that individual's repentance and efforts to undo the evil he had done. His employer commenced at once with the remark, "I understand, James, that you have lately tendered your resignation of membership at our place of worship. Is it true?"

"Yes, sir, it is," he answered, firmly.

"And pray what is the cause of you taking such a step has any one offended you in any way?"

"No, sir, I cannot say that, for I have always been treated with respect."

"Then what is your reason?"

"Well, sir, the reason is that I am unable any longer to subscribe to its tenets, and I decline to appear something I am not."

"You surprise me. Your words are an enigma to me, Pray be more explicit," he said, testily.

"To make the matter plain, sir, I have been investigating Spiritualism in the hope of being able to expose it. To that end, I sought the assistance of our late minister, Mr. Dale."

"Yes, so I understand, but what of it? Surely you have not become connected with that craze, have you?"

"Such is the case, sir."

"And do you mean to tell me, James, that you are convinced it is true? I thought you were better read in your Bible than that, and had the assistance of our beloved and venerable minister, too," he added, in evident surprise.

"To your first question I must answer, yes. To your second, I found that all my study and knowledge of the Bible, assisted as I was, availed nothing when brought into contact with the learning and research of the advocates of Spiritualism. I had several interviews with one of them, during which we discussed the question from a Biblical standpoint; I was defeated in each instance, and when I submitted my notes to our minister he was surprised and amazed at the amount of learning and research they displayed."

"That is news, indeed. Our minister amazed and surprised," he soliloquised, "and he was reckoned one of our ablest and best read men in the circuit." Then, turning to Mr. Henderson, he asked, "Have you those notes with you, James?"

"Yes, sir, I believe I have," he answered, and proceeded to extract his note book from the inner breast pocket of his coat.

"Will you allow me to look at them?" Mr. Ward further asked, extending his hand, whereupon Mr. Henderson offered the book to him, indicating the page.

After examining critically for some time, he exclaimed, "Umph! I did not give them credit for any such ability and talent as is shown here. Why, they give quite a new rendering to those Biblical objections."

"Yes, sir, that is so, and Mr. Dale was unable to correct them, so that the objections fall to the ground, as I found to my discomfiture."

"And what proofs have you had of the genuineness of the manifestations?" he next inquired.

"I have evidences of spirit identity innumerable," Mr. Henderson answered.

"I suppose you will have had the spirit of your pastor up?" Mr. Ward remarked sarcastically.

"Yes, sir, I have," he answered, in no way abashed by his master's tone of voice and the ridicule it implied.

"Ho! and pray what did he tell you?" he asked, in the same tone.

"I would rather not answer that question, sir, if it is all the same to you."

"I insist, and if you refuse me you will incur my displeasure," said Mr. Ward, sternly.

"I am afraid, sir, that I shall only offend you if I accede to your request," he pleaded.

"Then dismiss such fears from your mind, and tell me without any reserve, I command."

"Well, sir, if I must tell you, he was much troubled over some injury he had done, or been the cause of having had done to Mr. White, for which he pleaded to be forgiven."

"Indeed, and what kind of injury?" Mr. Ward asked, a little nervously.

"The injury he referred to was a plot he had concocted to effect Mr. White's dismissal from work, and ruin his reputation as a skilful and competent foreman." he answered, eyeing his employer's features as he did so, and not failing to notice the change of colour and the nervous twitchings of the hands.

"What more?"

"Mr. White said he blamed his late employer and not the minister. But Mr. Dale persisted in taking the blame on himself, by saying that you only gave your assent after his repeated solicitations and representations that the interests of the church demanded it."

"And did you believe all this?" Mr. Ward asked.

"I was neither able to prove or disprove the statement," he answered evasively; "it is best known to yourself, sir."

"Did Mr. White pardon him then?"

"Yes, sir, but it was only after a severe struggle, because he felt it very hard to be crushed into his own grave, and the guilty one to seek pardon for such a deed without being able to make any restitution, or even have the confession made public, and so clear his name."

"What do you mean, James, by saying he was crushed into his grave?"

"He never looked up sir, after the treatment he received, and Mr. Sharpe's denying his indebtedness to him. It was the general opinion that it so preyed on his mind that it was the cause of his death. In other words, sir, it broke his heart."

These words fell with terrible weight upon Mr. Ward's ears, and they made him wince, though he strove to maintain a calm, self-contained demeanour.

(To be continued).

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The executive council of the above Union paid a highly successful visit to Todmorden on Saturday and Sunday, January 11th and 12th, 1908, for the purpose of transacting the important business of the Union on the Saturday, and addressing propaganda meetings, on behalf of the Lyceum cause on the Sunday. All the members were present with the exception of Mr. Latham, vice-president.

After a splendid tea, well served by the ladies, the meeting was called to order, and the President (Mr. Keeling) cordially welcomed Mrs. M. Law, as a member of the board as successor to Mr. F. B. Smedley, and felt sure her services, seeing she was a past president, would be valuable.

The Secretary in his general report, stated that Mrs. Isabella Watson, Hull, late of the Darwen Lyceum, had kindly consented to act as D.V. for the Hull and Grimsby district. He was sorry to report his inability to secure District Visitors for the Birmingham and Sheffield districts. He had also to report the resignation of Mrs. M. H. Naylor, the Teeside D.V. on account of ill health.

Applications for certificates of membership from Carlisle, Daisy Hill, and Preston (Central), were fully considered and endorsed.

Correspondence from the Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd.; Lancaster; and Mr. F. B. Smedley, who sent greetings to his late colleagues (posted at Hobart, Tasmania) were all fully considered.

A vote of sympathy with Mr. Kersey, at the continued sickness of his dear wife, and the transition of his dear sister, who had rendered signal service to the Lyceum cause in so ably editing the *Spiritual Songster*, was passed, several members of the board speaking to the motion, which was suitably acknowledged by Mr. Kersey.

It was decided to grant credentials to Mrs. Ellen Green, who was about to pay a professional visit to Australia and New Zealand.

The Secretary reported the following sales as having been effected during the past year:—*Lyceum Manuals*—boards, 1,152 copies; limp cloth, 378 copies; full cloth, 541 copies; half-bound, 285 copies; and full roan, 429 copies; total, 2,785; being an increase on 1906 sales of 375 copies. *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*—full cloth, 150 copies; blue and gilt, 54 copies. Books of *Physical Exercises and Marching*, 111 copies. *The Spiritual Songster*, 421 copies. *Lyceum Registers*, 173. Books of *Four-fold Pledges*, 7. *Hymn Sheets*—No. 1 series, 1,625; No. 2, 1,625; No. 3, 1,500; No. 4, 1,500; total, 6,050. Leaflets: *A Lyceum: What it is*, 5,300 copies. *Services of Song: Ministering Spirits*, 34 copies; *Rest at Last*, 258 copies; *Unseen Hands*, 237 copies; total, 529. *Some Reminiscences* by the late Alfred Smedley, Belper, 93 copies. Badges—brooches, 1,641; buttons, 525; total, 2,166. Receipts, £286 12s. 7d.; being an increase on the previous year of £47 8s. 0½d.

THE "LYCEUM BANNER."

This report showed a steady increase in the sales. Beginning the year 1907 with an edition of 3,000

copies it had gradually risen to 3,500 per month, with hopeful signs of a further increase. The receipts were £150 2s. 9d. for the year, being an increase of £39 7s. 5d. He deeply regretted that in consequence of having to change from sending the parcels by rail to sending them by parcel post commencing with the July issue, the cost of carriage had risen from £8 15s. 2d. for the first six months to £26 18s. 4d. at the end of the year. But the change was absolutely necessary in order to secure safe and prompt delivery of the parcels of the LYCEUM BANNER.

The Treasurer's report, the Permanent Secretary Fund report, and the report on the United District Councils' were presented, and duly accepted.

Other important matters to the Union were fully considered, and decided upon.

Votes of thanks to the Todmorden Society and Lyceum were passed.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The open Session was held in the Sobriety Hall. The morning was intensely cold, yet there was a good gathering of Lyceumists and friends. No. 2 series of hymn sheets were used, and served for the propaganda meetings as well as the Lyceum Session. Mr. E. A. Keeling conducted, assisted by Mr. Greenwood, and supported by the members of the E.C. The chain recitations were well rendered in steady unison. The musical readings were very impressive. Then followed a series of pearls which were both amusing, entertaining, and instructive. Miss Crossley recited, "Thoughts on my body," by Mrs. E. R. Tuttle, in such a fine impressive style, that she repeated it in the afternoon by special request.

AFTERNOON SERVICE.

There was a good attendance at the meeting. The President explained that they were there as an executive committee, elected once a year by the various Lyceums throughout England, Scotland, and Wales—he was sorry he could not add Ireland—not only to carry on the propaganda meetings like that, but to look after the general welfare of the Lyceum movement and see that it did not flag. He wished that those present had attended the Lyceum Session that morning, so that they could have seen for themselves what it was like and so judge of the superiority of our methods to interest and instruct the children both physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. Addresses were also delivered by Mrs. Law, who is an ex-president; Mr. J. J. Bennett, of Walsall, who, although he is the youngest member of the Executive, has been connected with the Lyceum cause for 20 years. He said the time had gone by for Spiritualists to apologise for being in the world, Spiritualism had fully established its power for moral and spiritual good, and they must get their backs against the wall of facts, and demand their due share of recognition in the religious world.

Mr. Johnson, Hyde, gave a very forcible address pleading for a practical religion that would teach men how to live rightly while here, and not how to die. We wanted to establish heaven here on earth, and not in the clouds where it was of no practical use.

EVENING SERVICE.

The Hall was well filled with an highly interested audience, who frequently marked their appreciation of remarks of the several speakers by applause.

Addresses were given by Mr. Wilkinson, who gave his testimony to the comforts, consolations, and blessings of Spiritualism, and the joy and happiness obtained in our Lyceums even by aged people. He hoped that if his hearers had not already tasted of these blessings they would speedily do so.

Councillor John Venables spoke of the joys and consolations he had derived from Spiritualism, when their own Baptist minister was unable to offer them any consolation in their darkest hour of sorrow—the loss of their beloved child. Spiritualism taught them how the little ones who die to this world are instructed in the spirit-world. And it were the object of the Lyceum training that similar moral and spiritual instruction should be given to our children.

Mrs. Jessie Greenwood delivered a fine and telling address under control. She pleaded for kindlier consideration between husband and wife. A more careful consideration of their duties to their children, so that home shall be to them the most sacred place on earth.

Mrs. Nurse caused tears to flow as she related some of her childhood experiences, and declared with deep fervour that Spiritualism and its teachings through the Lyceum had been her saviour and benefactor, as it taught her of her own spiritual powers, and the good she were able to do. And it could do for her hearers what it had done for her.

ALFRED KITSON, General Secretary.

Bible Studies, No. 12.

BIBLICAL SPIRITUALISM (continued).

We will now consider one or two instances of Ezekiel's mediumistic powers. We learn in chapter I, verses 26-28, that Ezekiel saw a man (a spirit man) sat on a throne. This spirit seemed to be surrounded with fire the colour of the rainbow. Ezekiel bowed himself to the ground before this strange-looking spirit, and *it entered into him*, and set him on his feet, and instructed him what he should say to the children of Israel.

He also saw a hand which held a scroll filled with writing both inside and out (Ezekiel II, 1-10).

Here we have a clear case of Ezekiel's clairvoyant powers. And, as is often the case with most of our clairvoyant mediums to-day, in the latter case he was only able to see a portion of the spirit, the hand. Here is a spirit who does not wish to show himself, so he only materialised, or visualised his hand, holding a scroll of writing. The investigator is often puzzled why, if a medium can see a spirit's hand, they cannot see the entire spirit. Here we have a Biblical instance in which only the hand and the object it held was shown, and I do not suppose it has occurred to many Christians to ask, as they do of the spirit medium, why Ezekiel could not see the entire spirit? We are learning that spirit manifestation is a fine art, studied and learned on the spirit side of life. Our dear departed are unable to manifest their

presence until they have learned how to manipulate the secrete soul-forces they find themselves surrounded with in the spirit world. And until they have acquired this knowledge and power of will to manipulate those forces they are unable to make their presence known, unless, as is generally the case, they can obtain the assistance of some spirit friend who has acquired the desired knowledge and will-power. Hence it is we often hear the remark from a controlling spirit, that so-and-so is present and has helped them to control, or helped them to show themself.

We have also the testimony of this Biblical writer that this spirit man *entered into Ezekiel*. He did this on two separate occasions, chapter III., verse 24. What are we to think of those preachers who boldly declare to their congregations that there is no single instance in the Bible of a spirit entering into a human being, and that the whole practice of spirit communion is forbidden by God Himself? We must come to the conclusion that they are either bearing false witness in order to pander to popular prejudice, or they are not well read on matters they dare to speak with authority upon.

Ezekiel was afterwards lifted up and carried away, by the spirit, to the children of Israel who were in captivity at Tel-abid, on the river Chebar in Chaldea, Ezek., III., 14-15.

Ezekiel was frequently carried away by the manifesting spirit. On one occasion he was carried, that is, suspended between heaven and earth, by a lock of his hair (see chapter VIII., verse 3). Now from Jerusalem to Chebar was at least 400 miles. We are told in Acts VIII., 39-40, that Philip was caught away by the spirit of the Lord, after he had baptised the Ethiopian eunuch, and was found at Azotus, a distance of nearly 30 miles.

These incidents would be incredible were it not that instances of mediums being made to float in the air have been well attested by eye witnesses. Mrs. Guppy was on one occasion entranced while making notes of family requisites, and carried from her home and plumped down on the table in the seance room of a house some distance away from her home. This fact was attested by the members of the circle, and the person who had jokingly requested the spirits to bring Mrs. Guppy, who was a stout lady and good medium for physical manifestations, was greatly surprised at his wish being granted.

Then there is the case of Mr. D. D. Home being entranced and floated out of one window and in at another, 85ft. from the ground, besides floating round the room, along with an arm-chair. These incidents were attested to by the Master of Lindsay before the Dialectical Society's Committee.

The modern sceptic may cry, impossible, absurd, bosh! But if well attested instances such as these are incredible what are we to say about Philip who was carried 30 miles, and Ezekiel who was carried over 400? We must bear in mind the latter are given on the mere statement of the Biblical writers without any corroborative testimony. It is the testimony of the modern instances that lends credibility to ancient instances. So that the Christian who denies the former throws discredit on the latter.

To be continued.

Our Boys' Special.

MY DEAR READERS,

After careful perusal of the letter which appeared in last month's BANNER *re* "Limericks" I have decided to relieve the B.S.L.U. Executive from any further responsibility at present, so far as my monthly contribution to the BANNER pages is concerned. But ere I lay down my pen for an indefinite period I claim the privilege of presenting a statement in defence of my action in conducting the "Boys' Special" on those lines which have obviously proved so disagreeable to some of my readers.

For nearly six years I have almost regularly contributed this page of reading, in addition to other matter, which has proved more or less helpful to some readers of the BANNER. During most of that period I strove to encourage evidence of thought and interest amongst Lyceumists through submitting subjects for essays—with but very indifferent results—although I offered and gave a prize each month, whenever competitors sent in their efforts. Then, on the suggestion of a friend I commenced with the rhyming puzzles over two years ago, and have consistently created and submitted such regularly on this page. The interest aroused by these was at first gratifying. As I had been offering prizes also for these puzzles (for first correct solution received), the B.S.L.U. stepped in and suggested *all* winners should receive prizes. As it was obvious that one person could not be expected to furnish prizes under the new conditions—not even with the occasional help of a friend—the Executive decided to present all winners with merit cards. These I have systematically *posted* to all winners during the last twelve months at my own cost, with the exception of a small donation sent for the purpose by Mr. T. F. Smedley, of Belper. With the District puzzles I have had a more free hand, with the result that friends of the children have kindly and voluntarily forwarded donations, which have covered the prizes for the District puzzles.

At the suggestion of an old and valued Lyceumist I introduced the offending "Limericks," and according to the transparent implication of Mr. Williams' letter, written on the instruction of the Cheetham Lyceum, Manchester, I now stand charged with dragging our Lyceum principles through the mire, and encouraging that hideous form of vice which our principles condemn, namely—*Gambling*. I believe that gambling is the indulgence in any exercise of mind or body upon uncertain or undeterminable issues, and *where the sole motive* which prompts such exercise is *personal gain*, without consideration of rendering an equivalent to the loser. I have always been taught that such indulgence is demoralising, and my Lyceum lessons have through the past twenty-five years strengthened me in that conclusion. But compare this interpretation with the spirit and character of our "Limericks."

Three Limericks have now appeared, and if my readers will take the trouble to go through the lines sent in, I think they will agree that the tone is pure, healthy, instructive. I think you will agree that it is not a matter of *blind chance*, but that some skill is required for the successful completion of the verses, neither is the sole motive of the "Limericks" personal gain, either on the competitor's or adjudicator's part. The Lyceum Home Fund is surely a sufficiently worthy object to form a basis for motive for competitors. This is evidenced by one of my contributors this month who says, "I thought I would very much like to follow them up each month, if it is only for the good of the Lyceum Home Fund." Another contributor says, "I now take the pleasure of complimenting you for your efforts in making our Lyceum organ a success. I must say that, on the whole, the BANNER is now very interesting. Now concerning the Limericks and the different objections to the same, will you allow me to say that if these objectors only knew the good ideas which these verses bring out of our budding poets, they would reserve their petty criticism, and shoulder their better purposes."

I am quite in sympathy with the Lyceumists and am sorry, for their sake, and for the sake of many other interested readers, that matters have reached such a crisis. After all, I feel that the best thing to do at present is to suspend my contribution until there is some further sign of general appreciation, or to totally resign the honoured position I have held for six years—in favour of some more ethical and religious contributor. I prefer to leave the whole matter just where it is until after the next B.S.L.U. Executive Meeting, in order that that body may consider my suggestions. No puzzles will appear this month.

The interest in the Limericks is being maintained, sixteen competitors having submitted lines for completion.

I have pleasure in forwarding a Badge to Mr. C. Nuttall (Hadfield) and also to Miss F. E. Tyson (Millom) for the best lines sent in accordance with rules.

LIMERICK.

As we enter upon the New Year,
Many trials await us down here ;
But if we are strong,
And do the right all along,

.....
"Then we shall have nothing to fear."

(Winner) Mr. Christopher Nuttall, Hadfield Lyceum.

"We'll arrive at the end without fear."

(Winner) Miss Frances Esther Tyson, Millom.

"We have something to do, persevere."

Mr. A. Ainger, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.

"We'll outlive the scoff and the sneer."

Mr. J. E. Laverack, Grange Villa, Co. Durham.

"We shall all live a life of good cheer."

Mr. Alex. Rogerson, Harpurhey, Manchester.

"Then we shall have no cause to fear."

Mr. Frederick Briggs, Chesterfield.

"Our teaching will bring us through clear."

Master H. A. Eastwood, Gt. Harwood, Lancashire.

- "We shall never have nothing to fear."
Miss Harriet Haworth, Regent Hall, Rochdale.
- "Our spirit friends will help us, don't fear."
Master Tommy Elliot, Attercliffe, Sheffield.
- "Then we always need never fear."
Master Leslie Faulkner, Walsall.
- "No errors to correct in New Sphere."
Mr. W. Fletcher, Bury.
- "We shall become like Andrew Jackson, the
Seer."
Miss Annie Smith, Longton, Staffs.
- "The truth shall make you free, so persevere."
Master Sidney Gripton, Walsall.
- "We shall all true Lyceumists be."
C. Pinder, Derby.
- "We'll be happy in the Spirit Sphere."
Master Walter Lester, Oldham.
- "We shall win and conquer down here."
Miss Alice Miller, Warrington.

Although there has been some difficulty in determining the winning lines, the adjudicators believe that the lines selected most nearly meet all the conditions.

Not a single correct solution of the National Puzzle has come to hand, and only one attempt. The hidden name is H. Roeder, Middlesbrough.

For the District Puzzle there are five correct solutions. The name is Mr. J. K. Jones.

Merit Cards have been forwarded to Miss Edith Appleby, Masters W. Butler, E. Magness, and Reggie Lawmer. Badge to Miss S. Rayner. Please note that since last month I have removed from Bury. Should any Lyceumist care to communicate with me, please make a note of my present address:—127, Rockcliffe St., Blackburn. In the confusion of removal I have mislaid the address of Miss Lizzie Bolton, of Southport. If that young lady will forward me a post card containing her address, I will send her a badge which is due to her from last month.

With best wishes for the welfare and success of all Lyceumists.

I remain,

127, Rockcliffe St., Yours lovingly,
Blackburn. FRANK HEPWORTH.

N.B.—The total amount received for the "Lyceum Home Fund" from the "last-liners" is eight shillings and tenpence, which sum I am forwarding to Mr. A. Kitson, General Secretary.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

Contributions for 1907:—Mrs. Law 5/-; Walsall Lyceum 20/-; Mr. Bennett 5/-; Mr. Goold 5/-; Mr. Tompkins 5/-; Mr. T. Aldridge 5/-; Hebden Bridge Lyceum 10/-; Mr. Booth 1/-; Mr. T. F. Smedley 10/-; Mr. G. Wheeldon 10/-; Mr. Wm. Wheeldon 5/-; Mrs. Adshead 2/6; Mr. and Mrs. Gull 2/6; Mr. White 2/6; Mr. Wigley 2/6; Mr. A. Wigley 2/6; Mrs. Bodell 2/-; Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins 4/-; Mr. Varney 1/-; Mr. Moffatt 1/-; Derby Lyceum 5/-.

Contributions for 1908:—Batley Carr 10/-; Leeds Psycho 5/-; Middlesbrough 10/6; Darwen 11/9.

Will all Lyceums who are intending contributing to the Fund in answer to 1907 circulars, reply at once.

The above donations have been duly acknowledged and the donors thanked.

JESSY GREENWOOD.
Ashleigh, Hebden Bridge.

Lyceum Lesson Plan for Feb., 1908.

BY JESSY GREENWOOD.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	M.R.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
Feb. 2	99	93	232	102	412
" 9	375	94	203	131	396
" 16	371	349	236	135	363
" 23	368	313	227	142	334
Mar. 1	359	308	225	136	330

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Feb. 2nd. "No man knows what rest is but the weary; no man can enjoy but he who is relaxing a strain."—*J. Baldwin Brown.*

Feb. 9th. "The world is happy, the world is wide, Kind hearts are beating on every side."—*J. Russell Lowell.*

Feb. 16th. "Revenge, however sweet, always costs more than it is worth."

Feb. 23rd. "Conscience is the voice of the soul; the passions are the voice of the body."

March 1st. "Every beautiful, pure and good thought which the heart entertains is an angel of mercy, purifying and guiding the soul."

Feb. 2nd. G.C.R. 102.

I. Three Rules—Iron, Silver, Gold. *Iron*, lowest rule of human conduct. *Silver*, next highest. *Golden*, highest.

II. Their significance. Iron rule—Evil for evil. Silver rule—Good for good. Golden rule—Good for Evil.

III. Reasons for each distinctions.

IV. Questions: What is the difference between the first two, and which is best?

Is it possible to carry out the Golden Rule?

Feb. 9th. G.C.R. 131.

I. Define self-esteem. Give illustrations.

II. Contrast self-esteem and vanity.

III. Moral. (Commit to memory). By being honest in our dealings, truthful in the utterance of our opinions, brave in vindicating them when assailed, and courageous in living them, always testing their merits by their results.

IV. The reason. Because a part of God is within each one. Our own dignity is to be remembered.

Feb. 16th. G.C.R. 135.

I. Explain the words self-abnegation, penances, immoderate, superfluous, etc.

II. Tell what you know of the writers Thomas à Kempis, and particularly George Eliot.

III. Draw illustrations from home life and work-a-day life of the pupils, and ask how they would act under certain circumstances.

IV. "The great aim to desire what is perfectly good, even when we do not quite know what it is, and cannot do what we would, we are a part of the divine power against evil."

Feb. 23rd. G.C.R. 142.

Read carefully through with the class, making explanatory notes by the way. Dwell on the liberty bequeathed to the Spiritualist by the lives of good and

true men and women, who, as pioneers, exemplified all the beautiful traits necessary in the character of noble souled beings, and which have been talked about in the lessons during the month. Show that, because it does not comply with the observance of ancient customs, or rely on aids to right living such as the Bible, the prayer meeting, the class meeting, baptism, Lord's supper, etc., it is more rigid in its demands from the individual. It demands that you should do right because it is right. Shun wrong because it is wrong. Its watchword is "Be ye perfect as God is perfect." "It makes every man his own redeemer and his own priest," and shows tolerance to others who cannot see eye to eye with us by accepting every true word, every earnest exhortation to good, a wise counsel spoken by others. Show what you conceive true *worship* to be. Work and usefulness the best example, the best cure for worry and the grumblers quick change. There is a beautiful old Rabbinical legend taken from the Talmud which reads thus:—

"From the Mint two bright pennies came,
The value and beauty of both the same;
One slipped from the hand, and fell to the ground,
Then rolled out of sight and could not be found.
The other was passed by many a hand
Through many a change, through many a land:
For temple dues paid, now used in the mart,
Now bestowed on the poor by a pitying heart.
At length it so happened, as years went round,
That the long-lost, unused coin was found.
Filthy and black, its inscription destroyed
Through rusting peacefully unemployed;
Whilst the well-worked coin was bright and clear
Through active service year by year:
For the brightest are those who live for duty—
Rust more than rubbing will tarnish beauty."

A LYCEUM WEDDING AT BLACKPOOL.

On the 7th of January Mr. T. Coupe joined in wedlock Miss A. J. Woodward, of Central Drive, Blackpool, eldest daughter of Mr. Woodward, South View, Whalley, to Mr. J. T. Redfern, of Burnley. The bride, who was attired in grey silk and white hat, was attended by three pretty bridesmaids—Mrs. and Miss J. Standrings and the little mite, scarcely three years' old, the bride's god-daughter, Miss B. L. A. Nutter, who acted her part well. Owing to his long serious illness the bride's father was unable to attend. Mr. Nutter, of Blackpool, a friend of the bride, gave her away. Mr. Tootle, of Burnley, brother-in-law of the bridegroom acted as best man. The ceremony was very affecting. The church was nicely decorated and full of guests and spectators. Mr. Howard, organist, played a selection, and three hymns were sung. Mr. Coupe addressed a few suitable remarks to the newly married pair. The bride has been a Lyceum worker for a good many years. The presents were numerous and valuable. The wedding feast was made by Mrs. Nutter, Reads Road, Blackpool, where the guests spent a very pleasant evening.

HONOURING A LYCEUM CONDUCTOR.

Special interest centered in the Nottingham Spiritualists' Lyceum on the occasion of the election of officers for the forthcoming year.

After the various officers' reports had been received and adopted, Mr. McCaig, as the retiring Assistant Conductor, said that before proceeding to the election of Officers there were persons present connected with the Lyceum who wished to express themselves in no measured terms with respect to the retiring Conductor, Mr. Leonard Shipley, and he thereupon called on Mr. Elvidge, the President, to say something on the matter.

Mr. E. H. Elvidge spoke very highly of the conscientious work that Mr. Shipley had done as Conductor for a great number of years, and said that those connected with the Lyceum wished to mark their appreciation in some way. He then called on Mr. McCaig to read the handsomely framed and suitably worded address as follows.—

Nottingham Spiritualists' Progressive Lyceum,
Gladstone Hall, January 12th, 1908.

To Mr. Leonard Shipley.

On behalf of the Leaders, Scholars and Friends of the above Lyceum, we desire to express to you the admiration and esteem with which all associated with you in Lyceum work regard your self-sacrificing work as Leader and Conductor of the Lyceum for the past 15 years.

We recognize that but for your untiring labours the Lyceum could not have maintained its position as an educational centre for the furtherance of the principles so beautifully set out in our Manual.

In presenting this simple expression of our regard to you we ask you also to accept the accompanying token which we trust will remind you of many happy though arduous hours.

That for many years to come we may have the privilege of your help and guidance in the work of the Lyceum, and that you may have health and strength to carry on the work you have so ably done in the past, is the sincere desire of S. H. Elvidge, President, Nottingham Spiritualists' Society; J. J. Ashworth, District Visitor; Thos. W. Marsters, Temperance Visitor; Harold Howitt, Captain of Guard; David McCaig, Assistant Conductor; B. Webster, Leader; A. Shipley, Organist; Miss E. H. Yates, Secretary.

Mr. Elvidge then formerly presented the address to Mr. Shipley, together with a handsome teapot, and trusted that he would appreciate the motives which prompted the presentation.

Mr. J. J. Ashworth, past President and District Visitor, also spoke in support, as did also Mr. T. W. Marsters, and Mr. Brown. Mr. L. Shipley who was deeply touched and found a difficulty in expressing himself, responded and thanked the Lyceum for their kindness.

The election of officers then proceeded, the whole of the retiring officers being elected with the addition of Mr. Brown, Mrs. Slater, and Miss Adams as leaders.

The meeting was a most happy and harmonious gathering, and we trust will be the means of stimulating all concerned in the work of the Lyceum.—D. M. McCaig, Correspondent.

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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FEBRUARY, 1908.

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

The Executive Council's visit to Todmorden was most successful, notwithstanding the severe weather. Reports are reaching us testifying to the good effects already visible.

* * *

Their large and beautiful silk banner graced the rear of the rostrum. On one side is depicted a boy reading the *Lyceum Manual*, searching for truth. On the other side are shown two children gathering flowers on the edge of a precipice, unconscious of their danger, and their guardian angel (without wings) is hovering near with outstretched hands as if to draw the children back.

* * *

As there are many Lyceums electing new Secretaries for 1908, we are deferring the correction of the List till next month when we hope to make a full and complete correction. Those Lyceums who have not sent in their returns of officers and scholars should do so at once.

* * *

Can any of our readers inform us whether the following Lyceums have been closed or not, namely, Barnsley, Birmingham (Handsworth), Loughborough and Parkgate? We make this appeal as we have been unable to elicit any replies to our inquiries.

* * *

It will be seen from the Lyceum reports that the suggestion made last month to observe the 3rd Sunday of January in commemoration of the origin of the Lyceum movement has met with many sympathisers. Next year we hope for a fuller observance of the event, with a reference to the same from the Societies' platforms. Bear it in mind when engaging your speakers for the 3rd Sunday in January so that they may be prepared.

* * *

Prof. J. Millott Severn, F.B., P.A., of the Brighton Phrenological Institution, has kindly promised the LYCEUM BANNER a series of easy lessons on Phrenology,

illustrated, for beginners, at an early date. Look out for them!

* * *

We once more beg to draw the attention of Lyceum Secretaries to the Rules at the head of Lyceum Reports. We have had to deal this month with a large number of reports three times the length specified by the Executive Council, and also many reports belonging to December. The latter are out of order and cannot appear, except they refer to interments. Those reports containing more than 120 words have to be cut down. Please note.

* * *

The splendid address we drew attention to last month on Mr. A. J. Davies, and his "Harmonial Philosophy," can now be had in pamphlet form, 24 pages, price 1½d., post free, or 1/2d. per doz.; at the Office of *Light*, 110, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.

* * *

The *Two Worlds* for January 3rd, contained a splendid autobiographical sketch, with portrait of Mr. E. A. Keeling, our esteemed President. In it he pays a high tribute of praise to the good influence Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Chiswell exercised over him when he needed a guiding hand. This is highly suggestive to Lyceum conductors and leaders of Lyceum groups.

* * *

We have received a letter from Wm. Thomas Martin, headed Runanga, New Zealand, late of the Sheffield, Attercliffe Lyceum, in which he speaks of the valuable effect his Lyceum training is exerting over him, the comfort he still derives from his *Lyceum Manual*; and sends greetings and good wishes to all friends in the Lyceum movement.

* * *

A Lyceum was duly opened at Wombwell, near Barnsley on January 5th. We trust it will be blessed with a greater degree of success than fell to the lot of its predecessor.

* * *

We are sure our readers will share in our regret at the loss of Mr. Frank Hepworth on the LYCEUM BANNER staff. We sincerely wish his labours as Organising Secretary to the Blackburn, St. Peter Street, Society, will be crowned with great success.

WINDHILL.—We had our open sessions on January 5th. We had a moderate attendance, but there was unity and that is strength. There were readings and solos given by those present, after which we had our meeting to elect officers as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Clough; assistant, W. Hutchinson; secretary, E. Roper; treasurer, G. Roper; conductor calisthenics, Miss A. E. Copley; first leaders, G. Rosebrook and Miss N. Copley; last leaders, Miss M. Butterfield and J. Rosebrook; guardian, H. Hutchinson. Hoping we shall have success. "The Workers Win."—E. Roper, Hon. Secretary.

YORK (St. Saviourgate).—On January 2nd our annual concert proved a great success. We had the cantata, "To Santas Land with the Dream Man." Miss Longley, A.L.C.M., ably trained the children. On January 10th, Mr. Lawrence, of Newcastle, distributed the prizes, to which he had kindly contributed. Those who received them for attendance were Harry, Edwin, and Frank Apedaile, and Hilda Jackson. For recitations, 1st, Mabel Parker; 2nd, Daisy Stead; 3rd, Harry Apedaile. For good conduct, Bertha Rutherford, Ruth Wells, Laura Rusk and Bertha and Gladys Middleton. Those given by Mr. Lawrence were two for recitations to Harry Apedaile and Clarice Hawley, and Frank Apedaile and Hilda Jackson for good attendance.—Charles Hall, Secretary.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

District Visitors' Quarterly Reports.

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 29TH, 1907.

BOLTON DISTRICT.—There are six societies in this district, which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **DAISY HILL**—This is a new Lyceum. I have paid them two visits. The officers are hopeful of success and full of energy. The sessions were harmonious. Reading and responses good. Not much room for marching. **HINDLEY**—The reopening of this Lyceum has been a joy to both young and old. The responses to the chain recitations and the singing was very good. The marching and calisthenics were well done. Great credit is due to the officers for the splendid results already attained. **BOLTON (Bradford Street)**—Harmonious sessions have been held during the quarter. Singing, reading and responses very good. I would like to see a little more regard for punctuality observed by some.

Robert Billsborough, D.V.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—There are 9 societies in this district, all of which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **CLECKHEATON**—Only a few present, but a good session. Great praise is due to Mr. Walshaw and Mr. Whitehead for trying, under adverse circumstances, to keep this Lyceum open. **WINDHILL**—Although few in numbers, the officers and scholars do their best to have good sessions. **SHIPLEY**—A very good Lyceum. The open session was very good. I hope to see them join the Lyceum Union early in the New Year. **OTLEY ROAD**—A small attendance, but a good session; well enjoyed. Mr. Birdsall and Mr. Holmes are doing a good educational work here. **DUDLEY HILL**—This is the best Lyceum I have visited this quarter. Every item in the session was good. Both officers and scholars are doing their best to build up a strong and successful Lyceum.

H. Hargreaves, D.V.

DERBY DISTRICT.—There are only three societies in this district, all of which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **BELPER** still remains at the head both for numbers and efficiency, their large hall being much too small for them. **BURTON-ON-TRENT**—This Lyceum is making good progress once more. I paid them a surprise visit and was pleased to find them doing so well. **DERBY (Charnwood St.)**—This Lyceum is growing nicely in numbers and receiving help from the adults. Long may it continue so to be.

E. W. Stanton, D.V.

HULL AND GRIMSBY DISTRICT.—There are four societies in this district, all of which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **HULL (Lime Street)**—I was pleased to find this Lyceum very punctual, and very good order throughout the session. The children were very attentive. The responses to the chain recitations and the marching might be improved. Their practice for a "Musical Sunday" showed they have some promising singers. I think this will prove to be a very progressive Lyceum. **GRIMSBY (Strand Street)**—This Lyceum is in great need of workers. The children are there, and all the conditions are ripe for workers who will put their hearts into the cause for the children's welfare, along with the few faithful ones who stick to their post. Given more workers I am quite sure this will become a most successful Lyceum.

Mrs. Isabella P. Watson, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—There are 15 societies in this district, 12 of which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **WAKEFIELD**—I found a very good Lyceum. It seems to be in a prosperous condition. I gave a brief address on the Lyceum teachings. **LEEDS (Church St.)**—I was surprised to learn it had been closed. Six were present to consider the advisability of reopening it. It being deferred I took them with me to **DOW STREET Lyceum**, where we found them practising for a service of song. So I promised them another visit. **LEEDS (Joseph Street)**—They were late in starting, and smaller in number, yet they had a good session, with good order, etc. By request I gave them a brief address on the advantages to be gained from the Lyceum teachings.

James Kitson, D.V.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.—There are 14 Societies in this District, ten of which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **MOUNT PLEASANT**—44 present, 10 minutes late start. Pearls, Solos, etc., excellent. Marked improvement. **WARRINGTON**—32 present. Marked improvement in discipline and reverence. **SOUTHPORT**—(Nevill Street). I found the session had been changed to afternoon. (Hawkshead Street), 17 present, 1 conducted by request. A good orderly and interesting session. **WIGAN**—31 present, Conductor absent. Not up to usual standard, 1-45 p.m. 41 present. Groups overcrowded. Short of leaders. **BIRKENHEAD**—(Hamilton) 31 present, 13 minutes late start. Recitations, responses, etc., poor. Groups nicely arranged, and excellently conducted. **SEACOMBE**—24 present, good discipline. **DAULBY ST.**—Interesting session. Responses disappointing. Group lessons good. **SOUTHPORT**—(Nevill Street), 15 present, Notable decrease in numbers, I conducted in the absence of Conductor. More workers instantly required.

Robert A. Owen, D.V.

NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.—There are 24 Societies in this District, 4 of them have no Lyceum. **CLITHEROE**—are short of workers. **ACCRINGTON (Argyle Street)**, and **BURNLEY (Guy Street)** ignore my letters.

General remarks: **COLNE**—The work at this Lyceum is excellent, indeed it is the best I have seen this year. **BARN-OLDSWICK (Market Street)**, This Lyceum is short of workers. A very fair session, but a little more attention to calisthenics would improve the session. **BURNLEY**—(North St.) A very fair session, but lacking in attention to the conductor. **BURNLEY**—(Hammerton Street), A very good session. Excellent order was maintained. **ACCRINGTON**—(Carter St.) A fairly good session, its work was well done. In conclusion I would like to point out to the officers the necessity of paying more attention to the absentees. In many of the Lyceums over one-half of the scholars were absent. This should not be so.

G. H. Edwards, D.V.

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.—There are 9 Societies in this District, 6 of which have a Lyceum.

General remarks: I am not able to report any striking progress, and I am sorry to say I found on my visits to **HYSON GREEN** and **PARLIAMENT STREET** Lyceums a slight falling off. Yet, on the occasion of the visit of **GLADSTONE HALL Lyceum** to the **HYSON GREEN Lyceum** we had a memorable time. The visitors received a hearty welcome, and we had an excellent programme. These visits might be greatly multiplied throughout the country with profit to the Lyceums concerned.

J. J. Ashworth, D.V.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.—There are 18 Societies in this District, all but two of them have a Lyceum.

General remarks: **OLDHAM**—(Elliott Street), This is a good strong Lyceum. The reading, conduct, and marching were very good. Great interest manifested in the Group lessons. **WATERHEAD**—This Lyceum is in great need of adult workers. Given this there might be a strong Lyceum built up here. I hope to see more elders on my next visit. **CROMPTON**—Although they are few in numbers here yet they are in real earnest. They have two sessions per Sunday. I hope they will have formed groups on my next visit. **WHITWORTH**—There is slow but sure progress being made in this Lyceum. **ROYTON**—I was sorry to find their numbers were not so good as on my former visit. I hope to see them in a strong and flourishing condition on my next visit.

J. Brown, D.V.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT.—There are 12 Societies in this District, 5 of them are without a Lyceum. The Society in **Paisley Road, GLASGOW** have decided to form a Lyceum on February 2nd.

General remarks: **HAMILTON**—(Burnbank). During the few months of its existence, this Lyceum has made good progress. A larger hall has been obtained, and notwithstanding the want of an organist the work is being carried on with considerable enthusiasm. **GLASGOW**—(Great Western Road). This new Lyceum has also found better hall accommodation. The capable staff of officers are readily adapting themselves to the Lyceum methods. Groups have been formed, and good progress evidenced in every department. **GLASGOW**—(Bath Street). The sessions here continue to be bright and inspiring. The officers and members are alike active in seeking to maintain a high state of efficiency.

A. Cowie, D.V.

STOCKPORT DISTRICT.—There are 8 Societies in this District. All but Glossop have a Lyceum.

General remarks: DUKINFIELD.—It being open sessions day I was pleased to see many visitors from other Lyceums, who helped to swell the ranks. The session was good. The chain recitations were nicely rendered. The whole session was closely followed by a deeply interested audience. HYDE—This Lyceum still retains its record of being a good, all-round Lyceum. The interest in the good work is fully maintained.

W. H. Lucas, D.V.

TYNESIDE DISTRICT.—There are 17 Societies in this District, 9 of which have no Lyceum. Four interviews have been sought, 2 with Jarrow, and one each with Eldon Street, and Stanhope Street, South Shields. Result: a promise from Jarrow to start a Lyceum early in the New Year.

General remarks: SOUTH SHIELDS—(Robinson Street.) This Lyceum continues to grow in numbers and efficiency. The good work depends on a few who would gladly welcome assistance. BENWELL—(Co-operative Hall.) The work here is being performed in a manner evincing care on the part of all concerned. Help is also needed here. HEATON and BYKER. I was pleased to see a marked improvement here. I am sure it is more from lack of thought than love of the cause that keeps so many able people away when their presence and help is needed. GATESHEAD. I am pleased to find many of the friends here are beginning to feel, individually, their responsibility for the success of the Lyceum. Every one should be ready at all times to respond to the conductor's call to add something to the general interest of the Lyceum session. HIRST.—Though still cramped for want of room, this Lyceum makes the best of its circumstances. Not being able to have physical exercises they devote more time to the mental, moral, and spiritual, and memorise many of the beautiful gems from the Lyceum Manual. Still I am glad to hear of prospects for better conditions in the near future in the shape of a new building.

Jonah Clarke, D.V.

Correspondence.

A STRIKING CURE BY HEALERS.

Dear Sir,—In your issue for January I notice a letter under the above heading, the writer being Mr. Cretney, who says that Mr. Jowett has "mis-stated facts which cause discord and friction," and also says that "Honour should be given where due." I am sure when Mr. Jowett wrote that report he never thought of honour. This I do know—he deserves all the honour he is ever likely to get. My family and I were present when this society was first planned; Mr. Cretney, with others, were nominated to various offices; Mr. Jowett was perfectly satisfied to see everything got into working order, as he had spent time, money and energy in endeavouring to do good in the cause. It was his heart's desire to establish the Liverpool I.S.O.S. Progressive Lyceum. I marvel there should be anyone selfish enough to grudge him the name of being the founder of that society.

GEO. F. HEALISS.

Dear Sir,—My attention was called to a letter in your issue of January, signed W. J. Cretney. Now, sir, what I stated in your issue of December are facts, and if W.J.C. will enquire of the few little children in our Lyceum who attended in 1905, he will find my report correct. I may say my best friends were Mr. and Mrs. Healiss, well known in Liverpool as Spiritualists, who came to my side at the eleventh hour, when I most needed help, and let me have their parlour free of charge to carry on my work. I do not

want to stir up old grievances with my dear old friends at Daulby Hall, for whom I have great respect. God bless them, may we long work together in the good cause we all love. I may say W.J.C. was never in office until 1907, since when we have had nothing but trouble. Let me say with one of old, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

JOHN B JOWETT,

Hon. Treasurer and Founder of the I.S.C.L.

THE LIMERICK COMPETITION.

Dear Sir,—I must express my admiration of the spirited protest of A. L. Williams, as I consider the Limerick competitions one of the most idiotic things ever invented, and I do think the LYCEUM BANNER was meant for better things.

Yours very faithfully,

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON.

Dear Sir,—I see in the correspondence column of your last issue of the BANNER, an objection to the "Limericks" now appearing. Permit me, therefore, as a competitor, and as one whose wife has already been successful in winning a badge, to say a few words on the subject. I question very much whether it is the competition or the name of the competition which has upset the Cheetham friends. I also take the letter as attempting to place a stigma on our friend Hepworth, and all who have competed. If it be decided that the aforesaid "Limerick" is immoral or in the spirit of gambling, then all competitions for prizes must be classed under that heading. I am not in agreement with he or she who takes that view, and am still proud if I have in any way assisted the Lyceum Home Fund. Spiritualism teaches us to be broad minded, therefore let us consider first, the motive, and secondly the beneficent effect it is likely to have before we condemn this competition. In conclusion let me say I repudiate the attempted stigma, and consider my life as clean as it was before I entered the competition. To those who draw their cloak around them in pious awe I extend my pity. People's opinions are varied, and so let us agree to differ.

J. E. LAVERACK.

CHRIST AND THE BIBLE IN THE LYCEUM.

To the Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry the point of my letter on the above topic, which appeared in the December number of last year, should have been so completely missed by Mr. May. He has put an entirely erroneous construction on my proposal when he suggests that I would *replace* the "Manual" now in use by the Bible. He has a narrower view than most Lyceum workers if he considers that one book can be all-in-all for the proper education of young Spiritualists. He has also a lowly conception of the purposes of a Lyceum if he thinks that one book is more than sufficient "for the child-mind to grasp in the short time spent in the Lyceums." We should not cater *only* for the child-mind, nor should we limit our purposes for mere

regard for time. We have to consider a liberal education for growing students who may have had years of ordinary Lyceum experience. Are not such entitled as well as able to discriminate the good from the bad? Everything in this world that has grown out of the mind of man is imperfect, but to draw nearer the goal of perfection we must learn to cull the beautiful flowers from among the weeds and bind them together in the spirit of love, when their mingled sweetness and beauty will bless and cheer us all.

HERBERT E. CLARKE.

Oxford, 19th January, 1908.

BIBLE STUDIES.

AN APPRECIATIVE LETTER.

Dear Sir,—For some time I have read the Bible Studies appearing in the LYCEUM BANNER, which I highly appreciate as I have derived much benefit from them, and I feel sure our Brother and Sister Lyceumists' must have found them beneficial and instructive. I think our appreciation of these glorious lessons should be shown in some way. Ever since the closing of our Lyceum for lack of a hall to meet in, I have spent much time in studying the Bible in the light of the Bible Studies. And when we can secure a suitable hall in which to re-open our Lyceum, I shall do my best to bring these Bible Studies into a portion of our sessions, which I feel sure will be much enjoyed. I trust they will continue to appear and make plain what has been dark and mysterious, and unfold the way of light and truth.—J. Hibbert, Assist. Conductor, late Wood Street Lyceum, Bolton.

DURBAN, NATAL, S.A.

The second anniversary of the Durban Lyceum passed off very successfully on the 8th ult. A public service was held in the Good Templars' Hall and there was a good attendance of visitors. Two children of members of the Spiritualist Society were named and dedicated by the control of Mrs. Inglis, who took the opportunity to give an address to the children and parents. All parts of the service were ably performed by the members. Before closing Mrs. Inglis gave a few clairvoyant descriptions, one being of that old friend of Spiritualism, Mr. Alfred Smedley, who gave his name.

On Tuesday a most enjoyable social was held, most of the items being rendered by members of the Lyceum, the remainder by friends. The hall was crowded and universal satisfaction with the programme was expressed. The prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. Inglis.

On the following Sunday the annual meeting was held and officers were elected for the ensuing year. Mr. W. Knox was re-elected Conductor as Mr. F. Tunmer declined to accept the position. Treasurer, W. S. Knox; Secretary and Librarian, Frances Lavery; Guardian, W. T. Utton; Captain of Guards, Lilian Whitaker; Guards, A. F. Hammerstrand, Tom Smith and Willie Gibbins; Leaders of Groups, W. Knox, F. Tunmer, T. Smith, A. F. Hammerstrand.

THE BRADFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council paid a visit to Cleckheaton on Sunday, January 12th, 1908. The morning session was conducted by Mr. Whitehead, who gave us a hearty welcome and trusted that the Council and all connected with it would continue to work shoulder to shoulder. The marchings and calisthenics were excellently gone through. The business meeting was held at 12 o'clock. Five Lyceums were represented. Invitations for the next meeting were sent from Yeadon and Otley Road (Bradford), for Sunday, February 9th, 1908. It was decided to accept the invitation from Otley Road, as it is their Lyceum Anniversary on that date. The open session was held in the afternoon. Mr. Rau, President of the Council, conducted. A good attendance of scholars and visitors were present. Recitations were given by Miss Boyan, Miss L. Thornton, Miss M. Dawson, Miss A. Thornton, Miss Williams, Master Harrison, and Master Williams. Reading, Miss Dawson. Solo, Miss Collinson. Pianoforte solo, Miss Thornton. In the evening addresses were given by Messrs. Rau, Barnes, Alderson and Hargreaves. Solos by Miss Pollard and Mr. Harrison. The day's services throughout were most successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. H. BIRDSALL, Sec.

62, Dover Street, Bradford.

NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Bradford Lyceum District Council will be held at Otley Road, Bradford, on Sunday, February 9th, 1908, at 10-30 a.m.

H. BIRDSALL, Sec.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Slaithwaite on Sunday, January 19th. Mr. Baker (president) presided over a very poor attendance. Minutes of last meeting were accepted and passed. After considerable discussion it was decided that the teachers' class at Sowerby Bridge be left over. The Secretary was pleased to report that the Teachers' Class at Huddersfield was going on very successfully, they were at present studying mediumship under the leadership of Mr. R. H. Yates. The report of the United District Council Meeting was accepted. It was decided that the nominee of B.S.L.U. and the President attend next meeting of the United District Council. Nominations for Annual Meeting to be sent in to Secretary not later than February 14th. There will be a special meeting of the Council on February 2nd at Elland. In the afternoon Mr. Baker presented the prizes to the successful Lyceumists. The evening service was conducted by members of the Council.

H. PEEL, Sec.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Wakefield on Saturday, January 11th, Mr. Barnes presiding. The following Lyceums were

represented: Armley, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, Leeds Psycho, and Wakefield. The usual routine of business was dealt with. Visitors' reports given and accepted. The reports show that there is great room for improvement in the Lyceums in the District. A delegate was appointed to attend the next meeting of the United District Council. **RESOLVED** that this Council pay its share of the expenses incurred by the N.D.C. **RESOLVED** that the question of a Shield Competition be left over until next meeting, when it is hoped that all Lyceums will be represented.

A. E. BEETY, Hon. Sec.

UNITED DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next meeting will be held in the Regent Hall, Regent Street, Rochdale, on Saturday, February 1st, at 6 p.m. Tea will be provided at 4.30 p.m. at the usual charge. Business as follows, viz.:—1. Minutes. 2. Secretary's report. 3. Correspondence. 4. Motions for B.S.L.U. Executive Conference. 6. Notices of Motion. 7. Invitations for place of next meeting. 8. Miscellaneous business. 9. Votes of thanks Delegates intending to stay overnight will please let me know immediately, so that accommodation may be arranged.

R. A. OWEN, Hon. Sec.

88, King's Road, Bootle.

In Memoriam.

BARROW (Dalkeith Street).—It is with deep regret I record the passing to the higher life of one of our Lyceumists, Gladys Fullard, which took place on Saturday, December 28th. The interment took place on Tuesday, Dec. 31st, at Barrow Cemetery. Mr. Wm Proctor, officiated at the graveside. Our deepest sympathy goes to the bereaved parents.

I live! O ye who loved me, your faith was not in vain,
Back through the shadowy valley I come to you again,
Safe in the love that guides me, with fearless feet I tread,
My home is with the angels! O say not I am dead.

J. KENDALL, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—It is with the deepest sorrow that I have to announce the passing into spirit of one of our Lyceumists, Annie Fox, who was interred at the Blackpool Cemetery. Mr. Birch and Mr. Vane, our conductor, and many Lyceumists were present to pay a last tribute to their departed Lyceum friend. At the graveside they sang "Open the door for the children." A sorrowing mother, two daughters, and a son are left to mourn their earthly loss, but I trust they will realise that she will be with them in spirit.

ARTHUR C. EATON, Assistant Secretary.

PENDLETON (Leaf Square).—I am sorry to announce the passing on of one of our scholars named Joseph England. After a long and painful illness his end was very peaceful. The funeral was attended by the conductor and scholars, who sang "No night there," and "Shall we know each other there?" A wreath of flowers was sent, and also a letter of sympathy to the parents.—MRS. EARITH.

STOCKPORT (Central).—It is with deepest sympathy and regret that I report the passing to the higher life

on Jan. 6th, of Mrs. Pickthall, who, though not a Lyceumist, was the mother of three of our most active members; and the wife of a former leader. On Sunday, Jan. 12th, at 10 a.m., a memorial service was held, when appropriate songs, solos, and recitations were given by members of the Lyceum.

Peace be with thee, Oh! our sister!
In the blessed Spirit Land.

J. H. MARSTON, Sec.

MR. HUGH BOOTH, SOWERBY BRIDGE.—We have received a report of Mr. Booth's funeral and long connection with the Lyceum cause, but unfortunately the writer has omitted to state either when Mr. Booth passed over, or when the funeral took place. We are informed that Mr. Booth has been connected with the Sowerby Bridge Society for 30 years. He had promised to present the prizes on January 26th. He was also the first Treasurer to the Halifax and Huddersfield Lyceum District Council, holding the office from Oct. 1896, to July, 1903. About 200 friends were present at the funeral. The B.S.L.U. and its E.C., and the H. & H. L.D.C., and its E.C. were represented. Mr. Hanson G. Hey, officiated, assisted by Mrs. Jessy Greenwood and Mrs. Stair.

LYCEUM WEDDING AT OLDHAM.

A pretty wedding took place at the Spiritual Church, Elliott Street, on Saturday, December 28th, 1907. Our Lyceum secretary, Mr. John Frost, and Margaret Hannah, eldest daughter of our worthy president, Mr. Carter, were the contracting parties. The bride entered the Church on her father's arm, whilst the "Wedding Bells March" was rendered on the organ by Mr. C. E. Waterhouse. The bride was attired in a light fawn Gibson costume, with cream crepe-de-chine blouse, and a cream hat to match. The bride was given away by her father. Mr. Herbert Frost, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man, and Miss Olive Carter, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid. Mr. J. J. Morse (editor *Two Worlds*) conducted the ceremony before a good assembly of friends and Lyceumists. The Church was tastefully decorated and everything looked bright for the occasion. Mr. Morse endeared himself to all present by his wise council and happy demeanour. Afterwards a reception was held, over 130 guests assembling. The evening was spent in singing and dancing. Music was supplied by Mr. Waterhouse as pianist and Mr. J. H. Crowder's orchestra. The happy couple were the recipients of numerous and costly presents, and the hearty good wishes from all.—W. SHAW.

ULVERSTON.—We held our first tea party on New Year's Day. After partaking of a sumptuous tea, games were indulged in until the appearance of Santa Claus, who came laden with good things, and also brought with him a huge snowball, which, to the delight of the youngsters, proved to be filled with suitable presents duly addressed to each scholar. He had also a number of small snowballs, which he threw at the children, who were delighted to find them filled with sweets. An exhibition of marching and calisthenics greatly interested the visitors. Great credit was accorded the committee and the Secretary for the admirable arrangements made for the occasion.—J. E. Coward, Secretary.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

NOTE.—All Reports will be disqualified that do not conform to the following Rules:—

RULE 1.—Reports must be written on one side of the paper only. Commence the Report by stating the name of your Lyceum, and sign your name at the end.

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring during the present month.

RULE 3.—No Lyceum Report must exceed 120 words.

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than Wednesday, the 19th of February to ensure insertion in the March issue.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE (Burlington Street).—On Sunday, Jan. 5th, we held our monthly open session, recitations being given by Jane Yates and Willie Plenderleith. Also a good number of pearls. On Jan. 12th, we held our quarterly open Session Service in the afternoon. Mr. France gave a few remarks on "Death," followed by clairvoyance. A very successful Lyceum Session was held at night, recitations being given by Mabel Simpson and Mrs. France; readings by Mr. Shepley and Mr. France. Remarks on the Lyceum and its teachings by Mr. Simpson, under the conductors, S. J. Dransfield and Harrington Beech.—A. France, Secretary.

BARROW (Dalkeith Street).—We held our 34th Annual Tea, Concert and Ball on Jan. 2nd, when about 100 children and adults sat down to an excellent tea. After the tea we all adjourned to the upper room, where a grand concert was provided, presided over by our Conductor, Mr. Kellett. The chief item on the programme was a beautiful operetta, entitled "The Apples of Discord," given by 20 of our Lyceumists. Also song by Miss A. Walker; humorous song, Mr. F. Robinson; Japanese fan dance, Miss Armstrong; recitation, Mr. Atkins; pianoforte solo, Miss Harris; song and dance, Miss Duffy; song, Miss Collinson; song, Mr. Nock; song, Miss Jennie Kendall; song, Miss M. Hobson. Miss J. Walker acted as accompanist at the piano.—John Kendall, Sec.

BARRY DOCK.—On January 1st we held our annual tea and distribution of prizes. The ladies of our Society and Lyceum generously found provisions. Recitations were well rendered by the scholars of the Lyceum. We had a fairly good attendance of parents. In addition to books, the children received a goodly number of toys from Christmas Tree. Tree given by Mr. Britton. Marching was ably conducted by Miss Lilly Cannock. A vote of thanks to the ladies brought an enjoyable evening to a close.—Mrs. Sweetman, Hon. Sec.

BIRMINGHAM (Saltley).—On January 5th and 12th, we held our usual sessions, when various members gave instructive readings and recitations. On January 19th we formed groups, when we had lessons on, "How to improve our Lyceums." Mr. Reeves and Miss C. Burroughs took the children's groups. Readings and recitations excellent.—Miss F. Inscow, Librarian.

BLACKBURN (Northgate).—We reopened our Lyceum on January 5th. We had a very fair muster for a beginning, as some 27 names were put on the register that day. We held an open session in the afternoon, when, after the marching had been gone through in very good style, a recitation was given by James Swarbrick and a solo by Miss Gomall. Thus ended our first day. We have now, as per return enclosed, 8 officers, and 24 scholars, with every prospect of adding to our numbers Sunday after Sunday. We are gathering a few very efficient Lyceum workers around us and hope to occupy our old position as a Lyceum in the very near future.—James McKnight, Junr., Secretary.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—On Sunday, the 19th Jan., we held our open session. The attendance was good. We had silver chain No. 78 and musical reading No. 232, and golden

chain No. 145 (our calendar of saints). Our Conductor, Mr. T. Vane, explained the golden chain recitation very fully, and made a special remark about the beautiful event we were celebrating, viz., the foundation of the Lyceum Movement. We were then favoured with remarks, which were interesting and encouraging, from the following elders of our Lyceum:—Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Swan, and Mr. Pixton. We closed a much enjoyed session with singing "Sweet Golden Age."—Arthur C. Eaton, Assistant Secretary.

BRADFORD (Otley Road).—We held our open session on January 5th. Mr. F. Holmes conducted. The following took part to make the session enjoyable and interesting:—Duets were given by Miss L. Flatt and Miss D. Marchbank, Master H. Hale and Master G. Flatt, Masters W. and J. W. Hale, F. Holmes and H. Birdsall. Recitations by Thomas Foster and N. Foster, and Cecelia Edmondson. Reading, Richard Foster. Quartette by A. Holt, R. Foster, H. Birdsall and F. Holmes. We shall hold our Lyceum Anniversary and Prize Distribution on Saturday and Sunday, February 8th and 9th. Speaker, Mr. Will Edwards, assisted by the Bradford Lyceum District Council.—Miss E. Flatt, Secretary.

BRIGHTON (Manchester Street).—5th, attendance good. Professor Severn gave an inspiring address on "Hope," as being appropriate to commencement of New Year. 12th, Mrs. French's lesson on "The digestive organs" was much appreciated, charts on "Food values" being presented to scholars. 19th. We celebrated the Foundation Anniversary, and also reached our one year old birthday. After G.C. 148 and readings from "Outlines," Professor Severn gave an able address on "Consciousness." Most enjoyable session, all present realising the pervading spirit of love and good will. Month's social programme well supported by following:—Lulu Cager, Phyllis Thake, Edith Cager, Leonard Harris, Ivy Collins, Bertha French, &c. Heartiest good wishes to all Lyceum officers and scholars.—Frank G. Clarke, Secretary.

BURY (off Paradise Street).—On January 1st a poor children's free breakfast was supplied to 250 children, who thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment and parting gift of nuts, sweets and a coin of the realm. At night we held our Band of Hope Annual Tea Party and Social. Over 100 partook of a good tea. An augmented company fully appreciated the songs, recitations, &c., dancing and games. Pianist, Miss Clough; Mr. Joe Hepworth, M.C. Mr. and Mrs. Hepworth (late organiser, &c.), were the recipients of a travelling bag, hand-painted floral picture and monetary gift at a farewell social on New Year's Eve, prior to their departure from Bury to Blackburn. Fair attendance.—Wm. Fletcher, Assistant Sec.

CARDIFF (Queen Street).—On New Year's Eve our Lyceum held a very successful tea party and social, presided over by Mr. J. Woodland. After tea we were provided with an excellent musical programme, contributed by Miss Blanche Mabson, Miss Edith Williams, Messrs. J. Holder, J. Woodland, S. White, M. Shatz, Geo. Harris and Gwyn Evans. Miss Annie Davies gave a humorous recitation, which was greatly appreciated. Mr. Geo. Phillips provided a great deal of amusement with his conjuring entertainment. Captain Elvidge spoke a few words of encouragement and asked for more support to be thrown into Lyceum work, after which the presents were distributed off the tree. A great deal of credit is due to Miss Annie Davies and Mr. Frank Giles.—S. Harris, Sec.

CARLISLE (West Walls).—On January 5th we held our open session. The society being disappointed with its speaker the Lyceum was called upon to take the evening service. The programme is too long for this report, suffice it to say the following contributed:—Minnie Atkinson, Olive Wright, Jennie Potts, and H. Wright. The chain recitations, etc., were very good. Will all friends and Lyceumists accept my best thanks for their help in making our pie supper a success. All BANNERS sold. Order your copies early and save disappointment. Will all our Lyceumists please note that we commence at 10-30 a.m. Punctuality is the principle of life.—A. Wyatt, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD (Falcon Yard).—January 12th was the anniversary of our Lyceum, being its second year of life after resuscitation. A special service was held on the Monday following, at which parents and friends were invited to witness the distribution of prizes. To enlist the interest of those present a full session was gone through, including marching

and calisthenics, the children acquitting themselves in a very creditable manner, and it is hoped this effort will be the means of bringing others to swell the ranks of our Lyceum. A special prize for perseverance was presented to Fred Briggs. The Lyceumists gave recitations, and great credit is due to our Conductor for his patience in training the little ones.—J. Martin, Secretary.

COLNE (Cloth Hall).—On January 5th we held our open session, when we had a good number of scholars, leaders and friends present. Mr. Todd, of Bradford, was the speaker for the day, and as usual was present with us at our session. After marching and calisthenics, five boys and five girls recited. Then Mr. Todd presented the prizes to the scholars for good attendance and reciting, and also for good behaviour for the year 1907. He afterwards gave a short address on "Courtesy," which was well received. After the usual compliments of the season had been exchanged, the Lyceum closed, all having spent a very pleasant and happy morning together.—F. Coles, Secretary.

CREWE.—On the 19th inst we held a commemoration service the support given being very gratifying. The golden chain recitation, "The origin of the Lyceum," was gone through, followed later on by an address on the "Life of A. Jackson Davis." The following gave items during the session: Our Musical Conductor, Mr. Fred Henson, very creditably rendered a pianoforte solo, "The Maiden's Prayer"; recitations, Fred Horner, "Spanish Armada"; Ethel Reay, "Rainbow Fairy"; Annie Hope, "Orphan Children"; Isabella Henson, "The Burial of Sir J. Moore"; Jack Reay, "Mercy"; Albert Reay, "Bees." Songs, Miss Woodvine, "Volunteer Organist"; Nellie Ford, "Wonderful Words of Life"; Gwennie and Maggie Baguley, "Home Sweet Home," and Tom Woodvine, "God made my Life."—Arthur Baguley, Secretary.

DARWEN.—On New Year's Eve a grand reunion and social fellowship gathering was held. The rooms were most elaborately decorated with greens and ornate decorations. It commenced at 8 o'clock and closed about 4 a.m. A splendid hot supper was served at 12 o'clock. Singing, reciting and comic songs were given. Dancing was also participated in. A most successful and enjoyable time was spent. Well attended. New Year's Day—The children held a party and entertainment which was very pleasant. On January 11th the Young Men's Guild held a social to help their funds. The Guild is attending to the recreation of the Lyceumists. A nice sum was made, and excellent results will, I expect, be made by the Guild.—J. Clarkson.

DERBY (Charnwood Street).—On January 5th we had a good session. Our numbers are increasing, and we anticipate a most successful year. On January 15th the younger portion of the children gave a musical play, entitled "Beauty and the Beast." The hall was well filled with an appreciative audience. The effort was for the purchase of Lyceum Manuals. The object has been accomplished, and a balance left to hand to the treasurer.—Miss Ethel Lees, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Bath Street).—The above Lyceum held their annual social and dance, when we were honoured by representatives from Motherwell, Burnbank, Greenock and Glasgow Lyceums. Our open session was held on Sunday, January 5th. The platform was occupied by Messrs. Campbell and Nutt, also Messrs. Young and McIntyre from the Association. Mr. McIntyre gave a short address, which was much appreciated by all, while Mr. Geo. Young in a pleasant manner distributed the prizes for attendance and excellence in calisthenics. Solos and recitations were well rendered by Lyceumists. The marching and calisthenics were of the usual standard of excellence. Altogether the session was a very attractive one.—W. G. McPherson, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Blytheswood Masonic Halls).—On Sunday, January 19th, we held an anniversary in our Lyceum. We were favoured by an address from Mr. Macpherson, Secretary Mediums' Union, which was very instructive and was appreciated by old and young. Marching and calisthenics are progressing apace, and our numbers are increasing slowly but surely.

GREAT HARWOOD (off West Well Street).—We held our open session on January 5th. The silver chain was led by Mr. Eastwood. The musical reading was led by Mrs. East-

wood, Miss P. Birtwistle and Master A. Holt. The golden chain was led by Harold A. Eastwood, who also gave a recitation. Singing by Miss A. Thornber and Mr. Baxter. After the close of the session we held our Lyceum meeting for the election of officers, the following being elected:—Conductor, Mr. Eastwood; assistant conductor, Mr. Baxter; secretary, Miss Mary Alice Holt; guardian, Miss A. Holderness; leaders in marching, J. T. Eastwood and Mrs. Holt; calisthenics conductor, J. T. Eastwood; sick visitors, Mrs. Eastwood and Mrs. Holt.—Miss A. Holt, Secretary.

HEYWOOD (William Street).—The young men's annual tea party and social was held on New Year's Day, over 100 being present. The room was very nicely decorated for the occasion. After tea the evening was spent in a very joyous manner, there being songs and dancing. The event was a success. On Sunday, January 5th, we held our annual election of officers. Space will not allow me to give a detailed list. Suffice it to say Mr. J. J. Taylor was elected conductor; Mr. J. Lord, assistant; treasurer, Mr. R. Scott; H. Cload, secretary, and a full staff of all the other officers. It was pleasing to see the children taking a deeper interest in the election.—H. Cload, Secretary.

HINDLEY (Bridge Street).—On January 5th we had a very pleasant session with the rendering of the golden chain recitation No. 134, "Life and happiness." Some interesting and instructive comments were made on it by Wm. Hy. Yates, Joseph Lawler, Arthur Buttler, and John Woodcock, our conductor. The children listened very attentively. Misses N. Bleasdale and A. Brook gave a duet.—Richard Barrington.

HUDDERSFIELD (St. Peter's Street).—On January 5th we held our open sessions and prize distribution. The readings were well rendered. The golden chain was very fair. Solos were sung by W. Wallis and C. Gledhill. Readings by Mr. Hemingway and M. Brook. A duet by F. Wilson and M. Brook. A recitation by Ivy Macdonald. The marching and calisthenics very fair. The prizes were distributed by one of our old members, Mr. Massheder.—Miss M. Barrow, Secretary.

HYDE (Clarendon Street).—We held a splendid session, and a good audience. We were also helped in our efforts by several Lyceumists from Dukinfield. Solos and recitations were ably rendered by several of the scholars. We intend having these special sessions as a kind of open Sunday or P.S.A. on the first Sunday in each month. And we intend making the town of Hyde ring with Spiritualism. Wishing all Lyceums a bright and successful New Year.—Joseph Smith, Secretary.

KEIGHLEY (Heber Street).—We held our open session on Sunday, January 12th, when the members of the River Group, leader Miss Fossey, provided the programme, which was as follows:—Opening hymn 306 Lyceum Manual, No. 211 Lyceum Manual, was sung by the group, M. Wright gave a reading; solo by A. Riley; recitations by M. Walker, E. L. Fossey and A. Haliday; pianoforte solo by A. Whitaker; Miss Shackleton being the accompanist.—E. Shackleton, Secretary.

LANCASTER.—On January 5th we had a special children's day, when Mr. Alderman Kitchen distributed the prizes. Mr. Ball presided. The hall was packed. Mrs. Hill sang "Angels ever bright and fair" and "The children's home." Miss Gardner and Mrs. Jones sang "A glad New Year." Mr. Ball said it gave him pleasure to preside on that occasion, when Mr. Alderman Kitchen was with them. It took a man of moral backbone to stand on a spiritualist platform, and he was pleased to say Mr. Kitchen was such a man. The first prizes awarded were *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*. A copy of the *Lyceum Manual* was awarded to the Alderman, suitably inscribed by Miss Lunt.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On January 5th we held a very enjoyable session. The naming of Mr. and Mrs. Ross's baby boy by our old worker, Mr. W. B. Wright, awakened great interest, as Mrs. Ross at one time was a Lyceum worker. Special solos and recitations were given. The officers for 1908 are as follows:—Mr. Hunter, conductor; Miss Newcombe, Mr. Bishop and Mr. Wright, with an able body of leaders.—James Bishop, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL (Mount Pleasant).—On January 19th, in accordance with the suggestion made in the LYCEUM BANNER, we, in a small way, commemorated the anniversary of the Lyceum movement. Suitable hymns were sung, and the Conductor made a brief speech detailing the origin and growth

of the Lyceum movement, and expressed heart-felt thanks to Andrew Jackson Davis. The leader of the junior group was suffering from inflammation of the throat and had lost her voice. After the throat had been magnetised by Mr. McFarlane, under spirit control, the throat was so much better that all the Lyceum members could hear her speak as she stood near the platform. So much for the power of healing.—W. Pickup.

LONDON, BATTERSEA (Henley Hall).—The New Year's party was given to the children of this Lyceum on Friday, January 3rd. It was by the kindness and generosity of friends who sent donations for the purpose that this was done. The tree was the gift of a country friend. It was loaded with toys, of which each child had two. A substantial tea was enjoyed by all the children in attendance. Also games, fruit and cakes were enjoyed during the evening. On leaving each child had a pair of warm stockings or socks given to them.—Mrs. E. Bolton, Secretary.

LONDON, CHISWICK (56, High Road).—On Saturday, January 11th, our New Year's party was given to Lyceumists and friends, when Chiswick Hall was the scene of many happy faces. At five o'clock over 40 sat down to tea, followed by games and various amusements. The most interesting item of the evening was a play, entitled "Cinderella," which was given by some of the Lyceum children to an audience of about 60 friends. The little artistes all took their parts admirably, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed. Great credit is due to our good friend, Mrs. Liddington, who had displayed much interest in teaching the children their parts. Three hearty cheers for Mrs. Liddington and three hearty cheers for Mr. Smyth concluded a very enjoyable evening.—Miss B. Imison, Secretary.

LONDON (Tottenham).—On January 5th we were very pleased to have with us our good friend and Lyceumist, Mr. Parsonson, of Toronto, Canada, who had come over to England for a short stay. We were favoured with some encouraging remarks, and were glad to learn of the progress of the cause in Toronto. January 10th—Mr. May, our treasurer, gave a short address, and also Mr. Mosbergh kindly spoke a few words to us. This being Mr. Parsonson's last Sunday with us we all united in wishing him a hearty God speed. We hope he will long remain an ardent Lyceum worker in Toronto.—Charles Barrington, Conductor.

MACCLESFIELD.—On January 5th we held our open session, there being a fairly good attendance. After the chain recitations, marching, etc., our Conductor, Mr. T. Albinson, addressed the Lyceum, giving illustrations on "Railway morals as appertaining to human life," which was listened to with rapt attention.—W. Albinson, Secretary.

MANCHESTER (Collyhurst).—On January 1st we held our annual tea party and distribution of prizes. Our Conductor, Mr. Horrocks, presented 37 prizes for regular attendance. Also two prizes, kindly given by our President, Mr. E. Bragg, for recitations and solos, Lavinia Pearce carrying off the prize for recitations and Miss Annie Anyon for solo singing. Lyceum scholars provided us with a capital entertainment during the evening. Sunday, January 5th—Lyceum session as usual, after which we had the annual report and election of officers for the present year. The financial statement shows us to be in a very healthy position. The following officers were elected:—Conductor, Mr. J. H. Horrocks; sub-conductor, Mr. F. Pearce; treasurer, Mr. F. Pearce; guardian, Mr. J. Parkinson; assistant guardian, Miss Edith Bragg; secretary, Mr. J. Parkinson, and a full staff of leaders.—A. P. Anyon.

MANCHESTER (Harpurhey).—We held our Annual Tea Party on New Year's Day, 150 present did full justice to the same. Afterwards we had the distribution of toys from the Christmas Tree. The following Lyceumists entertained: Miss C Cannon, song; Mr. T. Edmondson, song; Miss L. Smith and G. Smith, pianoforte duet; Miss E. Jackson, recital; Miss R. Ramsbottom and Miss A. Roe, duet; Character Song by the following, Miss E. and B. Jackson, Miss E. Roe, Alice Doodson, Edith Smith, and Miss F. Nuttall. Miss Barker accompanied in an efficient manner. Our Annual Meeting resulted in the following officers being elected, Conductor, Mr. J. H. Jackson, Assistant, Mr. Dolman. Treasurer, Mr. Frith. Secretary Mr. T. Edmondson, Musical Director, Mr. H. Carradine, Guardian, Miss Rawson.—T. Edmondson, Sec.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—On January 4th we held our Lyceum Annual Tea Party, and Prize Distribution. About 250 sitting down to an excellent tea. During the evening they were entertained to games, violin solos, gramophone selections, etc., and a fine Christmas tree, this part of the programme being ably presided over by Mr. A. E. Jones, (conductor). Mrs. Hyde very kindly distributed the prizes, speaking a few encouraging words to each Lyceumist. Mr. Braham (dressed as Father Christmas) kindly distributed the presents off the christmas tree, nearly every person receiving a present. A most enjoyable evening being spent. The Lyceum tender their sincere thanks to all friends who contributed and helped to make the day such a success.—Miss L. Sims.

MANCHESTER (Princess Road).—On January 1st we held our annual Children's Tea Party and Prize Distribution, at which about 100 people sat down to an excellent tea. The programme consisted of a song, entitled "Diabolo" by Mr. Edmondson, and song by Nellie Robinson, entitled "Always." The children had a quarter of an hour's romp before the prize distribution. Mr. Rastall, Conductor, assisted by Mr. Chappell, presented the prizes, after which each child received a present from the christmas tree. Other songs were rendered by Mr. Evans, entitled, "When Father comes home sober." "Sweet Madrid" by Doris Garner; "The Galloping Major" by Mr. Cridland, and "German Band" by Gladys Roberts. Dancing commenced at 10 o'clock.—T. Robinson, Sec.

MIDDLESBROUGH LYCEUM.—January 1st we had our Annual Tea, after which the children received about 100 prizes. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, thanks to some kind friends who came forward and brought a case of oranges and special prizes. The Lyceum had presented to them an enlarged photo (in oak frame) of our Conductor, (Mr. Chas. H. Roeder) who has led us for 20 years, also one of our Pastor (Rev. Geo. Cole) making a splendid pair of pictures for our room. We start this year with £1 on the right side of the balance sheet.—W. Cowell-Pugh.

MOTHERWELL (Watson Street).—On January 19th we held a special service in commemoration of Andrew Jackson Davis. Mr. Robinson, a Burnbank friend, read us a paper dealing with the life of the great founder of Lyceums. Very encouraging were his remarks to the Lyceumists, who gave their every attention to what he had to say. Recitations were rendered by the younger members, and the calisthenics were well executed. The attendance was not so large as it might have been, but on the whole our session was a bright one.—Jeannie Hendry, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—On January 5th we held our open session during which the two prizes offered by Mr. Masters and Mr. Shipley were competed for. They were won by Violet Hather and Harold Howitt. This was followed by the annual prize distribution, performed by Mr. Masters. On January 20th we held our Lyceum Tea Party which was well attended by Lyceumists and a few adults. [For presentation to Mr. Shipley, see Honour to a Conductor, Ed. L.B.]—Miss E. H. Yates, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM (Mechanics' Hall).—January 5th open session. Mr. P. Farnath offered two prizes for the best solos, or recitations. The following competed: Cissie Randall, "A Welcome Guest"; Harry Farnath, "Heaven's Messenger"; Ada Castledine, "The old Bachelor's Cottage"; Elsie Brown, "The old and the New"; Edith Farnath, "The kind little neighbour"; Charles Randall, "The pipes at Lucknow." Miss Victoria Raynor, who had been elected judge, gave her decision in favour of Ada Castledine, and Harry Farnath. The following gave their services but did not compete for the prizes. J. W. Rayner, Violin Solo; Ada Brown, "Break! Break! Break!" Mr. Deakin "The Shoeblack" Victoria Raynor "The Changed Cross."—Lewis Cooke, Sec.

OPENSHAW (Beulah Street).—On Saturday, Jan. 4th, we held our Lyceum party and prize distribution when 81 prizes were distributed by our conductor, for regular attendance during the last year, and two special prizes to the conductor and the musical instructor as an appreciation of their services. The rest of the evening was spent in games, etc., altogether a very pleasant and enjoyable day being spent.—W.T.W. Sec.

PADIHAM.—On Jan. 5th, we held our open session, conducted by Mr. Higham, Master A. Ward recited. Mr. Chippendale read a

selection from THE LYCEUM BANNER, and Mr. Cranshaw read one from the Manual. There was a good gathering and a good session. On Saturday January 11th, we held our annual Tea and Prize Distribution, followed by a concert given by the Padiham Black and White Concert Party, the members of which acquitted themselves with credit, seeing it was their first appearance. There were about 42 prizes, Mrs. Forest, of Burnley, distributed them, and also gave an excellent address.—C. H. Hoole, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Friday, January 17th, we had a most enjoyable time with the children. An excellent tea was provided, and a great Christmas tree laden with good things for the little ones by interested friends. We were pleasantly entertained with recitations and solos by the Masters Fielder, Bryson, Gutheridge, and the Misses Dimmick, Bird, and Richardson. Much disappointment prevailed, at the absence of our worthy conductor, Mr. Percy Witts, through circumstances unforeseen. Portsmouth has every reason to be proud of its Lyceum, which has made satisfactory progress during the short period of its existence.—Mrs. D. A. Nicholls, Hon. Sec.

PRESTON (Central).—We opened our Lyceum on January 5th, Mr. Will Edwards of Accrington, conducted, and gave us a practical address on Lyceum work, Mr. Holland of Blackburn led the marching. January 12th, Mr. G. Edwards, of Blackburn gave us an interesting address on the duties of the officers. He also led the marching. January 19th, we elected our officers for six months, Conductor, Mr. A. Longbottom, Secretary Mr. C. Fisher, 27, Ashton Street, Treasurer, Mr. W. Higginbottom, Musical Director, Miss M. J. Airey, Calisthenic Conductor, Miss S. Fisher, Captain, Mr. F. Fisher, Leader, Miss A. Clough.—W. Scowcroft, Sec. *pro tem.*

RISHTON.—On January 5th, the following officers were elected. Conductor, Mr. George Howarth, Assistant, Miss N. Duckworth; Secretary, Joe English; Guardian, Emma Doyle; Musical Directors, Mr. Cook and Miss N. Duckworth; Leaders of Calisthenics, Ernest Green and Richard Cook; Leaders for various Groups, R. Cook, Arthur Green, Ernest Holden, Lucy Ellison and Lizzie Duckworth. Mr. Turner was appointed Guardian of the whole Lyceum. Our Lyceum Tea Party and distribution of prizes will be held on February 22nd, when Mrs. Jessy Greenwood is expected to be present and preside over the meeting.—Joe English, Sec.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—We held our half-yearly meeting for the election of officers on January 4th, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. T. Dixon; Assistant, Mr. W. Brown; Conductor of Calisthenics, Mr. J. J. Howarth; Teachers for Boys, Mr. B. Dixon and Mr. J. Weldon; Teachers for Girls, Miss A. Booth and Miss M. Weldon; Guardians, Mr. B. Dixon and Miss E. Whiteley; Captain of Guards, Mr. J. Brown; Librarian, Mr. G. Robinslaw; Sick Visitors, Miss A. Booth and Miss Cryer; Secretary for Sick Fund, Mr. T. Dixon; Treasurer for Sick Fund, Miss A. Booth; Musical Directors, Mr. E. Sanderson and Miss D. Dixon.—J. Weldon, Sec.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—On January 5th, we held our open session, the weather spoiled the attendance, but nevertheless there was a good feeling throughout. Mrs. Nurse conducted and after a most encouraging speech, Miss H. Howarth and Miss Jenkinson sang No. 405 in the Manual. The whole Lyceum joining in the chorus. Miss Maggie Shepherd recited "Heart of gold" in good style. Miss Dearden "The Windmill" and a friend from Penn Street Lyceum gave us a recitation in Lancashire Dialect. Marching and calisthenics were well gone through. Everything passed off pleasantly for the first Sunday in the New Year, and it is to be hoped it may be continued through it.—Joseph Dean, Sec.

SHAW AND CROMPTON.—On January 11th we held our Lyceum Tea Party. After the tea we held our social and concert, during which Mr. Clough presented the prizes to the scholars. And, also, Sunday January 12th, we held our Anniversary service, the Lyceum scholars occupying the platform. We had a good time.—J. Leigh, Sec.

SHEFFIELD (Attercliffe).—We opened the year with our Lyceum tea and entertainment, something like 100 children, officers and elders sat down to tea which was very much enjoyed. The entertainment consisted chiefly of selections of music from the gramophone of Mr. Peacock. The Lyceumists gave three good round cheers. The committee sincerely thanked all who so generously contributed to the New Year's

treat. Our first session of the year was opened by Miss Appleby, one of our first Lyceumists, who has been appointed one of the conductors. Marching and calisthenics were well rendered, and Bluebell cards were distributed by our Secretary. The 45th anniversary session was opened by Mr. Fulwood, in the absence of the appointed conductor, some Lyceumists sang, and others recited in a creditable manner.—H. Bowmer, Sec.

SHEFFIELD (Darnall).—January 1st being the Lyceum treat day, everybody spent a good time, all going home well satisfied. January 5th, we opened the New Year with a very good attendance. The marching being admirably gone through. January 19th being the 45th anniversary of the Lyceum movement, and also, our own anniversary, we honoured the day as such, recitations being well rendered, especially "The Wreck of the Hesperus" by Horace Salmon.—Alice Mason.

SKIPTON.—We held our annual member's meeting on Sunday January 12th, when the following officers were elected: Conductor, Mr. Smith; Assistant Conductor, Miss Fleming and Miss J. Brunt; Guardian, Miss Brunt; Leaders, Misses Fleming, Smith, Field, H. Metcalf, Mrs. Lincoln, Messrs Watson, Smith, Bailey, Turner, Brunt, J. Brunt; Musical Director, Mr. Hopwood; Secretary, Mr. J. Edward; Treasurer, Mr. L. Stamp; Auditors, Mr. Smith and Mr. Brunt.—Miss E. Brunt.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—On January 5th we held our usual open session, when the following programme was submitted and duly consummated. Reading, "Dora," Mr. Wm. Houldcroft; recitations, "Billy's rose," Miss Cissie Bell; "Death of the Old Year," Master C. Houldcroft; solo, "Lo, in the golden sky," Mr. Thos. Berry. We are making steady progress. Members increasing. The space at our disposal for marching and calisthenics is now taxed to its utmost capacity. My dear mother, to show her appreciation of the efforts we are putting forth, is about to present all the Lyceumists with badges.—Miss Elsie Guest, Secretary.

SOUTH SHIELDS (King Street).—We had a tea and entertainment by Lyceum children, when songs and recitations were rendered to the satisfaction of all present. January 12th, Lyceum session at 2-30, very good attendance. Mr. J. Clark, D.V., gave us a visit, and was well pleased with the attendance and increase in numbers from the last visit, and was well satisfied with the calisthenics and marching done by the children. I am sorry to say we are greatly in need of more workers. I don't know the reason why we don't get more of the adults to come and give us a little assistance, for I am sure it is a beautiful work. It is the laying of the foundation for the future of Spiritualism.—Thomas James, Secretary.

SOUTH SHIELDS (Robinson Street).—On January 5th we had a good attendance. We had as visitors Mr. Wedderburn, Secretary to the Northern County Union, and Mr. Gill, who addressed the Lyceum. Recitations were given by Florence Thompson, Maggie Walker, Herbert Humes and John Longstaff. On January 19th we had a visit from Mr. Clarke, D.V., Mr. Riddley, President N.C.U., and Mr. Major, of West Pelton, who addressed the Lyceum. Misses Florence Thompson and Dora Embleton gave a duet.—Mrs. R. Longstaff, Sec.

STOCKPORT (Central).—On January 4th the elder Lyceumists and friends had a New Year's party, when over 40 sat down to an excellent tea. Afterwards an enjoyable time was spent in dancing and games until 10-45. On Sunday, January 5th, we held our Lyceum anniversary sessions, when the guest of the day was Mr. Poulton, D.V. In the afternoon marching and calisthenics were ably executed. An exceptionally large number of recitations and solos were given by Lyceumists. In the evening Mr. Poulton gave an inspiring address to an earnest audience. At the after-circle, Miss Ethel Cottrell, of Ashton Lyceum, gave convincing clairvoyance. We express our thanks to them for their kind assistance. We had good collections, which goes towards the prizes.—J. H. Marston.

TODMORDEN.—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our usual open session, when the following programme was gone through:—Recitation, "Holly and ivy," Master William Crossley; song, Mr. C. Golding; recitation, "Make a start," Mr. W. J. Braund; recitation, "The gin fiend," Mr. H. Stell; song, Mr. H. Dale, who also gave a short speech; song, Mr. C. Golding; song, Miss B. A. Crossley. A most enjoyable session was brought to a close by a few remarks from our newly-elected Assistant Conductor, Miss S. Uttley.—Mr. Geo. Crossley, Secretary, Miss A. Emmett, Assistant Secretary.