

THE LYCEUM BANNER

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FOR OLD AND YOUNG

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

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ONE PENNY

ONE noticeable fact in connection with the various well-known workers in the Cause of Spiritualism is that nearly all of them have risen from the ranks of the people. In other words, the spirit-world has found its mortal co-workers among those who were open to the inspirations of the higher life, rather than among those who are overburdened with the pride of birth, place, or education. Physical fitness, rather than collegiate training, being the most desired qualification for the modern work of the spirits.

The subject of this brief sketch is a case in point illustrating the foregoing statements. The story of her life is worth the telling, for it is the relation of interest to all Lyceumists at home and abroad.

Annie E. Bentley, *nee* Burton, was born at Manchester, in Hyde Road, not so long ago, as years count. Her father was a trusted and respected servant of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. Her mother, also Manchester born, is still living, also has two other daughters and three sons.

A few months after her advent into this life, Annie went with the family to Castleton, where they resided for some time. Subsequently removals took place to Heywood, Whitefield, and finally to Bury, where, until her marriage, the subject of this sketch continued to reside. Her early education was obtained at the Congregational day school at Heywood. After residing in Bury for a little time she attended the Unitarian Sunday School, and conducted a boys' class, the youngsters being as boys are apt to be—unruly little fellows.

Mr. Burton went into business as a local agent to G. Wright & Sons, the well-known dyers, in which Annie joined, and for a number of years she was well-known to hundreds of the inhabitants of Bury and much esteemed by all. Her business capacity, with



Mrs. ANNIE E. BENTLEY.

her aptitude for dealing with the people, were prophetic of value to her in the time to come. Self-possession, combined with tact, enabled her to meet the requirements of some exacting commercial position.

Mrs. Bentley has been familiar with spirit communion from her earliest life. The family received manifestations at home. Frequently, when the mother was out and did not return as promptly as the young folks considered she should, they would resort to the use of a stool, and ascertain from the number of tiltings when their mother would return, the information always being correct. She was familiar with the leading workers in the district from her infancy, as her mother entertained nearly all the earlier mediums who visited Castleton, Heywood, and Bury, as well as many of those who rose to fame in later years. Indeed, the Burton homestead was open house to Spiritualists' for many years. Her father, with Mr. Pell and Mr. Wild, were the trustees of the first Society in Heywood, at

Argyle Buildings about 26 years ago. When the Bury, Society was founded 17 years ago all the Burton family became active workers on its behalf, but it was not until the Lyceum was formed that Mrs. Bentley actually found her proper sphere of labour in our work.

Her career as a Lyceumist had a somewhat topsyturvy beginning, for the first office that she ever held was that of Conductor! Afterwards she filled the lesser offices, and was zealous in promoting all the events of the year, such as teas, entertainments, excursions, &c.

In due course she fell a victim to the wiles of Cupid, for which there is but one cure—matrimony. As a result she was married to Mr. W. E. Bentley in 1905, the ceremony taking place in the Unitarian Chapel, conducted by Mr. Frank Hepworth, Bury. The newly-

married pair later settled in Manchester, where they now reside. Mr. Bentley, who is the Secretary of the B.M.U. is an earnest Spiritualist, and loyally seconds the efforts of his partner in relation to Lyceum work.

For several years previous to the above recorded event, Mrs. Bentley had been visiting more or less frequently various Lyceums in the district, but when elected as Union District Visitor to the Rochdale District her sphere of labour was considerably extended. While so much has she been in request that she has travelled to places as far apart as Glasgow and Leicester, Hull and Liverpool, and dozens of places in between. She does not accept calls from Societies, but confines her services to Lyceums. She is an excellent clairvoyant-psychometrist, a pleasant speaker, and always affords satisfaction wherever she goes.

After serving on the Council of the B.S.L.U. for four years, she was elected by the Burnley Conference to the position of President of the Union, she being the third lady president on the roll. She enjoys the cordial good-will and esteem of her colleagues on the Council, and makes an admirable presiding officer. She is fortunate in respect to this honour, in so much that she occupies the Chair at the next Conference when the Lyceum Union attains its majority. She will have the opportunity of possibly welcoming distinguished visitors from America, as well as most of the past Presidents of the Union.

Mrs. Bentley pays a just tribute to her good mother, who so cheerfully assented to her various absences from business when on her Lyceum visitations. Indeed, Mrs. Burton added, in that respect, to her many generous services to our Cause, and it is but right that a meed of praise should be given to her. She was always a good supporter of the local Societies where she resided, and ever ready to afford such assistance in time, service, or purse as circumstances permitted.

In these days of the almost admitted equality of the sexes it is fitting that a woman should be at the head of the children's movement. Also, it is fitting that the head of the Lyceum Union should be a Lyceumist, and one who has held every position in a Lyceum from scholar to Conductor. The position is not merely an ornamental one; it calls for experience and knowledge, as well as amiability and tact. It is an important one, as the presiding officer conducting a deliberative and legislative meeting, such as the Lyceums' Union Conference is, has heavy duties to contend with. It is a sound maxim that we should find our dignitaries from within our own ranks. Mrs. Bentley will no doubt worthily uphold the traditions of her important position, and so justify the confidences of those who elected her thereto. The excellent portrait of her which accompanies this all too short sketch of an interesting personality, does her fair justice. But her vivacity, earnestness, and self-possession in the prosecution of her work cannot be reproduced upon paper.

It must be a source of gratification to her many friends in Bury and elsewhere to see her in the position she occupies to day, not only in the Union, but in the Lyceum movement at large. In after years she will look back upon her period of Presidency as one of the proudest recollections connected with her labours for the spirits, the children, and the Cause.

The Unbeliever,

By FREDELLA E. FISCHER.

(FROM THE SUNFLOWER).

"I cannot agree with you," said Lawrence Dunbar to his chum and companion, Walter Weaver.

They were strolling through the woods which belonged to the Weaver estate. Lawrence removed his hat, letting the cool breeze fan his brow, around which clustered jetty black curls. His companion was of a decidedly different type, a large, fair-haired man of twenty-eight years, with deep blue eyes and an earnest countenance, his broad brow denoting strength and nobility of character. He, too, removed his hat as they pursued their way through the quiet little woods, the sunbeams turning to gold his close-cropped hair. Walter had been consecrated to God from his earliest childhood by a fond mother who had been early left a widow, with wealth enough to satisfy her wish. Walter had enjoyed the very best educational advantages and gave fair promise now, at his twenty-eighth year, of fulfilling his mother's heart's desire. He was of a generous, genial nature and beloved by all his companions, especially Lawrence, who loved him as a brother. They seemed greatly drawn toward one another, although, in some respects, they were directly opposite in their natures.

Lawrence had come to spend several weeks at Walter's home, Walter's mother graciously inviting him to spend his vacation with them. Lawrence, had his pride permitted him, would have remained, as he was poor, very poor, but he had accepted a position which would bring him enough to fit himself out for the fall and winter term at college. Tomorrow he was to leave them and Walter had suggested that they take a farewell trip through the woods to the little lake which lay beyond, where they had enjoyed themselves so frequently during the last three weeks. They had been discussing religion and Walter had confided to his friend that he thought that he could never be happy following any other career, except that of a clergyman.

"I do not agree with you," said Lawrence, again.

"There are many other professions which would bring great happiness into your life."

"Yes, but none that I know of whereby I might be of greater service to humanity."

"Oh, yes," answered Lawrence, "I know of a great many. You might study medicine and be of far more service to humanity than as a clergyman. I am positive that a doctor can do far more toward bringing a man's soul to God than a clergyman."

"How am I to understand this last remark of yours?" laughed Walter. "Is it another of your original sayings?"

"No," answered Lawrence, soberly, "I am in earnest. A physician can sooner reach a man's heart, a man's conscience, than a clergyman. Why? Because a physician does not ask you to have faith in him. He simply does what he thinks is best for you. He does not care a rap about your faith. He is confident he can help you, and in nine cases out of ten he does. He shows you what he can do, there-

by awakening you to the realization that he can do these things. You don't need any faith in the matter, you have facts before you. A physician reaches all classes of men, in all different conditions of life. He has a wider field of action than a clergyman."

"I don't see how you can figure that out," said Walter. "A clergyman goes among all classes, doing good and looking after the souls of men."

"Yes, but he never has the opportunities to reach the souls of men like a physician. Don't you know, I think a physician gets nearer to a man's soul than any other being on earth, especially where he has a hard struggle to keep body and soul together. One good doctor, in my opinion, is of more practical worth to God than a half-dozen clergymen."

"Why, Lawrence, you are giving me some hard knocks to-day."

"Cannot help it, old chap. No offence, but I am just giving you my candid opinions on the profession you intend to follow."

"Why, Lawrence, it has been the one aim and ambition of my life to enter this field, where I might serve my maker by leading weak and helpless souls to Him."

"You can do that without becoming a clergyman. All men should do that, should lead weak and helpless souls to Him, by setting a good example for them to follow, by living the life that Jesus did."

"But you know, Lawrence, that we cannot live as Christ did, because He was God's own son, and not imperfect, as we are."

"Walter, you, too, are God's own son. I am a son of God, and we, too, can attain to a state of perfection, if we but strive for it. Why, we are commanded to be perfect (St. Matthew, v. 48), 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' If a state of perfection were not attainable Jesus would not command it. I tell you that the attitude of the Christian religions as they are taught to-day does not tend to create in man a love for his fellow-man. Rather, they despise and revile one another. Look at the Salvation Army. They are the people whom I think are closer followers of Jesus to-day than any other sect. They are not afraid to get down in the dust and help a fallen brother. They are not afraid to extend a helping hand to a needy wretch, not first making an examination as to whether or not he is worthy of their help. If he is not they give him a chance to become so, and if he is, so much the better. I tell you, Walter, half the world does not know of the good these people do. You do not realize the suffering, the wretchedness, the crime which the church is not able to reach. Let us begin at the root of this evil. A majority of the Christian churches of to-day teach us that a man at his very best is but a creature of sin. Born and bred in sin, as I have heard some say. Well, then, you tell a man that the very best he does in life is no good, no benefit to his salvation, that he is saved by faith alone, and do you think that this doctrine tends to bring out the best there is in a man's soul, tends to encourage him to strive manfully for the very best there is in life, tends to encourage him to aim high? Not among the lower classes, at least. It encourages slothfulness. They will say: We believe in Jesus Christ, he will save us,

as he did the thief on the cross. Whereas, if you teach them that they are of some good, that the soul of each and every one of them is imperishable, that they are responsible for every evil deed they commit, and that they will suffer for them, teach them the vast injustice of loading their sins on the shoulders of Jesus, show them the worth of their own souls, show them the part of their creation which is of God's divine body, and they will soon awaken to the realization that they have been housing their God in a temple not fit for swine to dwell in. Teach every man to keep his body a pure, white temple, a fitting abode for his God. Teach him the boundless possibilities of his soul while still housed here in a teneament of clay, not waiting a future state of heaven in the far-off somewhere, which he shall enter after a life of sin here, of gross selfishness, simply by faith in Christ."

"Then you have no faith in Jesus, you do not accept him as your saviour?" asked Walter, as Lawrence paused for breath. He had become greatly aroused over his friend's discourse, never dreaming that Lawrence, the jovial, the gay, could reason and think so deep as this. His face was pale with intense excitement as Lawrence answered:

"Yes, I believe in Jesus as my saviour. Of late years He has become a greater and grander saviour than ever before, because I have been brought nearer to Him through bitter trials. He becomes my saviour in this way; He shows me how to live, to live as He did, to glorify His Father, who is also my Father, by living a right life, striving with all my might to attain His state of perfection. To be sure, I fall woefully short of the mark. Nevertheless, I have Him before me as an example, and when I fall, faint and weary, He will extend a helping hand to me. will encourage me. He is my saviour because He taught me the right love for my fellow-men. He did not only love the Israelites, of whom He was one, all who came to Him were welcome to receive the light. He teaches me the right love for my Father, which is not a selfish love, casting my errors and sins upon Him, Jesus, but teaching me to so love my Father that I will strive with all my might to make the very best of my own soul to honour my Creator.

"Look over the world's history. How much human blood has been spilled in the name of Jesus. Simply a result of this blood atonement doctrine, where if men had been taught to look for the God principle in every one of their fellow-men they would have been less savage. It sickens my soul to look over history and see the crimes that have been committed in the name of Jesus, in His name, who said, 'Peace be with you.'

"Do you recall the words of Jesus as he washed the feet of his disciples? 'For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done with you.' In this way, Walter, Jesus becomes my saviour."

They had reached the lake by this time, which lay on the other side of the wood. Lawrence ceased speaking for a second, to suddenly remark: "Why, who is that in your boat yonder?" at the same time indicating with his finger where the boat was gliding slowly across the lake. The occupant appeared to be a lady clad in a pink garment.

"Why, who can this be?" asked Walter, in astonishment. "I was not aware of the presence of any young lady within a dozen miles of this place."

She appeared to be idly floating and now leaned over the edge of the boat to touch the water with her hand.

"Gracious, she makes me nervous," said Lawrence. "She will tip the boat, sure thing." Hardly had he uttered the words when her hat fell into the water, she reached for it, and the next instant the boat capsized. A loud, shrill scream rang out over the little lake, as she disappeared beneath its calm surface. Lawrence's coat was off in an instant and he had plunged into the water.

Walter, for a second too stunned to move, now plunged in after him. Both men were expert swimmers and struck out boldly for the spot where the girl had gone down, which was about half-way across and the deepest part of the little lake. Lawrence, some distance in advance, saw her head rise above the water for a second and then disappear again. He redoubled his energetic strokes, reaching her side just as she again reached the surface. Realizing that she could not swim, or at least was too frightened to attempt to, he seized her body with one arm, attempting to raise her head above water, but she seemed to be entirely gone and perfectly helpless. Walter soon reached the shore on the verge of exhaustion, her long draperies interfering in their progress. Together they drew the limp body up the bank, and, after a second's rest, Lawrence set to work to restore the girl to consciousness. He understood the work well and greatly surprised Walter by his ready skill. At length, when the girl showed signs of life, he paused, utterly exhausted, and sat down on the grass, saying to Walter:

"You had better run to the house and get something to carry her on."

Walter was gone in a minute, returning very soon with an improvised stretcher and accompanied by the gardener. Between them they bore the unconscious girl to the house, where, after half an hour's vigorous efforts, she finally opened her eyes for a few moments and then relapsed again into unconsciousness.

Jake, the gardener, had been hastily despatched for a doctor, some miles distant, who soon arrived, and, after half an hour's observation, pronounced the lady out of danger.

"She is exhausted and will, perhaps, sleep for some time, but there is absolutely no danger," said he, "outside of the nervous shock."

Lawrence and Walter sat on the veranda, vainly speculating as to who she was and how she came to be boating in such an odd costume.

"Looks to me like a house gown," said Lawrence.

"At least it has a train two yards long."

"Evidently a person of means and refinement," commented Walter.

"To judge from her appearance, deuced pretty, too," said Lawrence, "and no feather weight." He was still very pale and showed signs of the struggle they had gone through in rescuing the girl.

"Well, she can thank God you were there," said Walter, "for I certainly would not have known what to do with her. She owes her life to you."

"Pshaw," said Lawrence, "I could not have got her to shore alone had it not been for your help."

(To be continued).

Selections from the Mythology of the Ancients.

By the EDITOR.

The term "mythology" is composed of two words, namely, *mythos*, a fable, and *logos*, a discourse.

The study of mythology has been interesting mostly to scholars, poets and artists. The ordinary man and woman will have seen occasional references to such names as chaos, Titan, Saturn, Terra, Jupiter, Neptune, Pluto, Minerva, Apollo, Diana, Mercury, Bacchus, Prometheus bound, Pandora's box, the sufferings of Axion on the wheel, the punishment of Tantalus, the endless labours of Sisyphus, and Midas (by whose touch everything was turned into gold), without being able to gather anything definite concerning them. These, and many more, are characters figuring in the mythologies of the ancients, and are also spoken of as the ancient classics. It is our desire to help our readers to a better and fuller understanding of those ancient heroes and heroines by such terms as will not require the constant use of the dictionary. By this means you will be introduced to a literature grand in its conception of the forces and powers of nature, and rich in its imagery.

The reader may be surprised to see occasionally incidents that bear a close resemblance to incidents they have read in the Bible, such as the creation, fall, deluge, etc. If so, it is not to be wondered at, seeing that the Greek philosophers such as Anaxagoras, Pythagoras, Thales, etc., travelled in Egypt, studied in its ancient temples, learning their histories, traditions and religion, and a mass of information concerning the creation, fall of man, the drowning of the world, etc., and then reclothed the stories giving them Greek names, and adapting their exploits to their own country.

This seems to have been the plan adopted by the ancient nations, who were as children in age compared to the Egyptians and Babylonians.

It will be remembered that the Israelites lived in Egypt, where Moses was born, and was adopted by one of Pharaoh's daughters, and trained in all the religious mysteries of the Egyptians.

Then later in their national life the Israelites were taken as captives to Babylon and there learned the Babylonian traditions about the creation of the world, tree of knowledge, the flood, etc. Then when they were allowed to return to Jerusalem, Ezra, the learned scholar and priest, re-wrote the Bible, bringing it into harmony with the Babylonian traditions. These facts are fully set forth by the higher critics, and are well known to Biblical scholars. And more than that, the account of the creation, tree of knowledge, talking serpent, etc., as given in Genesis is now placed in the list of mythologies, where it properly belongs.

I thought it necessary to make the above precautionary remarks, as the writers on the ancient classics, or mythologies, try all they can to impress their readers with the idea that the ancients borrowed their accounts of the creation, etc., from the Bible, and then tried to disguise their actions by altering the names. The truth of the matter is that the

Israelites, Greeks, Romans, Persians, etc., borrowed from the Egyptians and Babylonians, and altered them to suit their own national pride and fancies.

The reader will also bear in mind that the authors of the ancient mythologies loved to speak of nature, such as the sun, moon, earth, sea, sky, light and darkness, time and space, as giants and human beings giving birth to children.

Chaos [Kā-os], which means the earth when it was "without form and void," is said to be the oldest of the Gods. His children were Terra or Vesta (the earth), Cœlum or Uranus (heaven), Tartarus (the under-world), Erebus (gloom) and Nox (night).

Saturn (time) was the son of Terra and Uranus (earth and heaven) and had an older brother called Titan[Ti-tan] (the sun). His younger brothers were Oceanus (the oceans), and the Cyclops [Sī-klops], who were said to be giants having only one eye, and that in the centre of their foreheads. Hence when people speak of Titanic tasks, and Cyclopean undertakings, they mean something great, or gigantic. Their sisters were Ceres, Tethys, and Rhea, sometimes called Cybele, and Ops.

Saturn (time) married his sister Rhea [Rē-a], which appears to mean the fertile earth. They are called the Father and Mother of the Gods.

There is a story, of which perhaps the reader has heard, to the effect that Saturn was a monster of a father, for he devoured his own children. A most terrible thing to do in real life, but a most natural thing to do in a case of this kind.

The story runs as follows: Titan, the elder brother of Saturn, was entitled to succeed his father (Uranus) to the kingdom, but at the request of his mother (Terra) he yielded his birth-right to his younger brother, Saturn, on condition that he would not allow any of his male children to live and so become heirs to the kingdom.

Saturn, in order to keep his promise, devoured his male children as they were born and presented to him, to the great grief of his wife, who, when twins were born (Jupiter and Juno), she, in order to save Jupiter's life, gave her husband a stone to devour, and sent her son to be nursed on Mount Ida by the priestesses of Cybele [Sib-e-lē], (which is only another name for Rhea), so they were her own priestesses, who in order to fill their charge to protect the life of Jupiter, made a noise on their drums when he cried, and thus prevented detection.

By a similar trick she saved the lives of her next twins, Neptune and Pluto.

The elder brother, Titan, discovered the fraud that was being practised on Saturn and decided to take the kingdom from him. This he succeeded in doing, and in order to save further trouble he put both Saturn and his wife in chains, and cast them into Tartarus.

Jupiter having grown up and learning how his father and mother had been treated, set about raising an army of Creteans and fought against his uncle Titan, whom he conquered. Then he liberated his father and mother from Tartarus, and restored them to the kingdom.

Saturn, being warned by an oracle that his son Jupiter would dethrone him, became very jealous, and in his fits of jealousy tried to kill him. This so

enraged Jupiter that he turned against his father and dethroned him, causing him to flee into Italy, where he was kindly received by Janus, the two-faced king, one face old, the other young, who thus represents the old and the new year. He stands at the door of the new year with keys and measuring rod in his hand. The first month of the year is called January in honour of him, Janus being door-opener we get the term "janitor," doorkeeper or porter.

Saturn being allowed to share the throne with Janus, applied himself to improve the people who were wild and uncivilized. He taught them how to till the ground and gather the harvest. He also taught them many useful arts of civilized life. Money was coined, having a ship on one side, to commemorate his coming to them in a ship; on the other side of the coin was shown Janus with his two faces. The mountain which is now called the Capitoline Hill of Rome, was called by the ancient inhabitants "Saturninus" in honour of him. And a festival called "Saturnalia" was instituted and held in honour of his glorious reign, which is described as the GOLDEN AGE, when justice and innocence reigned supreme throughout the earth, and the soil produced what was necessary for the sustenance and enjoyment of mankind.

Then followed the SILVER AGE, the BRAZEN AGE, and the IRON AGE, which indicate increasing degrees of selfishness and wickedness.

Statues in honour of Saturn were reared, around which chains were placed in remembrance of those put on him by Titan. These chains were taken off during the Saturnalian Feasts to show that his reign had been one of liberty, justice, prosperity and happiness.

Perhaps the chains symbolize the earth (Rhea), the wife of Saturn, bound by the strong chains of frost in winter; and Jupiter is a type of the young sun in spring liberating his mother and father, for the earth was thought to be older than the sun, the same as it is in Genesis.

The meaning of the story of Saturn devouring his own children is generally understood to be as follows:—Saturn signifies Old Father Time, who is represented as an old man bearing a scythe, and an hour-glass. Time sees all things born—kings, nations and empires, and so they may be said to be his children. Time also sees all things come to an end, and so he may be said to devour his own children.

In the above story of Saturn we evidently have an allegory of Time, to which has been coupled and interwoven the life and reign of some wise and beneficent king who sought refuge in Italy when its inhabitants were wild and savage and the land uncultivated.

We shall see evidence of a similar process running through other selections we hope to give.

(To be continued).

<p>The PRESIDENT sends Greetings, and good wishes for a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Lyceumists.</p>

Temperance Page

Conducted by Herbert E. Clarke, B.A., B.Sc.

THE FOURFOLD PLEDGE

is against the use of (1) Intoxicants, (2) Tobacco,
(3) All Methods of Gambling, (4) Profane Language.

POVERTY AND INTEMPERANCE.

The close of a year inevitably brings reflections of a serious nature, but none perhaps more serious than that of the unsolved problem of poverty. It is at this time when the well-to-do must take special measures for their comfort and health, that the misery of the poor, homeless and friendless, arouses within us an unusual sympathy and sets us thinking as to what is the reason and where the remedy for this scourge of modern civilisation.

All human sadness grows from two causes, and poverty, as one of the acutest forms of human sadness, is to be included here. We are unhappy and we are poor either by our own negligence or through that succession of circumstances which we cannot control, because they are the result of the social system into which we are born. It is this uncontrollable side of the problem of poverty that must be the greatest and noblest study of the world's statesmen. Their attentions have too long been devoted to ends which increase rather than diminish poverty, ends which required less hard thinking and appealed to jingo and party interests. But now they must begin a far-reaching scheme of social redemption, so that if the evil of fluctuating trade and consequent unemployment must continue, at least there shall be provision against destitution and ruin of the workers.

But it is to the other cause of poverty that I wish to call your especial attention. It is the cause we are prone to forget when we sadly contemplate the wretchedness of our great cities. Fully as we may realise the evil done by the cruel conditions of modern life, we ought always to bear in mind the personal side of the question, and ask ourselves whether things would be as bad as they are if all men were industrious and thrifty, instead of neglectful and extravagant. The lack of these necessary gifts even among our poor is one of the things which strike foreigners visiting this country; but far more important than that, the lack of these gifts in our national character is the cause of a great proportion of our poverty.

We spend recklessly while we have the means, and find ourselves in difficulties when hard times arrive. Moreover, we are beginning to get into a muddle as to what we need and what we like, as to what are the necessities and what the luxuries of life. English working-men are thinking of beer and tobacco at the same time as bread and sugar, and it is appalling to conceive how many, regardless of their own needs, or those of their wives' and childrens', will buy beer and tobacco with money that should have bought bread.

Poverty leads to intemperance, say some; intemperance leads to poverty, say others. The first is only true sometimes, the last is true always. An

honest and industrious man may become poor through no fault of his own, but unless he is weak-minded and selfish he will not turn to drink to hide his wretchedness from him. But let any man, rich or poor, turn to drink and there is no escape from the clutches of poverty. The rich man will suffer disgrace and fall, the poor man will lose all his self-respect and sink to hopeless ruin.

Here is a story for young Lyceumists as well as old; I heard it at a Temperance gathering a few weeks ago and think it worth repeating:

A workman returning home from his daily toil used to pass a brilliantly-lighted house each evening. In the porch of the house used to sit a little old man, so small and so old as to attract universal attention. He had a little piping voice and was always telling the passers-by how jolly it was inside the bright house. His hair was snowy white and he wore a curious suit of yellow-brown.

The workman used to laugh at him, taking little interest in his piping pleas, though he sometimes thought he would pamper the old man, just for fun, especially as his mates had many of them made the little old man's acquaintance.

One day he had a quarrel with his foreman and felt rather miserable as he walked home to his tea. When he reached the door of the bright house the little old man got up, and hobbling to him said in his piping voice:—

"You look rather troubled, young man. I never like to see fine fellows like you in such a way. Now, inside here you can have a real good time. Those jolly voices you hear are the voices of your work-mates, and if only you like you can enjoy yourself as much as they."

He said many more things, and at last the workman went inside the bright house. But before long a curious feeling crept over him. He was losing his senses; he only knew he was saying and shouting foolish things. Then everything became indistinct, and the next thing he knew was that it was morning and he had got home by some means or another. His wife and children seemed to be much distressed, and oh! how his head ached! He felt as though the little old man had climbed on to his shoulders and belaboured him with blows on the head all night. The pain was too great, he could not go to work that day, and when he appeared before his foreman on the following day he was very much ashamed of himself and prepared for the severe warning he received. He was a good worker, but his offence was considered so grave that he was threatened with instant dismissal if it should ever be repeated. He turned to his work gloomily, for all his old pride in doing things well had left him. He realised that he had fallen in the estimation of his employers, and this realisation grew upon him until in the end his work became unsatisfactory and he was blamed for faults and carelessness. He had not listened all this while to the voice of the little old man, but his lot had now grown so wretched that he was only too glad to accept the importunate invitation to "come inside and have a good time."

His experience this night and the following day was a simple repetition of his first lapse. He dared not go to his work, and the shame of his position

would not let him stay indoors. He marched off into the street determined to find a new job, but his enthusiasm was soon damped by failure, and for several days he could find no work. To add to his despair he discovered that his wife had also heeded the voice of the old man during these dark days. His little home, once so cheerful and glad, was gradually being broken up, and his children were ragged and hungry.

Still he had grown to like the little old man and was rather pleased than otherwise to find him growing stronger and taller.

One night he was looking about when a young man, handsomely dressed, came reeling up to him, and asked him in a drunken voice to help him home. All his gifts and all his wealth had not saved him from the specious invitation of the little old man. They walked along together, these two ruined men, and when they parted the younger one pushed a dozen silver coins into the workman's hand and called him a good fellow.

How delighted our friend was now! What a splendid fellow the little old man was to arouse such generosity in the heart! He should come to their wretched little home that night! He and the workman and the wife would have another good time!

The little old man was delighted and offered to come to their house without delay.

Several days passed, but the little old man was with them still. The workman had grown older and weaker, but the little old man stronger and younger. He was staying too long, he was getting the master and tyrant of the home.

"Go away, I beg of you," pleaded the wife. The old man only laughed.

"Get out, you scoundrel!" cried her husband, and with desperate fury he threw himself upon the yellow-coated usurper. They struggled and struggled, but it was no use. The old man's strength was marvellous. He just lifted his antagonist up and threw him out of the house.

The frantic wife and starving children fled from the scene shrieking, and the door closed upon them.

The little old man had stolen from them everything, nothing on earth remained!

Lesson Plan for Jan., 1910.

Arranged by MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date	Opening Hymn	S.C.R.	M.R.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn
Jan. 2	407	405	235	124	401
" 9	330	82 } 85 }	236	146	356
" 16	88	37	203	109	340
" 23	341	27	238	102	308
" 30	322	40	240	105	309

PEARLS.

- Jan 2nd. "A brave man always struggles to be master of himself."—*Napoleon the Great.*
- " 9th. "Educated people will not live in insanitary houses; therefore educate the people."
- " 16th. "Virtue may be its reward, but Vice often commands a more substantial recognition."—*Vanity Fair.*
- " 23rd. "Half the difficulties in life arise through our want of knowledge of one another."

- " 30th. "There never were any "good old days." To-day is the best day that ever dawned in the history of humanity, and to-morrow will be better than to-day."—*Dr. Leonard Levy.*

LESSON PHOTOGRAMS.

Jan. 2nd. 124 Manual.

Talk to the children about the various reform movements that form a part of the history of our country and its laws, and gradually lead up to the present day agitation in connection with the General Election.

Mention the names of eminent statesmen of the past as well as the present. Try to impress the class with the importance of patriotism, etc., and show how real reform begins with the individual.

Jan. 9th. 146 Manual.

Repeat the main points of last week's lesson, and then use the word "pioneer" as meaning a leader of reform.

The teacher can find ample material for the lesson in speaking of the life and work of all the names mentioned in this reading, and should try to influence the minds of the scholars with the beauty and force of character such persons possessed, and make personal application of the points thus raised.

Jan. 16th. 109 Manual.

Read and explain as each sentence is taken up by the scholars. Compare with the ten commandments of Moses which were written for the children of Israel, whilst these were given through the lips of the never-to-be-forgotten speaker, Mrs. E. H. Britten.

The latter portion might be committed to memory.

Jan. 23rd. 102 Manual.

I.—Define the three rules.

II.—Decide on the differences between the first two named, and show the superiority of the last one over both.

III.—Educe from the children instances which show they have grasped the meaning of the lesson.

Jan. 30th. 105 Manual.

I.—Ask for definitions of body, spirit, soul, and medium.

II.—Explain clairvoyance.

III.—What happens to little children when they pass into spirit life?

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

A Propaganda Meeting will be held in the Spiritual Church, Elliott Street, Oldham, on Sunday, January 9th, at 6 p.m., when members of the Executive Council will address the meeting. Mrs. Annie E. Bentley, President, will preside, supported by Mr. Reuben Latham, Vice-President; Councillor Jonn Venables, Treasurer; and members of the Executive Council. Friends in the surrounding districts are hereby heartily invited to attend and make the occasion a success.

Lyceum open sessions will be held at 10 a.m., and 2-30 p.m., in which members of the Executive Council will take part.

Tea will also be provided for visitors at 6d. each.

Collections in aid of the Lyceum Union.

A Lyceum Tea and Social will be held on Saturday, January 8th. Tea on the tables at 4-30 p.m. prompt. Adults, 8d., children, 6d.—ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.

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

Adopted as the Official Organ of the British Spiritualists' 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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Office—Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

JANUARY, 1910.

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

Once more the New Year opens with bright and rosy prospects for the steady and ever onward march of the Lyceum movement both in England and abroad.

In looking back during the past year we are pleased to note the steady progress that has been made, in several cases against much opposition and many difficulties. In some instances the obstacles have been too great to be surmounted. The faithful officers have had to cease their efforts until they can gather new strength, when they will make another effort to push the Car of Progress forward, as has been done in several places during the past year, where lapsed Lyceums have been revived with bright prospects of a successful future. So to the weary ones we would say, Take courage and press on. **THE WORKERS WIN!**

This life is a school, and we must look upon its varied experiences as so many lessons for our intellectual, moral and spiritual welfare. When hard and difficult lessons confront us we must not show the white feather, turn truant and run away from them. If we do they will face us when we are moved into the next standard. We can only get rid of them by learning them, mastering them, not letting them master us. And remember the hardest lessons, those that have seemed to try us almost to breaking point and have felt as if they wrung the heart's innermost core, are the most valuable, the brightest and best when the crisis is passed. The cheeks that are tear-washed, are the fairest, the robes that have come through great tribulation are the whitest. Of a truth, "heaven is no place for idle souls, the workers win!"

Mrs. M. Thompson, who went to South Africa last October, sends the following cheery letter from Durban:

"Dear Mr. Kitson—You will be glad to learn I received a hearty welcome on reaching Durban. The Lyceum chil-

dren presented me with some lovely flowers. The Lyceum is held in the Good Templars' Hall. Mr. Walter Knox is the Conductor and is also the President of the Society. Number on the register is 85. There were 50 of them present. Marching and calisthenics good. Reading and responses excellent. Pearls and recitations were an important feature of the session. I was entrusted with a message of fraternal greeting to Mrs. Bentley, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. Knight, and yourself. Thanks to the services of Mr. Walter Knox, Durban Lyceum is one that we may well be proud of. MILLICENT THOMPSON."

It will be noticed that we commence our new volume of the LYCEUM BANNER with a portrait and sketch of Mrs. Annie E. Bentley, the Lyceum Union's President. The sketch and portrait have been specially prepared for the LYCEUM BANNER. We join our readers in wishing our President a bright and happy New Year.

"A correspondent in Paris sends us a copy of the 'Matin' for the 10th inst., in which M. Combes, who is largely the creator of the modern educational system in France, expressed the opinion that the training of teachers should not be confined to the practical subjects taught in the ordinary schools, but should have a broader and more philosophical scope. He declared himself an unrepentant 'Spiritualist,' that is to say, influenced by spiritual ideas as against materialism, and he recalled his own speech on the bill regarding religious and other associations, in which he said: 'Since Science has irrefutably established that in Nature nothing is created or destroyed, we may, by a perfectly legitimate analogy, apply the same law to the world of consciousness, thus assuring our human personality against annihilation, of which it has an instinctive horror, and opening out a boundless prospect of eternal truth and eternal justice.' Yet M. Combes thought it would be impossible to introduce spiritual ideas into secular education, for such an attempt would be regarded as a counterfeit of religious instruction, and would only result in the profanation of truth as sacred as any religion. 'If it got into the neutral schools through us,' he said, 'it would be anathematised!'"

Light, London.

The following news item from New York, U.S.A. will surprise many of our readers:

"New York, November 24th.—The reading of the Bible, prayers, and the singing of hymns in the public schools of this city are forbidden by State Commissioner of Education Draper, following an appeal to him by the Rev. C. A. Logue, in charge of the Roman Catholic Church of our Holy Redeemer. The board of education, composed of four Methodists and one Presbyterian, has obeyed the order of the Commissioner, but has appealed to him for a further hearing on the ground that the decision was reached without giving opportunity for their side to be presented in full." *The Progressive Thinker*, December 11th, 1909.

A series of bazaars have been arranged to be held at various centres during the year 1910, in support of the Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd. All Lyceumists are invited to help to the best of their abilities. The Executive Council of the Lyceum Union have appointed Mrs. Jessy Greenwood as receiver of all gifts of monies, books, needlework, or other articles for sale. Address all letters and parcels to Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, Ashleigh, Hebdon Bridge.

THE A. J. DAVIS PAMPHLET.

This pamphlet is now ready. Lyceums which kindly offered to take certain quantities of the same at 1/9 per dozen, post free, if the Executive Council would print it, will confer a favour on us if they will forward their orders at once.

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Bluebell Guild.</h2> 
<p>OBJECT: To promote Gentleness, Kindness and Good Behaviour. Membership is open to all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦</p>

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

I am very pleased to be able to greet you this New Year with such a good list of new members to enrol in our Guild. I do hope this good start indicates a prosperous New Year for our Guild. I would like to see every Lyceumist boy and girl, and all the officers become active members, doing all they could to "promote gentleness, kindness and good behaviour." I am sure that is one very good way to make the New Year a happy one.

On looking through my list of enrolled members during the past year I find they are 310. I hope that during this year I shall be able to enrol 1081, which will bring our membership up to 4,000.

Mr. Ferguson, of Hindley, sends me a nice letter, full of good wishes, and a beautiful Christmas card full of Bluebells. Mr. Bradshaw, of Hunslet, near Leeds, and Miss Winnie Simpson, of Benwell, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, send me nice letters and lists of new members. As, also, does Mr. H. Holdsworth, of Batley Carr. To each one I send my very warmest thanks for present favours, and trust to have your continued help to attain 4,000 members by the close of 1910.

I have a nice story, with verses I want you all to read, and if any of your companions are in the habit of using the remark, "I don't care," please show them this little story and advise them to try and refrain from using it again.

Wishing all of you A Happy New Year, I am,
Your loving sister,
FLORA BELLE.

I DON'T CARE.

How rapidly the above exclamation, which is apt to degenerate into a petish retort, is indulged in to cover up some slight fault, or neglect, perhaps some duties unattended to, or promises unkept. We should not only correct the fault in ourselves, but take care to correct it in our children, and those under our care as well, by the application of a practical lesson or *two*, if needed. The following anecdotes will illustrate my meaning:—

"See, George," said Mr. Hardcastle to his son, as they were having a stroll one day, "There's a horse-shoe lying on the road."

That young gentleman looked in the direction indicated, and instead of securing it, carelessly answered, "Hum, I don't care!" and walked on.

"Very well, young man," replied the father, "if you don't care, I do," and picked up the article, which he disposed of to the village smith, and bought some cherries with the proceeds.

George eyed the cherries with many a wistful look, which the father noticed, but did not gratify.

"If you please, father, I like cherries!" he ventured to remark, feeling not a little puzzled at not being remembered.

"I don't care!" retorted the father, as he walked on eating the cherries with much gusto. But the father took care to drop a few occasionally, which George eagerly secured. This went on till all were disposed of. When Mr. Hardcastle laid his hand gently on his son's shoulder, and pointed out the moral of the little incident, not forgetting to remind him that while he pretended not to care for the horse-shoe, he cared for a few of the cherries, which were but a fraction of the proceeds of the old shoe. After that George ceased to answer with "I don't care."

Again: Mrs. Wilson was deeply concerned at the recurring frequency her little daughter used the above careless phrase. Torn dress, or pinafore; spilled milk or sugar; promises unkept; tasks undone, were dismissed with, "O, I don't care."

"That 'I don't care!' will be the ruin of her, if I do not give her a salutary lesson," said Mrs. Wilson to herself one morning after her daughter had gone to school. And she decided to lose no more time in checking it, before worse things followed.

So when Clara arrived home to dinner none was prepared. And on her saying she was very hungry she was very much surprised to hear her mother say, "I don't care!" This was repeated to all her entreaties for dinner, until Clara began to think there was something seriously wrong with her mother, and she began to cry.

Then the kind mother drew her wayward daughter to her, and explained how serious it would be if she did not care. And that she was pained to hear the "I don't care," from her, as Clara was to hear it from her mother. She pointed out to her how our happiness and comfort depends on caring for each other. That it is the caring about the little acts, and words from which arises so much pleasure. And ever after Clara learned to care. So that Mrs. Wilson had no need to repeat the lesson.

I DON'T CARE.

"Girls and boys I wish to tell you
Of a foe you entertain,
I have seen him with you often
And the fact has caused me pain.
For he only seeks the ruin,
Of your lives so young and fair,
He's a foe, cool, sly, and cunning,
And his name is, "I don't care."

Have you never thought dear children
What a thief is, "I don't care?"
Taking from you time and order,
Truth and honesty so rare!
Don't you see his great deceptions,
Luring and beguiling you,
As the "I don't care," is spoken,
When at heart you really do!

"Break the habit, children, break it,
Do not use the common phrase,
Smaller things than this have started
Many times in reckless ways.
Guard your words, your thoughts, your
actions,

To yourselves be true and fair,
Let not eternal life slip from you,
By a reckless, "I don't care."

HINDLEY LYCEUM.

2849	Walter Taylor, Sen.	2856	Jessie Short.
2850	Walter Taylor, Jun.	2857	Mary Short.
2851	Sidney Taylor.	2858	John J. Short.
2852	John Rudd, Sen.	2859	Jessie Finch.
2853	Harriet Tabener.	2860	Harry Finch.
2854	William Rudd.	2861	James Finch.
2855	Mary Tabener.	2862	Philip Woodcock.

BATLEY CARR.

2863	Lilian Smith.	2869	Annie Wood.
2864	James Arthur Smith.	2870	Walter Wood.
2865	Ada Smith.	2871	Bertie Fallow.
2866	Sylvia Smith.	2872	Lizzie Wamersley.
2867	Harold Smith.	2873	Sarah E. Major.
2868	Jennie Miller.	2874	Willie Major.

BENWELL, NEWCASTLE.

2875	Hannah Bulman.	2885	Lily Ridley.
2876	Mary Mangham.	2886	Nancy Bendelaw.
2877	Zena Jackson.	2887	Lizzie Kitchen.
2878	Charlotte Wood.	2888	Mabel Salkerd.
2879	Mary Brown.	2889	Ivy Matherson.
2880	Ella Brown.	2890	Unice Matherson.
2881	Ellen Brown.	2891	Edith E. Simpson.
2882	Lillie Morris.	2892	James Robson.
2883	Nora Morris.	2893	Norman Brown.
2884	Isabella Morris.	2894	Leslie Winship.

CHURCH STREET, HUNSLET, LEEDS.

2895	Miss L. Robinson.	2908	Doris Swainson.
2896	Miss R. Simpson.	2909	Albert Bragg.
2897	Willie Stockill.	2910	Emily Stockill.
2898	Isabella Marshall.	2911	Lily Smith.
2899	Emma Stockill.	2912	Robert Bradshaw.
2900	Ernest Swainson.	2913	Florrie Marshall.
2901	Annie Dawson.	2914	Elsie Ward.
2902	Edith Bartlett.	2915	Alfred Sidebottom.
2903	Edwin Spencer.	2916	Mabel Swainson.
2904	Ada Robinson.	2917	Annie Stockill.
2905	Nora Ward.	2918	Simeon Bradshaw.
2906	Walter Spencer.	2919	Emma Smith.
2907	Alice Bartlett.		

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND FOR 1909.

List of subscriptions :—Stockton-on-Tees Lyceum, 5/-; Runcorn Lyceum, 5/-; Bolton, Bradford St., Lyceum, 5/-; Mrs. Harwood, 2/6; Mr. Coupe, 2/6; Rawtenstall Lyceum, 5/-; Blackburn, Northgate 5/-; Johannesburg Lyceum, 5/-; Daisy Hill Lyceum, 5/-; Ford Lane, Manchester, Lyceum, 5/-; Crewe Lyceum, 5/-; Mrs. Law, 5/-; Brownhills Lyceum, 5/-; Mr. George, 10/-; Dukinfield Lyceum, 2/6; Toronto Lyceum, 20/10; Colne Lyceum, 5/-; Rev. J. P. Hopps, 2/6; Glasgow Association, 20/-; Blackburn, St. Peter St. Lyceum, 10/-; Shaw Lyceum, 2/6; Cleckheaton Lyceum, 2/6; Shipley Lyceum, 2/6; Shildon Lyceum, 7/9.

(Mrs.) JESSY GREENWOOD,
Ashleigh, Hebden Bridge.

In Memoria.

Ordinary intimations will be inserted as follows—Not exceeding twenty-four words, Free. 6d. will be charged for every additional nine words. Poetry 6d. per line. Payment must accompany all intimations of more than 24 words, or they cannot be inserted.

WINDHILL.—It is with deep sorrow I report the passing on of Mrs. Ester Roper, aged 24 years. Her physical loss will be sadly felt.—H. Alderson, Sec., *pro tem.*

Thoughts of a Wandering Botanist.

BY J. KNIGHT.

DEAR BANNERITES,

Permit me to greet you with the most loving wish, that the coming year will be the best—in every respect—for all of you. We have spent a year in each other's company, and each of us has acquired a better knowledge of the few plants we have been enabled to find, examine and describe. And the occasional notes about the structure of plants, and the functions, or use, of these different structures, have been very helpful in making us all more familiar with botany, and the hard Latin and Greek words that bother us very much, but which are very necessary to a right understanding of this very important subject.

This year, with the kind permission of our Editor, I propose that we shall devote the whole of it to a close and earnest study of the *science* of botany; so far, at least, as to give us an elementary knowledge of the subject. My desire is that you shall not only take an interest in the *flowers* of plants, but of all the other parts as well. How the plant came to be, how it is built up, how it lives and grows, and plays its part in the work of the universe.

I intend, in the simplest possible language, to give you the most up-to-date knowledge and the latest discoveries in regard to plant life that have their homes in the British Isles. But you must always remember our space in the BANNER is limited to one page a month, and that may have to be used for Conference in the June issue, so I shall only be able to give you a brief rudimentary outline of the various departments into which the subject is divided. But by a little labour on your part you will be enabled to obtain an introductory knowledge of Botany, and have nothing to *unlearn*. We will entitle our studies

BOTANY FOR THE YOUNG.

The science of Botany includes everything relating to the vegetable kingdom. Its *object* is not, as many have supposed, merely to *name* and to classify the vegetable productions of the earth. It embraces a consideration of the external forms of plants, also of their anatomical structure, however minute, and of the various functions these structures perform, their use, and their relationship to all other forms of life; and of their distribution over the surface of the globe. This science examines the plant in its earliest state of development when it appears as a simple *cell*, egg, seed or fruit, and follows it through all its stages of progress until it has completed its life's work. In this way following the circle [O] of its life's history; no matter where it begins its life's story, it is all the time working in a circle, coming back to the starting point.

Many botanists describe this life story of plants as being that of a *spiral*, rather than a circle, so as to account for the progressive evolutionary changes that have taken place from the minute cell to the giant oak. (It is one of the funny tricks of our dear friend, Flora Belle, to ask boys and girls to describe a spiral staircase, and then to have a good laugh

when she sees their hands twirling in the air trying to do what the tongue fails to express.)

Most beautiful essays, papers, arguments and poems have been produced extolling this spiral ideal. The other day I attended a Theosophical lecture. The lady was at her very best when describing the spiral ascent of life. It all seemed so grand, so beautifully reasonable, that I am not at all surprised that many scientists have been, and are still, led astray and away from the truth. Spiritualists have all along claimed the oneness, or unity, of all things, that life never had a beginning nor an end, that all the wonderful expressions of life, from the most minute and simple to the most gigantic and complex, are but varied manifestations of immortal life. Round and round an ever widening circle, acquiring new experiences, new powers, new attributes, but ever the same life without beginning, without end.

Now all of you can easily see that this spiral ideal will not do, for there is always—however extended the spiral may be—a beginning and an end. Very much more might be advanced in reference to both these ideals, but I must ask you to work this matter out for yourselves.

The science of Botany marks the relation which subsists between all the members of the vegetable kingdom, from the minute one-celled plant, to the mighty denizens of the forest.

Botany may be divided into the following departments:—1. *Structural* botany, having reference to the anatomical structure of the various parts of the plant. 2. *Physiological* botany, a study of the *organs* and their functions of the plants. 3. The *Form* of plants and their methods of *growth*. 4. Systematic botany, the arrangement and classification of plants into *species*, *genera*, and *orders* or families. 5. Geographical botany, the distribution of plants over the different regions of the globe. 6. Palæontological (ancient) botany, the study of all plants, their form and structure, found in a fossilized state in the different strata of the earth.

Each of these divisions may be divided into a number of sub-departments, each of which forms very interesting study.

There is also a *Borderland* kingdom which I must tell you of. Organisms full of life and intelligence, that cannot be classed as either animal or plant; some of them most wonderfully beautiful, and very active workers. But my space is full, so must leave it for our next.

Our Boys' Special.

MY JUVENILE JOY-BELLS,

The alliterative method of introduction is still going strong. Some of you may remember that in January, 1909, I began to address you in progressive alphabetical alliterative fashion, and have consistently employed this method throughout the year (nine specials have appeared). This year I commence with the J. (no personal reflection intended).

If I am spared to submit my contributions according to intended plans, there still remain sufficient letters in the alphabet to serve our purpose for introduction initials, during the next eighteen months.

Sometimes I cannot help wondering whether my labours for the BANNER are appreciated, or even noticed by readers. I have now been on the staff of regular contributors to the BANNER for about seven and a half years, and during that time I have only received some three letters from readers containing any reference to the general matter dealt with on this page.

True, I have received hundreds of cheery little references to the puzzle portion of the page, the quick responses which usually come to hand mark distinctly the interest which has been aroused, and latterly proves that the competitors carefully peruse the "Manual" in search of the hidden names.

But it is much more simple to write puzzles, even in verse form, than it is to compile a regular supply of articles to suit the tastes of the variety of readers into whose hands our BANNER falls.

I think I may here be permitted to state that my efforts have been appreciated by the Editor, as evidenced by occasional letters received from Mr. Alfred Kitson, but I should like to know sometimes what my readers think. I don't mind if you find fault with the matter. Perhaps if you were to *criticise*, you might get something better and *stronger*. I am not the only contributor on the staff who feels the silence of the BANNER readers. I know that this seeming indifference has affected one other contributor, at least, one whose articles are well-reasoned, helpful, educational, valuable, and whose writings can be heartily recommended to all Lyceumists. Surely it is not too much to ask that the readers should occasionally express their appreciation or dissent of the voluntary work of their fellow-Lyceumists, so that the writers may pursue their course with increased interest, or make way for better qualified contributors and teachers.

Now that I have been delivered of these thoughts in the closing hours of the old year, I turn hopefully towards the dawn of another year of activity and progress.

By the time this issue is circulated, we shall have adopted the new calendar for 1910; a year that is destined to be marked by important happenings, industrially, socially, and spiritually.

The present political disturbances will produce marked effects in industrial circles, and in our plans for the regulation and, I trust, improvement in social life. Herein we need to think, observe, reflect, and carefully decide what *we* intend to do to try and improve the conditions which are obviously oppressive to the mass of workers in the land in which we now live. A careful study of our "Manual" cannot fail to help us to a righteous decision. Calmly and diligently study "Our Rights," "Our Duties," "Our Aims," "The Attainment of Truth," and apply these to the regeneration and purification of the social and political conditions now obtaining, and you will have a guide to lead you through the threatening stench of corrupted connivances, into the healthy atmosphere of honest effort for human good. In this struggle we are destined to encounter opposition to our spiritual claims.

Our foe—Creedalism—is being cornered. Not only is our army of Spiritualists adopting the policy of an aggressive march upon this foe to human freedom, but flanking positions are being so definitely taken

LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

up by other battalions in the interests of knowledge and truth; that the foe is preparing for one great and desperate, if last, stand, and only the brave and enduring in this conflict will survive. Lyceumists, you are called to answer the roll of aggressive workers for Freedom and Truth. You are well equipped with the weapons of facts daily revealed by the world of spirits. Your ammunition is the inspiring message of natural life in spiritual realms, borne towards you by those whose love for you has survived the shock of death. The weapons of your foes are ancient and almost obsolete, for Creed and Dogma will not pass in the rigid inspection they must undergo, nor in the service to which they must be put. The Lyceum is our drill hall, the "Manual" the chart of our field of action.

Let us see to it that we do our utmost to comply with the requisite conditions that will make us fit and well to face all dangers in the interests of right and truth, and let the password of our several corps be "THE WORKERS WIN!"

I apologise for using similes of actual warfare in presenting the thoughts on this page, but in explanation let me state that in their metaphorical and moral application I deem them the most effective mode of expression.

Here is the first of the BANNER puzzles for 1910. All Lyceumists, amongst whom the BANNER is circulated, are allowed to compete in the solution. Each successful competitor receives a Merit Card, authorised by the B.S.L.U. Not more than two members of one family are eligible to receive Cards for the same Competition.

PUZZLE—*Hidden Name.*

I trust that this puzzle will not escape you,
'Tis written of some one across the "deep blue";
A lady devoted to Lyceum work,
Too fond of the children her duty to shirk,
America knows her, and loves her, I'm told,
Because she is tending the "lamb in the fold";
Her name, with initials, use letters thirteen:
Has the lady amongst us in England been seen?
Why, yes! she's been welcomed in various parts,
And endeared herself nobly to many great hearts.
Now look in your Manual, find S.C.R.
Beyond the first verses all else I debar;
And if you should venture upon a third line,
Your name on a Merit Card I cannot sign.
Initials alone stand for Christian names,
And they spell the first person whom most people
blames,
But when the initial of surname you write
That first person vanishes clean out of sight.
To help you in finding the name hidden deep,
Your eye on the 4th, 6th and 24th keep.
These are the letters to give you a start,
As they are initials which play the great part.
So now please endeavour to undo the fetter,
And should you get stuck, try again, and do better.

Send in your solutions not later than Sunday,
January 23rd, to

Yours lovingly,

FRANK HEPWORTH.

127, Rockcliffe Street, Blackburn.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Council took place at the Victoria Assembly Rooms, Seacombe, at 3 p.m., the meeting being presided over by Mr. Mathison. Eighteen were present, plus several visitors. The President's report pointed to a general progression in the District, as also did the District Visitor's and Secretary's Report. The District Visitor pointed out that a new Lyceum had been formed at Earlestown, and that there were hopes of another forming shortly. The Treasurer's account was as low as ever, although owing to the President buying a fancy cover made by the treasurer's wife (Mrs. Walker), and then having the same drawn for, the District Council's Funds were helped considerably. The Shield Fund is still advancing, thanks being especially given to two Wigan girl Lyceumists, Misses Moonan and Ormerod, for making articles. (Other Lyceumists please copy).

The different propositions from the U.D.C. were then discussed, the following being the results:

(1) That the Liverpool L.D.C. nominate Mr. Owen for the B.S.L.U. Executive.

(2) Left on table till nearer 1912.

(3) The District Council be not in favour of examinations for conductors and leaders, as this would not be in the interests of our Lyceums. Mr. Walker was appointed delegate to the U.D.C.

The Runcorn delegate spoke on the matter *re* preparing a new instruction book on calisthenics, the matter being left over for consideration, the delegates to the U.D.C. to bring up at the next meeting of the U.D.C.

Results of children's essays: Harry Hobley, Runcorn, winner of boys; Kitty Bolton, Hawkeshead, winner of girls.

Next essay, subject: "Why is it best to forgive and forget." Lyceumists may refer to 227 Lyceum Manual (Forgiveness). Judges, Mr. Keeling, Mr. Monks and Mr. Mack. Age under 14 years. Neatness, keeping to the point, no more than 250 words, must be marked "individual effort," or be disqualified. Essays to be sent to the Secretary before February 28th, 1910 (*note* change of address at end of report). The Open Session Competition was left over till the shield had been obtained, that matter being left in the hands of the president.

Birkenhead next place of meeting, date not yet fixed. A hearty vote of thanks was given to local friends for loan of hall and for supplying such an excellent tea. Social followed which was enjoyed by all. The D.C. delegates visited Daulby Hall Lyceum on the Sunday morning, afterwards taking the Seacombe services for remainder of day. Speakers Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. Owen; Mr. Gawthorne, Mr. Adamson, Mr. Rodgers, and Mr. Monks. Mr. Fiddes conducted the Lyceum, the only regrettable feature being the few adults present. We trust the visit of the D.C. will rouse a little more enthusiasm. Mr. Mathison presided over the evening service.

GEO. A. MACK, Hon. Sec.

2, Albert St., Runcorn.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held in Albert Road Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, December 18th, 1909. The President of the Council, Mr. Moorey, presided. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which the president gave his address. The Secretary's Report, Financial Report, and District Visitors' reports were duly accepted. A good discussion ensued on the reports and various points raised, which we trust will be of good service to the Lyceums and to the Council. Mr. Longbottom, Preston; Mr. Bailey, Burnley; and Miss Aspin, Rish-ton, were appointed assistant D.V.'s for the quarter.

The Secretary gave the report *re* U.D.C. meeting which was duly accepted. The credential Committee reported that there were present 18 delegates (representing 11 Lyceums), 2 Associates, and 4 members of the Executive, making a total of 24. A discussion ensued on the question of Examinations for conductors and leaders, and it was decided to refer it to the various Lyceums for their further consideration. Mr. R. Latham was selected as candidate for B.S.L.U. Executive. Messrs Moorey and Higham were elected delegates to the next meeting of U.D.C.

It was decided that we have a united Lyceum pic-nic and demonstration on Good Friday, the place and arrangements for same be left in the hands of Executive Committee. A discussion took place on the question of what kind of competition we should have for the Shield, and it was decided that the Lyceum sending the largest percentage of scholars to the pic-nic and taking part in the demonstration should have the shield for 12 months.

The Secretary was elected representative to the next B.S.L.U. Conference at Birkenhead. Votes of thanks to local Lyceum for invitation and entertainment brought to a close a pleasant and profitable meeting.

GEO. E. HIGHAM, Sec.

UNITED DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The next meeting will be held at Sheffield on February 26th and 27th, 1910. D.C.'s representatives please note. Motions for the Agenda to reach me not later than Feb. 7th.

R. A. OWEN, Hon. Sec.
88, King's Road, Bootle.

Essay on "The Recitation I like best in
the 'Lyceum Manual,' and why."

"THERE'S A HOME FOR ALL."

Individual effort (age 12).

Out of the recitations in the "Lyceum Manual" I have selected for the subject of my essay, "There's a home for all." If this recitation was recited at the Lyceum it would surely create a greater influence on the young respecting the poor people.

The first few lines are so beautiful that they should inspire every boy and girl to love the poor as well as the rich. We are all brothers and sisters, and God is the universal Father. If the Lyceumists only understood the meaning of this recitation they would try to uplift the poor as well as themselves.

After death, if a person has tried to do all the good he could, he would feel much happier on the other

side. By doing good and trying to uplift others we are uplifting ourselves, and making ourselves better fitted for the other side.

This recitation is to teach us that there is a home for us all on the other side. It teaches us that the rich and poor, the ill and the invalids, the old and young are all going to the Summerland, and will be much happier there.

The good will live in that happier home which is prepared for them, and live happily ever after.

Those who have been bad all the time they have been living have to answer for it on the other side.

HARRY HOBLEY, Runcorn Lyceum.

"THE PSALM OF LIFE."

Individual effort (age 10).

Little do we think that some of our greatest poets are our greatest spiritualists. For instance, look at Longfellow, how many beautiful poems he wrote and how many wonderful changes took place in his life. "A Psalm of Life" is one of the readings which he composed. If we study it carefully we shall learn many lessons from it. It teaches us life is not a plaything, but to be used as a real useful gift. Sometimes people think "that when we have done our earthly work" we lie in slumber until God calls us into His Kingdom. "If to-day we are in sadness, then to-morrow will bring us gladness. Not enjoyment and not sorrow, is our destined end or way, but to act that each to-morrow finds us nobler than to-day." It is quite true that this verse teaches us that. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try, again." The lives of some great persons show us that pride always goes before a fall. The last verse relates to us, that "Patience is a virtue."

KITTY BOLTON, Hawkeshead, Southport.

GOD'S GARDEN.

Wither and Die—Wither and Die—
What is the reason? I wonder why?
Flowers which have bloomed with a radiance bright,
Wither and vanish and pass out of sight?
Man has not fathomed all secrets of birth,
God's only garden is not of this earth;
Worlds upon worlds yet rolling in space,
Find for these blossoms a new resting place;
Beauty, in infancy cradled on earth,
Finds in those spheres a more glorious birth;
We, like those flowers, move on sphere by sphere,
Dying, to blossom again year by year;
No form unchanging, no hour can remain,
Sorrows born vanish, and joys come again;
Dark as the pathway may seem to your eyes,
Lifted by angels the clouds will arise;
Mists born of sorrow must yield to hope's sun,
Each day at its closing finds a new day begun;
Put forth thy best efforts, use well all thy powers,
God planted His garden, its tending is ours.
As the years roll away may our gardens all show,
We have used every means to make "bright flowers"
grow;
May the Leaves of "good will" in plenty abound,
And Love's beauteous blossoms shed joy all around;
Each plant ever growing "The best that it may,"
In its home in God's garden—Hour by Hour, Day by
Day.

FRANK G. CLARKE.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

NOTE.—All Reports are liable to 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 since December 23rd.

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

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than Wednesday, the 26th of January to ensure insertion in the February issue.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE (Burlington Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 5th, we held our monthly open session. The following Lyceumists took part: Recitation by Jane Yates; readings by Miss Eldon, Mrs. France, Miss S. J. Dransfield, Mr. Wm. Dransfield and Mr. Harrington Beech. Also a very good number of pearls by several of the Lyceumists. Altogether we had a fairly good session, but might be improved by a little variation, instead of getting in one rut and remaining there.—A. France, Secretary.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—On Dec. 5th we held a very enjoyable open session, which was well sustained by the following scholars:—Songs, Misses May Hopson, Jennie Kendall, Mr. Mallin and Mr. Kellett. Recitations, Iris Harris, Joseph Sarkin, Edward Smith, John Mallin, Millie Brown, Tom Helme, Edith Helme, Edith Harris, Herbert Harris, Bertie Huddleston, Agnes Smith, Annie Helme. Mabel Brockbank recited, without one mistake, Mr. Frank Hepworth's poem on "The growth of the Lyceum." We also had a surprise visit from our D.V., Miss Mather, of Ulverston.—James Kendall, Secretary.

BRADFORD (Blanche Street).—On Dec. 5th we held our usual open session having a good attendance of scholars and friends. The following took part:—Recitations by T. Merrell, Mr. J. Merrell, M. Gernall, B. Webb, L. Hargreaves and E. Fallin. Solos by F. Merrell, L. Hargreaves, E. Fallin and Hargreaves. A very good time was spent. The session was conducted by Mr. H. Hargreaves. The election of officers for the ensuing year was also held as follows:—Conductor, Mr. H. Hargreaves; Assistant Conductor, Mr. J. Merrell; Secretary, Mr. J. Babbs; Treasurer, Mr. J. Merrell; Musical Director, Miss Amy Proudlove; Guardian, Miss Lena Battye; Leaders, Misses Florence Godfrey, Polly Proudlove, Lily Nadin; Mr. Vernon Webb and Mr. Albert Carver. We are looking forward to a good year and hope good work will be done.—J. Babbs, Secretary.

BRADFORD (BOYNTON STREET).—On Dec. 5th we held our monthly open session. We had a good attendance and a few visitors, including Mr. Hoyrton, the Bradford Spiritual Healer, who, in the morning, gave us an address on healing, which was much appreciated. He treated a young Lyceumist specially. A grand harmony prevailed and we feel sure much good was done. In the afternoon a better attendance. Song, Miss E. Illingworth, "Angels Serenade"; recitations by Norman Haley, Annie Ward, Florry Winder, Edith McIntosh, and solo by Miss M. A. Winder, "The happy spirit land." We brought a grand session to a close by singing No. 308 in the Manual, J. Lightowler conducting.—J. T. Dean, Sec.

BURNLEY (Hammerton Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 5th, we held our usual Lyceum open session. Mr. Higham was the conductor. The following items were nicely rendered. Songs by Miss M. A. Longworth, Miss A. Redman, Mr. W. Metcalfe, Mr. W. Wilkinson and Mr. E. Budge. Duet by Mr. H. Forrest and Mr. H. Bannister. Pianoforte solo, Mr. S. Carr. Three recitations were given, one by Miss E. Robinson and two by Miss Ivy Redman. Readings by Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. C. Forrest and Mr. A. Thornton. We had a very pleasant afternoon session.—Mrs. Riley, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD (Old Assembly Rooms, Low Pavement).—We held our open session on Sunday, Dec. 12th. The following members took part, and their efforts were enjoyed by a good muster of Lyceumists:—Misses Hobster and Woodhead, duet; Hilda Welch, Alexandra Salter and Ernest Philpot, recitations; Hilda Hopkinson, W. Tyson, F. Philpot and Mr.

Welch, songs. Several members of the Liberty Group contributed a part song which was much appreciated. Mr. Johnson, reading. Mr. Bradshaw gave a reading and also spoke a few words to the Lyceum generally relative to its being the duty of each to take an active part in the open sessions, and thus help to make them more enjoyable and something to look forward to.—T. Brewin, Secretary.

CREWE.—On Dec. 5th we held an open session. Mrs. Ford and Misses Harrison, Gladys Mottram, Nellie Greenwood sang. Fred Horner and Florrie Wood recited. Mr. A. Bagnley gave a flute solo. Misses Ada Burton, Nellie Ford and Mr. S. Gawthorne acted as accompanists. A pleasant and instructive session was spent.—H.W.

DARWEN (Church Bank Street).—On Nov. 27th a potato pie supper and social was held. Songs were rendered during the evening, also dancing was indulged in. A pleasant time was spent. On Dec. 5th we had the usual monthly open session. Mr. Lewis Firth, who was the speaker for the day, addressed the Lyceum for a few minutes. Readings were also given. The Lyceum at the present time is not attended as well as it ought to be. The older members are mostly at fault in this respect. I hope that with the commencement of another year every Lyceumist will make it his or her duty to attend the Lyceum as regular as possible.—J. Nightingale, Secretary.

FORDSBURG.—Our last open session shewed that the work is steadily progressing. We had songs and recitations. Grace Connolly sang "Hand in hand with angels," which we all enjoyed very much. I am pleased to report that we are increasing in numbers. It gave us great pleasure when our Conductor announced that we were to have a Christmas tree this year, as it always serves to more forcibly remind us of goodwill, love and concord. Some of our members were absent. Our Secretary, Mr. Hutton, is away on a holiday at Durban, but will be back next Sunday. We are progressing very well under our most honourable Conductor, Mr. R. Connolly, who takes great interest in the Lyceum work.—Ethel Scott, aged 13 years.

GREAT HARWOOD (off Westwell Street).—We held our open session on Sunday, Dec. 5th, on which we tried a few new marches, followed by recitations from Nora Wrigley, Alfred Ainsworth and Arthur Holt.—Mary A. Holt, Secretary.

HADFIELD (Albert Street).—On Saturday, Dec. 4th, our Lyceum had a social and surprise night, which was a success. It was a surprise night to us all, as each Lyceumist or friend could bring a parcel or parcels. Each parcel was warranted to be eatable and was sold by auction, and the conditions were no one had to open their parcel till all was sold, or they were fined. Mr. George Kenworthy acted as policeman and Mr. Edmund Waterhouse as auctioneer. During the evening songs were given by Miss Agnes Kenworthy, Miss Lucy Bramhall, Mr. C. Nuttall; recitation by Mr. E. Waterhouse; reading by Miss Agnes Kenworthy; pianoforte solos by Mr. Wilfred Chorley and Miss Ethel Harris.—Christopher Nuttall Sec.

LANCASTER.—Our open session this month was made very interesting by a few of the members emulating the good work of Mr. Clarke in an attempt to show to us the distressing results of drinking alcohol. Recitations to this effect were given by the following:—Lizzie Askew, Lena Finch, Ethel Hennerdy, Lizzie Kirk and Janie Kirk, all receiving marked approval, whilst a very lengthy poem by Mr. Bleasdale and a reading by Mr. Stephenson had a very good effect. The meeting of the Lyceum District Council here on Dec. 11th was a success. Many were the schemes planned and arranged for the advancement of the children's cause and the bringing up of men and women worthy of the name of Spiritualists.—James Sayle.

LONDON, BRIXTON.—Since we have been placed on our own we have all had to labour hard, but we are pleased to say we can now see a little sunshine. Our individual efforts have been splendid. We had a nice trio from Will Gillet, Mabel and Mrs. Underwood. Our marching and calisthenics are good. We are hopeful of a new and permanent position for the new year, which will do good, as we shall be able to show strangers what a Lyceum is and how it is constituted. We have adopted a new method, and that is our Liberty and advanced Excelsior Groups in turn take the conductorship of an afternoon under our supervision.—Alex. Brooking.

MANCHESTER (Cheetham).—On Sunday, Dec. 5th, we held a special service, when Mr. Hamer, the healer, was the speaker. He gave us a most interesting lecture on "Magnetic Healing." He spoke very impressively to the Lyceum, which occupied the platform, and offered prizes for the best essays

on "What is the Lyceum?" and "Why am I a Lyceumist?" The Lyceum sang special songs, and solos were given. A most enjoyable evening ended by the Lyceum singing No. 384 in the Manual. The hall was crowded.—J. Sidebottom, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, LONGSIGHT (Cbell Street).—On Dec. 12th we held our open session. There was a good attendance and the marching, calisthenics and responses were well rendered. In the evening, under the conductorship of Mr. Shepherd, the Lyceum took the public service, when a good programme was given by the following:—Recitations by Miss Toplis, F. Atkinson, Gladys Coleman, Violet Parfit, Bertha Dawson and Edith Robertson. Solos by Miss L. Coleman and Miss Mabel Rodwell. Inspirational reading by Mrs. Giles. Clairvoyance by Miss Archer. On the 10th Mr. J. B. Garner gave the third lecture of a series on "Practical Psychology." These lectures are of a high order and of great importance in the study and practice of life.—Wm. Meek, Hon. Secretary.

MANCHESTER, OPENSHAW (Co-operative Hall, Beulah Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 5th, at 2-30 p.m., we held our quarterly open session, which was gone through in a satisfactory manner, words of encouragement being spoken through our Mr. J. Turner to the Lyceum and visitors. Evening at 6-30 p.m. a service of song, "A terrible lesson," was rendered by the Lyceum elders, Mr. Coulthurst, our president, being the reader. Sunday, Dec. 12th, the election of officers for the ensuing six months:—Conductor, Mr. J. Turner (12 months); Assistants, Miss B. Aspinwall and Mr. J. Boulton; Guardians, Misses J. Coleman and H. Owen, Messrs. J. Wilson and J. Aspinwall; Treasurer, Mr. F. Weitzel; Secretary, Mr. J. Wilson; Delegates, Messrs. J. Boulton and W. T. Weitzel.—W. T. Weitzel, Hon. Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Dec. 5th, open session. Recitations by Misses A. Bessant, Winnie Clarke and Tom Drew. Solos by Misses J. Mattock and Minnie Bessant. Violin solos by Masters J. and Hy. Rubinstein. Mr. Lawrance, of Newcastle, gave a short address. Dec. 8th, Band of Hope was given a tea by two Lyceumists, after which an enjoyable evening was spent. The Lyceum will have their prizes given on New Year's Day, after their annual tea.—G. C. Wells, Secretary.

MOTHERWELL (I.O.G.T. Hall).—We are having some grand times in our Lyceum. Our "Magazine Morning" once a month is one of the special attractions. It is indeed surprising the subjects our Lyceumists write upon, and the able manner in which they treat their essays reflects great credit on these young aspirants. From their efforts now we expect greater things in the near future. In all the strength resultant from unity of effort we are working for the upliftment and betterment of each other and mankind in general.—Miss Jeannie Hendry, Secretary.

NELSON (Vernon Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 5th, we held our annual meeting, which was of a pleasing and harmonious nature. Officers for the year 1910:—Conductor, Mr. H. Hargreaves; Assistant, Mr. Raw; Marching Conductor, Mr. H. Buller; Musical Director, Mr. Anforth; Treasurer, Mr. H. Buller; Secretary Mrs. Stables; Liberty Group Secretary, Mr. J. E. Raw; Librarian, Mr. J. Greenwood; Library Committee, Sick Visitors, etc. During the past few months we have formed a Library (Society and Lyceum) combined, which now contains some 100 books, the Lyceum contributing the full set of the works of our esteemed founder, Mr. A. J. Davis, many books being given by members and friends, which we hope will prove both pleasant and profitable recreation to many.—Mrs. Stables.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, BENWELL (Co-op. Hall).—On Dec. 5th we held our usual open session, the speaker being Mr. Gibson, who spoke very encouragingly to the children. Marching and calisthenics were very good. We have an average attendance of about 37 children and 14 adults. On Dec. 12th we had a good selection of recitations and solos from about 12 of the children, each one doing his or her part very well. I should like to see a little more interest shown by the adult members.—Miss M. Simpson, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Hall).—We held our Lyceum tea party and distribution of prizes on Dec. 4th. A hundred sat down to tea. After tea the Lyceum scholars gave two dialogues, one "Minding the Baby" and the other "Wanted a Wife." When these were finished Mr. W. Edwards, of Accrington, presented the prizes. It was a thorough success.—W. Briggs.

ROTHERHAM (Percy Street).—On Dec. 5th we held an open session, which was very well attended, and a good programme was gone through. Recitations were given by Olive and Ethel Metcalfe, Elsie Vernon and Mrs. Jones. The

Marching and calisthenics were gone through. Mr. Marklew, the D.V., gave us a few kind words of encouragement. This was followed by some sterling advice from our worthy Conductor, Mr. Gartrey. I may say our Lyceum is growing more harmonious, for which I am thankful. On Dec. 12th we held our annual election of officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. Gartrey; Assistant, Mrs. Hinchcliffe; Musical Conductor, Miss A. Liversidge; Conductors, Marching and Calisthenics, Mr. R. Papworth; Assistant, J. Smith.—Mr. C. Dalton, Secretary.

ROYTON (Union Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 12th, we held our open session. There was a good attendance. Mrs. Pearson, of Rochdale, was speaker for the day. Solos were rendered by L. Garside and F. Jones; duet by E. and M. Haslam; recitations by Clara Thomas and Frank Thomas; pearls were given by several Lyceumists. Afterwards an interesting ceremony was performed, namely, the naming of a baby. During the ceremony six of our youngest Lyceumists laid a white flower on the breast of the baby as an emblem of purity. The session was brought to a close by the singing of "Members' parting song." Mr. H. Buckley officiated at the organ.—Miss E. Haslam, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD (Attercliffe).—I am pleased to say our new home and spiritual church was opened on Dec. 11th by Mrs. Appleyard, accompanied by Councillor Appleyard, J. Oates, chairman of trustees, J. J. Morse, Frank Hepworth, E. W. Oaten, H. J. Webster, R. Grange, Mr. Knight, and J. K. Jones, secretary, and a large company of members and friends. A very pleasing ceremony was first performed by Mary Walker, one of our youngest Lyceumists, in the presentation of a bouquet of white flowers to the officiating lady. On Dec. 11th the session was opened by J. K. Jones, accompanied by Mrs. Johnson, the mother of the movement in Attercliffe. Marching and calisthenics were well rendered under the conductorship of Ralph Foster.—H. Bowmer, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD (Heeley).—On Sunday, Nov. 28th, Mr. Welch, conductor of Chesterfield Lyceum, paid us a visit. In the afternoon Mr. Oaten addressed the Liberty Group. On Dec. 5th, open session in the afternoon at 2-30, conducted by Mr. Brooks. The following contributed to the programme:—Solos rendered by Miss Brooks and Mr. Clive. Recitations by Mrs. Clive, Evelyn Hempstock, Florence Vernon, Nellie Beardoe, Sam Beedham, Reginald Stevenson, Alfred Beardoe. Miss Colbourne, of Derby, the speaker for the day, gave a short address. There was a very good attendance. Our afternoon sessions are very well attended generally, but the morning sessions are being seriously neglected.—G. Stevenson, Secretary.

SHIPLEY.—We held our annual meeting on Dec. 10th. The following were the officers elected for the year 1910:—Conductors, Mr. Oldfield and Mr. Moore. Guardians, Master P. Oldfield and Miss L. Clark. Leaders of marching, Mr. Oldfield or Mr. Moore, and Miss L. Clark. Leaders of calisthenics, Miss E. A. Clark and Miss L. Lister. Musical conductors, Mr. E. H. Coles, Miss M. Marshall and Miss H. Oldfield. Librarians, Master T. Oldfield and Miss L. Lister. Secretary, Mr. E. H. Coles. Treasurer, Mr. Moore.—E. H. Coles, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Hall).—It is a very pleasing duty to again report the continued success of our Lyceum, its bright and cheerful aspect denoting that progress is our motto. On Dec. 5th Mr. Rimmer conducted, one of our most recent additions who is likely to become a valuable acquisition in our midst. He has also accepted the role of conductorship for the ensuing year. The Lyceum has also been presided over by the following junior members:—Miss Alice Smart, Master Edward Bolton and Master Tom Bolton. Recitations have been contributed by Misses Lucy Bolton, Hilda Riding, Josey Bolton, Dulcie Hardy and Mr. Devereux. Mr. Alderston, an occasional visitor, gave a few encouraging remarks and expressed himself as being highly pleased with our whole proceedings.—Miss Edith Beaumont, Secretary.

WINDHILL.—We held our open session on Dec. 5th. We had a very good attendance. Readings were very well rendered by Mr. J. Trouman, Miss D. Butterfield and Mr. H. Alderson. Duets were also given by Misses N. Copley and M. Stead, and by Misses D. Butterfield and E. Waterworth. A trio was very well rendered by Misses N. Copley, M. Stead and M. A. Potts. Mr. A. Stott gave a recitation, "Modern Ideas." We then closed a very pleasing session by singing 398 Lyceum Manual,

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