

THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

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ONE PENNY

The Unbeliever.

BY FREDELLA E. FISCHER.
(FROM THE SUNFLOWER).

"I promise," said her father.
"Very well, then, papa, the one man in the world for me is Lawrence Dunbar."
"What?" exclaimed her father, "that man who spends every dollar he earns recklessly on every dirty, ragged youngster he meets, that unbeliever! Jessie, I am astonished, and to this man who will die in the poorhouse some day! Well, the ways and notions of women are past understanding."
"Well, father," said Jessie, her voice choking, "I would rather see him spend his money on poor, suffering little children than on fast horses or champagne, and, even if he dies in the poorhouse, his life has been of some worth to humanity. He will not have lived in vain."
* * * * *

Dr. Dunbar sat alone in his office. He had changed very little in appearance, excepting that his once jetty curls were now almost white. "Ten years ago to-day," said he, aloud, "ten years ago to-day she became Mrs. Weaver." He closed his eyes as one by one the incidents of that terrible day he passed through again, and he still marvelled at the calmness and the dignity of the beautiful bride, still wondered at the clear ring of her voice as she responded to her father's questions. How he had lived through the day he never knew. Miss Dent had proved a kind friend to him, noticing his abstraction of manner. He had departed the next morning, and for ten long years had seen or heard nothing of Walter or his wife. Mary had dropped all correspondence with Miss Dent, and, although Lawrence had met her frequently, she never by a word referred to Mary or anything pertaining to her. Jessie Dent had read his heart aright and pitied him. They had met often, but she had ever remained the same, a true sister, and Lawrence never guessed, while at her side, of the brave struggle she had made and had conquered.

He was sad and lonely. Suddenly springing up he seized his hat and left the office. He wandered through the streets, at last finding himself in the park, where he sat down on one of the benches. He was awakened from the day dream into which he had fallen by the sound of a very familiar voice. He listened intently. Yes, it was the voice of Walter Weaver, speaking in low, measured tones, the voice he had not heard in ten years.

He arose and looked about him. The voice came from the other side of the hedge. Quickly passing to the other side he found two gentlemen seated there on one of the park benches. As he approached the smaller man arose and, bidding farewell to the other man, walked rapidly away. Walter remained

sitting. Lawrence paused when directly opposite him. Their eyes met for a second when Walter sprang from the bench, exclaiming, "You, Larry, at last," at the same time catching Dr. Dunbar's hands in his. "After all these long, weary years we meet again." He drew Lawrence to the bench, plying him with questions.

After they had spoken some time together Lawrence asked, "And how is your family, Walter?" Walter hesitated some few seconds and then answered, "What there is left of my family, Lawrence, my daughter and myself, are quite well."

"Your daughter?" exclaimed Lawrence, "Why, your mother, your wife?"

"Have both left me," answered Walter sadly. "My mother departed this life last summer for her heavenly home, and Mary left me eight years ago."

"My God," exclaimed Lawrence, "this is dreadful for you, my kind, old friend. And have you a child?"

"Yes, a daughter, nine years old."

Looking searchingly into Lawrence's eyes he asked in a broken voice:

"Are you honest with me, Larry? Did she not come to you?"

"To me?" exclaimed Lawrence aghast. "Why, Walter, what are you saying? I have not seen your wife since your wedding day, ten years ago to-day."

"Forgive me if I have wronged you, Lawrence. After she had left me mother told me of what had passed between you two the Sunday evening before the wedding. Mother never doubted you after that, but I did not know, thinking perhaps, she came to you for help."

"No, no," said Lawrence, "I have seen or heard nothing of her."

"Yes," said Walter. "You know she never cared for me. You know, Lawrence, what happened the week before the wedding. If she had only been honest with me then I would have released her, even on the day of the marriage, but I was blind, stone blind, while every one around me saw more than I. She loved you, Lawrence, from the first day she met you."

"My God, Walter, I was not to blame."

"No, no, afterwards I saw quite plainly why you acted so queer," answered Walter. "Poor girl, she simply did not know her own heart until she met you. Her father was more to blame than she. You know your prophecy came true. She went on the stage."

Lawrence was astounded at this.

Walter continued: "We lived very unhappily from the day of our marriage. For days and weeks at a time she would not talk to me, and poor mother she treated very coldly. She was a very extravagant woman in dress, but of this I thought little. So long as she was happy what mattered the expense? She

broke my heart completely when baby came. I do not think that in the year that she was with us after baby came she looked on it more than twice. The entire care of it was left to my mother.

"It was a sickly child and caused poor mother great annoyance and worry. When baby was a year old I came upon Mary one night in the library. She held something in her hand which she kissed several times. As I drew near she suddenly concealed it in the bosom of her gown. I asked her kindly what made her so happy. For an instant she wavered, and then, snatching it from her bosom, she showed me your picture, the last one I received from you, saying, in an excited tone, "That is the man I love, the man who loves me. I am going to him."

She then swept from the room and I have never seen her since, for next morning she was gone. I trust I may never set eyes on her again, in this life or the next, for I will never forgive her, not for the wrong she did me, but for the cruel desertion of her child. She had a heart of stone."

"How strange," remarked Lawrence, "a clergyman's daughter turning to such a career!"

"No, it is not strange, at all," answered Walter, simply. "Her mother was an actress, an accomplished woman in the profession, who met and madly loved her father at first sight, but after their marriage the quiet life of a clergyman's wife did not at all satisfy her, and after two years of bitter quarreling and dreadful unhappiness she committed suicide. This was all kept from me until after she left me. Her father told me the whole sad, miserable story, dying shortly afterwards of a broken heart. He had tried so hard to start his daughter on a far different path in life, but had failed."

"And have you ever heard of her during these eight years?" asked Lawrence. "Has she never looked for the child?"

"No never," answered Walter, "and if she had she would never see her. Thank God, Mildred has not inherited her disposition. She is like me."

They sat and talked for hours, until Walter bade Lawrence farewell, saying he was leaving town by the evening train. He held his hand long at parting, begging him to come and visit him, but Lawrence shook his head. "No, no, old friend, I have brought enough misery into your life. Write to me and let me know how you get along."

Walter promised to do so and they parted.

* * * * *

Dr. Dunbar sat in the cosy sitting room of the Dent home, unfolding a plan to Jessie whereby he might be able to send an invalid mother and two delicate children to the south for the winter. "I have come to ask your assistance, Jessie, in looking for their clothing. They are very poor, and the mother, I find, is a very refined person, who has sacrificed herself for her two children, too proud to ask for assistance.

"She was brought to the hospital, where I met her. Her grief and worry over the children, who were left in the care of a neighbour, touched me deeply. I answered her that I would look them up, which I have done, finding them too model little girls. My landlady is caring for them at present, but they are sadly in need of proper clothing."

Miss Dent's eyes filled with tears. It was the first time in her life that he had ever addressed her by her first name. The doctor did not notice her emotion, too deeply engrossed in his plans.

"You know, Jessie," he continued, "Jesus says, 'what ye do unto the least of these ye do unto me,' and I have always found more pleasure in serving God in this way than in any other. I believe Jesus meant us to serve him in this way, for he says, 'I am in the Father, and ye in me and I in you, therefore what ye do unto the least of these ye do unto me.'"

"I think you are right, Dr. Dunbar," answered Jessie. "Bring the children to me. I have more time to look after them than you, and they will be company for father and me. I will see that they are properly clad, and when the mother recovers sufficiently to leave the hospital, she shall come, also. Until then I will care for the children and will take them to their mother every day."

"You are a dear, good, little sister," said Lawrence. "I will bring the children to you this evening."

"Why, I can call at your place, doctor, and get them, as I am making a call in your neighbourhood this afternoon."

Lawrence arose to depart, saying he was very busy.

A week later Dr. Dunbar was hastily summoned from his office to the hospital. "An attempted suicide, patient in a critical condition," came the summons over the telephone.

Arriving at the hospital, Dr. Dunbar repaired to the surgery. He was very busy looking over his instruments, having been informed that it was a case of poisoning.

The patient was brought in and placed on the table. Turning Dr. Dunbar beheld the slender figure of a woman. He suddenly stepped back, as he encountered her gaze. Her large blue eyes were filled with terror as she looked upon him. Although the face was thin and haggard and distorted with suffering Lawrence recognized her instantly. The woman was Mary Weaver.

For just an instant Lawrence paused, then, recovering himself, he set to work.

After half an hour the woman was carried back to her room and Lawrence quickly stepped outside for a breath of fresh air. It seemed to him as if at his throat there was a strong hand, endeavouring to strangle him. He had met her again at death's door, after ten long years. "Oh, God," he groaned, "how she has changed. Poor girl, poor girl!"

He re-entered the building and went directly to the room where they had placed her. She lay white and helpless upon the bed. Lawrence did not leave her side all that night, watching every pulse-beat. Towards morning there was a slight change for the better. Lawrence, giving strict orders to the nurse not to leave her bedside, and to watch every change closely, left the hospital and wandered through the streets.

"She would, perhaps, never have come to this had she married me, instead of Walter," thought he.

(To be continued.)

Selections from the Mythology of the Ancients.

PLUTO AND THE UNDERWORLD.

In order for the reader to understand what we have to say about Pluto [Plōō-tō] and the underworld, it is necessary to make a few remarks on the ideas the ancient Greeks had concerning the earth. They believed it to be flat and circular: their own country they conceived to occupy the centre of it; the central point being either Mount Olympus, the abode of the gods, or Delphi, so renowned for its oracle.

The circular disc of the earth was crossed from east to west, and divided into two equal parts, by the Sea, as they called the Mediterranean, and its continuation the Euxine,—the only seas with which they were acquainted.

Around the earth flowed the *river* Ocean. Its course was from south to north on the western side of the earth. The steady equable current of the Ocean compassed the earth, unmoved by storm or tempest; and hence it was called *soft-flowing*, on account of its circular course. They thought that the sea and all the springs and rivers on earth derived their origin from it.

The Ocean had a further bank: but only that portion of it which lay to the west is spoken of by the poets. Homer places there a people whom he calls Kimmerians [Kim-mē-rians]: he also makes it the abode of the dead.

In the remoter part of the northern half of the earth dwelt a people called Hyperboreans [Hi-per-bō-reans], sacred to the god Apollo, who bestowed on them wealth and happiness in abundance. The coast of the Ocean on the southern side was inhabited by the swarthy Æthiopians. The islands and coasts of the western portion of the Mediterranean Sea were the abode of the various tribes visited by Ulysses in his wanderings; its western part was inhabited by the Libyans, Egyptians, and other nations well known to the Greeks.

On the western extremity of the southern half of the earthly disc was a happy place called Elysium [E-lizh-i-um], to which Jupiter, the father of the gods, transported the souls of his favourites among men, to dwell in an eternity of bliss.

The poets described the Elysian Fields as being adorned with all the beauties of nature, which can soothe and delight the mind. Hills, covered with fragrant shrubs, delicious valleys, flowery plains, shady groves, clear streams, mild and balmy air, and unclouded gentle sunshine, all conspire to render the Elysian Fields the seat of happiness and tranquility. The happy souls are represented as following those pursuits, and enjoying those gratifications which pleased them most during their earthly career.

The flat disc of the earth was thought to be something like a big boat turned upside down, the rim of the boat being under water. The hollow thus formed was the underworld, called Hades [Hā-dēz]. The part above the earth was called heaven, and was illuminated by the sun, moon and stars.

The Dawn, the Sun, and the Moon were supposed to rise out of the Ocean on the eastern side, and drive through the air, giving light to gods and men. On

sinking into the western Ocean at night they were received into a golden cup or vessel and conveyed to the eastern Ocean in time to rise, on the following morn, and repeat their journey through the heavens.

In the time of Virgil the ideas about the location of the Elysian Fields had undergone a change: instead of their being located on the western extremity of the southern half of the earth, they were described as being located in the western part of Hades, or the underworld, ruled over by Pluto.

Pluto was the son of Saturn and Rhea, and brother to Jupiter and Neptune. On the dethronement of Saturn, Jupiter assigned the Ocean to Neptune, the Underworld to Pluto, and retained the kingdom of heaven for himself.

Pluto is usually represented as sitting on a throne in the midst of darkness, or deep gloom, sometimes holding a key in his hand instead of a sceptre. The key denoted that when once the dead were received into his kingdom, the gates were locked against their ever returning to the upper world. Sometimes instead of a key he holds a rod with which to guide the souls of the dead to his kingdom.

Sometimes he is represented as being crowned with the flowers of the narcissus, because he stole away Persephone while gathering these flowers; and sometimes he is crowned with cypress leaves, because the cypress was sacred to him. Homer speaks of his helmet as having the quality of making the wearer invisible.

His chariot was made of ebony and was drawn by four black horses.

All the goddesses having refused to marry him owing to his deformity and the darkness of his kingdom, he determined to have a wife, and, ascending in his chariot, he drove to Sicily, where he discovered Persephone, with her companions, gathering narcissus. Struck with her beauty, the dark featured god instantly seized her, forced her into his chariot, and opening a passage through the earth by striking it with his rod, descended with her into the realms of gloom and darkness, where she sits on a throne, as the Queen of Hades, on the left hand side of Pluto.

His name, Pluto, as also the Latin *Dis*, signifies wealth which comes from the bowels of the earth, for all things proceed from the earth, and go back to it.

The entrance to Hades was where the lake Avernus is in Italy, which is the crater or mouth of an extinct volcano. On the journey to the bottom were to be seen a host of dreadful forms, amongst which were Hunger, War, Old Age, Disease, Discord, Terror, Sleep and its twin sister Death.

On reaching the bottom of the cavern they find the river Acheron [Ak-ker-on], which signifies *grief*. Here were to be seen hundreds and thousands of spirits whose bodies had not been buried, and so they had to wait for a hundred years before the boatman Charon [Kā-ron] would allow them to enter his boat. The boatman's fare was a small piece of money, something like our penny, which was always placed in the mouth of the deceased before burial.

On landing at the opposite bank they were conducted to the Palace of Pluto and Persephone, where the three-headed dog, Cerberus [Sēr-ber-us], kept faithful watch and guard, allowing none to return who once entered. Here sat Minos [Mī-nos], one of

the judges, who assigned each one their mode of punishment or reward, according to the good or evil life they had lived on earth. The virtuous were sent forward to the enjoyment of the Elysian Fields, and the bad to endure the torments of Tartarus [Tar-tar-us].

There was an intermediate region, called Erebus [Er-e-bus], which signifies *gloom*. Here were to be found the infants, and those persons who had been condemned to death without cause, and those whose lives had been shortened either by love or war.

The ancients tell us there were other rivers in Hades besides Acheron. There was Styx [stiks], which means *dread*. Its waters were piercingly cold, and a cupful of it, fetched by Mercury, was used by the gods when they took an oath, which none of them dare break without being expelled from Olympus for nine months. Another of the rivers was called Cocytus [Kō-sī-tus], which means *lamentations*. Another one was called Phlegethon [Fēlē-ge-thon], which means *flaming*. It was a river of rolling, flaming fire. The other river flowed through the Elysian Fields, and was called Lethe [Lē-thē], which means *oblivion*, or complete forgetfulness.

Those happy souls who have spent a 1000 years in the Elysian Fields and wish to become dwellers on earth again, drink of the waters of Lethe, which caused them to forget all their past experiences, both of Elysium and earth, and then they were supposed to enter other infant bodies and be born as little children, to go through another earthly career. This re-birth is known as reincarnation.

If we consider that the ancients had no idea of the spirit world, with its spheres of ever-increasing glory and grandeur untold, ever inviting them to new scenes, new studies, and new efforts, and ever unfolding glories, as have the Spiritualists, but instead their Elysian Fields were a portion of the underworld, we shall not be surprised at the poets thinking that even their lives must grow monotonous in a 1000 years, and a scheme whereby they could forget the past and be born again was highly desirable.

The region called Tartarus was the region of the torments of those who were guilty of having committed great crimes. Phlegethon, or the river of fire, ran round it. Inside its adamantine gates the furies could be heard flogging their victims with whips made of snakes and stinging scorpions. There was a lake of fire, said to be twice as deep as Mount Olympus was high. It was into this region that Jupiter hurled the Titans who made war against him. It is said by some that they lie beneath Mount Etna, in Sicily, and their efforts to break loose is the cause of the dreadful eruptions. Here lies the huge body of Tityos [Ti-tū-os], which covers nine acres of ground, who was slain by Apollo and Diana for daring to insult their mother. His punishment is that a big vulture is to feed on his liver, which grows as fast as it is eaten. Then there is Tantalus, who being honoured by the gods, killed his son, Pleops, cooked his flesh and served it to be eaten at a feast of the gods. For this great crime he was condemned to stand in water which reached to his chin. He is always thirsty, but can never drink, for as often as he tries the water lowers and keeps out of his reach. There are trees laden with ripe, luscious fruit, whose boughs hang over his head, but when he tries to pluck them the wind scatters them abroad and

leaves him famishing. It is from the punishment of Tantalus that we derive our term "tantalise"—something kept just out of our reach. Then there was Sisyphus [Sis-i-fus], a king of Corinth, who was noted for his cunning. He even tried to deceive Pluto, for which act he was condemned to roll a huge stone up a great hill, but no sooner does he get it to the top than it overpowers him and goes thundering and crashing to the bottom, and he has to follow it, and begin his task over again. Phlegyas [Fle-gē-as], who dared to set fire to the temple of Apollo at Delphi, is also there. For this act of sacrilege he is doomed to sit under a large stone which may drop and crush him any moment, and so he is kept in a perpetual state of dread and terror. There also is Ixion [Ik-sī-on], who being favoured by the gods dared to make love to Juno, the Queen of heaven. For this insult Jupiter cast him into Tartarus, where he was doomed to be fixed on a slowly revolving wheel placed over a stream of liquid fire. There were two Egyptian brothers, called Danaus [Da-nā-us] and Egyptus [E-gip-tus]. The former had 50 daughters, and the latter had 50 sons who were in love with their fair cousins. The young women fled to Argos in Greece to escape from their cousins. The latter followed them and forced them into marriage. On the marriage night Danaus gave a dagger to each daughter with instruction to kill her husband during the night. All obeyed but Hypermetra [Hē-perm-nest-ra], who spared the life of her husband Lynceus [Li-sē-us]. For their crimes the 49 sisters, called the Danaides [Da-nā-i-dēz], were sentenced to the endless task of drawing water in sieves from a well to fill a tub full of holes.

(To be continued),

Our Boys' Special.

My Loyal Lyceumists,

By the time these lines meet your eyes preparations for a great birthday party will be almost complete. I mean the twenty-first birthday of the BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION. The story of the growth of our Union is an extremely interesting one, and could be faithfully and admirably told by our Editor, Mr. Alfred Kitson, who was present at its birth, its naming, and who has, with a fatherly care and a motherly love, watched with alternate pleasure and anxiety its struggles in infancy and childhood's days, the while he poured nourishment into its young form from his own soul reservoir of energetic resources.

Nor was he alone in this noble and self-sacrificing effort on behalf of our Lyceum movement. Stalwart champions of moral rights and religious liberties who are still labouring bravely in our interests and for our greater freedom were also active in the days of our Union's childhood, and blessed the infant with their labours. And so the child grew and waxed strong. During its progress towards its "Majority" the Union has celebrated quite a number of important birthdays, on which it has been the recipient of useful and beautiful presents, notably, the "LYCEUM BANNER," the *Lyceum Manual*, the *Spiritual Songster*, *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*, by Alfred Kitson; the special book, *Some Reminiscences*, and money gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smedley, the special gift from Mr. John Ainsworth, together with many minor gifts from friends too numerous to be included in a special list on this page, but whose love for the Union prompted their generous gifts. And last, but by no means least, the generous recognition of the growing Union by Lyceums, through whose support and representation the celebration of the birthdays have been delightful features in the career of the Union. And now we shall soon celebrate its 21st birthday. Perhaps you have already been venturing opinions as to the best method of signifying your delight on this great occasion, your ideas are no doubt excellent, but I have not heard what they are. Therefore I am going to venture an opinion.

First then, we are struggling to sustain the publication of the LYCEUM BANNER. It is the only organ of communication in our Lyceum Movement in England. For some time it has been deprived of the dignity of a "cover," the reason given being "insufficient orders to cover cost of production and distribution." This, with a little effort, I am sure, could be remedied. If all Lyceums would endeavour to secure as many copies as would ensure *one copy* going into each family where Lyceumists are living, the circulation would at once warrant the restoring of the cover, and would justify the enlarging of the paper. There does not seem much difficulty in this if all are willing to assist. Various means for recouping Lyceum expenditure under this head could be found in every Lyceum. I know of at least one Lyceum which disposes of SEVEN DOZEN COPIES PER MONTH in this way, and another which for years distributed five dozen per month, *by sales* to adults, and free distribution to children. Others have taken up a special BANNER collection monthly, while others again have given special entertainments by Lyceumists to meet BANNER expenses.

Discuss this matter with your leaders and see if something of the kind can be done in your Lyceum.

Another desirable object with which to signalize our "majority" would be an increase in the numerical strength of our Lyceums. Everyone with whom we work in our daily life—or with whom we go to school—does not attend our Lyceum. *In fact some do not attend anywhere.* Why not give such an invitation to the Lyceum. Once you succeeded in interesting them in the Lyceum they would, I am certain, be grateful to you for the introduction. Don't be afraid of asking them. You have every reason to be proud of the opportunity of drawing attention to the beautiful and healthful principles of life and life's purposes which are revealed in the songs, recitations and responses contained in the Manual.

There are other matters of importance and deep interest, regarding our Union's welfare in the days of its maturity, and these will doubtless receive attention in due course, from those earnest workers who are continually adding to our strength. I have drawn attention to only two methods of adding to our delight, both of which are possible of accomplishment forthwith. Discuss them carefully in your Lyceum. Do not dismiss them peremptorily, under the plea that you have tried and failed. The way to well-merited success is over the rough road of incidental disappointment.

PUZZLE—APPEARING IN MARCH BANNER.

Puzzles do not appear to be in great demand amongst our Lyceumists just now, so I purpose giving you a little rest.

Only five solutions are to hand for the puzzle which appeared in March. Four of these are correct. The correct solution is Dr. J. M. Peebles. The winners are Mrs. E. Sayle and Miss May Thompson, Lancaster; Masters James Adams, Rutherford Street Lyceum, Newcastle; and Harold Dunderdale, North Street Lyceum, Burnley. A merit card has been forwarded to each winner.

The answer of Mrs. E. Sayle, of Lancaster, is so ingenious that I submit it here for perusal:—

"On the first line the characters are J.M.P.,
Of the body and mind a great healer is he,
While the fifth line discloses the edible "pea."
The sixth line a wonder reveals to our view,
Though an "E's" in recluse, yet I find there are two;
But now in the eighth line I find just one "Bee."
And from "glean" gather L, which just fits as you see;
In the tenth line the "E's" like a sandwich, I ween,
And just as you say is found somewhere between.
And now I have found them all but the last letter,
Which appears last in "guess." "Now, could you have done better?"

Awaiting your answer, I trust 'twill be "Yes."
Is the name—J. M. P double E B L E S.

An answer like this one, I think you will say,
Deserves to appear in the BANNER to-day.
So I'll just ask our Alfred to pilot it through,
And prevail on the printer to forward to you.
As your interest in puzzles is on the decline,
I propose soon to start on another fresh line.
In June the Boys' Special page may not appear,
But in July I hope to be back again here.

FRANK HEPWORTH.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Under this head Lyceumists may ask questions bearing on the teachings of the *Lyceum Manual* and matters appertaining to the Lyceum Movement in general. All correspondents must give their full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith with the EDITOR. Letters should be addressed to the QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT, the Offices of the LYCEUM BANNER, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

Book Reviews.

SPIRIT MATES, by Dr. J. M. Peebles, M.A., M.D., etc. The subject of the book before us is of absorbing interest to all who are searching for information on the origin of life, the destiny of the human soul and the true relationship of men and women.

The theory of Spirit Mates is that all life is dual, wisdom and love, in its essence when emanating from the source of all life—God. These forces manifest themselves in the human form as male and female, and are destined to be re-united, if not on earth, then in the spirit world, both of them being greatly enriched with the individual experience each has gained. According to this theory every human heart and soul is destined to be reunited to its other self, which may be called its twin-soul, which alone can satisfy the unexpressed, the secret heart-hunger and yearning for the being who shall be the full complement of its better, holier self, which is called the angelic state or condition. "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." Matt. XXII., 30. The good doctor quotes a number of spirit messages and forty prominent writers in support of his theory, amongst which are the following:—Cora L. V. Richmond, Mrs. Maria M. King, Prof. E. Whipple, A. J. Davis, Mrs. C. Petersilia, Dr. E. D. Babbitt, Mary T. Longley, and Judge J. W. Edmonds. It is a book that will appeal to all classes of society, for there is as much unrest, dissatisfaction and heart-hunger in the higher walks of life as there is in the lower, for humanity is one family and knows no social distinctions in its life essence. This book will be helpful to our young men and young women who are contemplating matrimony, and may be the means of bringing much joy and happiness into their lives.

It is a splendid book, well printed, and elegantly bound in royal blue cloth, with gold symbols and lettering. Price 5/-. , postage 4d.

The great work of Cesare Lombroso, "After Death—What," has been abridged by Mrs. Marson, and published by Sherratt and Hughes, price 6d. net. Its pages are filled with valuable extracts of the testimony of this great scientist to the truth and value of spirit communion. If Spiritualism had done nothing more to merit the esteem of the world's thinkers than to convert this scientist to a knowledge that death does not end all, it would justify its claim to recognition as a movement of great good, for he says on page 5 that, "Until the year 1890, Spiritualism had no fiercer, nor more obstinate opponent than I." Chapter III. is devoted to "Experiments with accurate scientific instruments," under which is to be found a concisely tabulated list of phenomena. Students of Spiritualism will find this pamphlet helpful.

[The above were unavoidably crowded out of our last issue.—Ed.]

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.

ALCOHOL AND HEALTH.

PART I. (f) ALCOHOL AND PARALYSIS.

From what has been said in the last section, where some of the results of experiments on the effects of alcohol on the higher brain centres have been described, it will be at once evident that alcohol has a paralysing action upon nerve tissue, and in particular upon the brain. All drugs have a more or less selective action, that is to say, they do not effect all the organs of the body equally, and the carefully conducted investigations of physiologists like Kraepelin, Waller and Horsley, have shewn that of all the bodily functions these most seriously and rapidly attacked by alcohol are functions of the brain.

I wish particularly to refer in the present article to the question of fatigue, which has been a fruitful field for physiological research. The sense of being tired after a long walk or hard study, is probably due not so much to the fatigue of the muscles of the limbs, eyes, etc., or of the nerves which communicate between those muscles and the central nervous system, as to depletion of the nerve centres in what has been called the "motor cortex" of the brain. It is certainly true that poisonous decomposition products can sometimes be found in the muscles after violent exertion, but their effect is not of the same order of importance as that resulting from the destruction of brain tissue which manifests itself in fatigue and ultimately in paralysis.

It is interesting to note here that the complaint we call epilepsy, which is characterised by occasional losses of consciousness and general paralysis, is believed to be due to disorder of the same portions of brain matter, and in this fact is contained the essence of the oft-observed relation between epilepsy and alcoholism.

The brain is beautifully furnished with the means for self-recovery; regular fatigue is not unhealthy, for during rest all loss and waste is made good by a cleansing and invigorating inflow of new matter, which may be, and often is, superior to that displaced. In the same way muscular fatigue stimulates a richer supply of blood charged with material for building up more muscle. This is the *rationale* of intellectual and physical exercise, both of which are necessary for the health of the body. But it is quite another proposition to invoke an artificial fatigue by swallowing a poisonous substance, and then to expect recovery with poisoned blood and depleted constitution.

If we choose any particular voluntary action, such as walking, moving the arms, or the like, we can find out what effect alcohol has on the part of the brain involved in that action by comparing the efficiency of the muscles before and after a dose of alcohol. Experiments along these lines have satisfied the medical profession that many kinds of paralysis are directly due to the poisonous results of alcohol; in other words, the loss of muscular energy, which we all have observed to follow intemperance, is *not entirely recoverable* as it would be if caused by real muscular exertion, but that the way is being paved through alcoholic excess to total paralysis.

Professor Kraepelin has described a number of experiments which were conducted by himself and his colleague, Dr. Dehio, with a view to measuring the effect of alcohol on a voluntary act, viz: that of squeezing a rubber ball. The intensity of pressure was marked by an index on a dial and the ball was squeezed at regular intervals until the muscles of the hand and forearm were completely fatigued. When the test was made on a subject who had abstained for a considerable period from alcohol, it was found that the energy exerted by the muscles shewed a slow and gradual diminution from beginning to end. After a dose of alcohol the initial pressure was greater, but the actions were less regular and rapid fatigue set in, the total work done from beginning to end being less than in the former case. This extremely valuable result has been confirmed by two other workers, De Sarlos and Bernardinis, and Sir Victor Horsley lends his authority to the view that the stimulation at first observed after a dose of alcohol is due in this case, as in that of the higher faculties of the brain, to the "taking away of the controlling force," the "racing," as it were of an engine with governor removed.

He states that this view was conceived years ago by Atkin and other observers and theorists in this country, on the question of alcohol. "It has," he says, "been the consistent teaching of the greatest physiological chemist that we know on the continent, namely, Professor Bunge, and it cannot be insisted upon too strongly and too often that the apparent acceleration of the amount of work done is not a real thing; it is, in fact, an evidence of the paralysing and deleterious effect of alcohol."

De Sarlos and Bernardinis have compared the stimuli due to tea, coffee, and intoxicants. As stated a moment ago, their results for alcohol are strictly in harmony with Kraepelin and Dehio's. With regard to tea and coffee they state that there is no material alteration in the total efficiency of the muscles, but that as in the case of alcohol there is an initial stimulation. A cup of tea or coffee does not increase our strength, but it concentrates it during the first stages of effort and leaves us the impoverished remainder for the later stages; a glass of whiskey concentrates muscular energy, but at the same time wastes it, so that severe depression follows. The indulgence in intoxicants is obviously wasteful of vitality; whether or not also the excessive drinking of tea and coffee, which are causes of irregularity in the expenditure of muscular energy, may not also have a harmful effect, must be left for the judgment and common-sense of total abstainers.

Children's Lesson.

No. 102. THE THREE RULES.

Most children know what a rule is; something to guide us. In the day schools we use rules or rulers to guide our pens to make straight lines.

There are also rules of conduct; something to guide our daily lives, our words and actions. These rules may be divided into three as shewn in our golden chain recitation. They differ in quality, as iron differs from silver and silver differs from gold.

The first of these rules may be likened to "iron," which is in common use, and which means "evil for evil." So when we fight and call each other nicknames we are using the "iron rule," which is also the rule of savages, wild beasts, and cats and dogs when they fight and tear each other. In the Bible it is described as giving a blow for a blow, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

As silver is better and more valuable, so the "silver rule," which means "good for good," is more gentle, kind, and winning, for it means such daily conduct as returns kindness for kindness and is desirous to be on friendly terms with companions and playfellows. It is the rule we see in use when children are playing together in a quiet—that is, not quarrelsome manner, but friendly, no one wanting to cheat, or do and say that which is not right.

As gold is more precious than silver, the "Golden Rule" is better than that of silver, but it is more difficult to live by as it means that we must return good for evil, we must return kindness for unkindness, and refuse to fight, and call other boys and girls bad names, even when they try to vex us into fighting.

Now if I were to offer each one of you three rules, one made of iron or steel, one of silver, and one of gold, each one of you would choose the last one because you know it is more valuable than both the others put together. Experience has taught you that a gold coin—a sovereign—will buy twenty times as much as a silver coin—a shilling. And a shilling will buy twenty-four times as much as a half-penny, which is bigger than the shilling.

Well, as I am unable to present you with a golden rule to use instead of your wooden rule I can only

offer you the rule of golden conduct, which the world is slowly, very slowly, learning to value as being the rule of peace, joy, and happiness. The rule of iron conduct is the rule of strife, war, discord, and misery. Its bad effects are not confined to this world but follow us into the spirit world and cause untold misery, suffering, and intense blackness in the surroundings of all who have lived by the iron rule.

While those who have tried to live by the golden rule are happy in this life, having no guilty conscience to accuse them, filling their minds with fear of the future, but instead their minds are made happy by the thought of the good they have tried to do; the helping hand that has been extended to some one in need. And this inward goodness goes with them into the spirit world, making them bright and beautiful to look at, and having earned for them a nice home to live in, just as big and pretty as they would have loved to build in this life if they had had plenty of money. Experience on the spirit side of life has taught our spirit friends this fact, which they love and desire to make known to the whole world through people they can speak through, called mediums.

"How is it then," you will ask, "more people do not use the golden rule to live by?" It is because it is more easy to return blow for blow, and if we can give them two blows for their one or two kicks for their one we feel delighted, as if we have done something big and clever. But this is the "iron rule," the rule that guides the conduct of nearly every one.

If we wish to be better than other people and be less like savage beasts, we must try to be guided by the golden rule, and try to keep our tongues, fists, and feet still when we are inclined to use them. Our companions may call us "soft," "silly," and "cowards" for refusing to fight and make sport for them. But that will not make us such, but on the contrary it makes us moral and spiritual heroes. I know several men and women who have turned their enemies into friends by returning good for evil. They are not made into friends all at once at the first time of trying. In one case it took five years. Think what a noble man he must have been to endure unkind treatment, and harsh scornful words all the time and never once answer them back with an unkind word! Then when we remember that we all must reap that which we sow he might have prayed within his own mind and heart "O! Heavenly Father, forgive my enemy, for he knows not the consequences of what he is doing."

And so you and I, and all of us, may try to bear this fact in mind, when it feels so very, very hard in using the golden rule to return good for evil, both at home and at school, at work or play.

LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council will hold its quarterly meeting at Hawkshead Hall, Hawkshead Street, Southport, at 3 p.m. prompt on Saturday, June 4th, 1910. Sunday Services—11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6-30 p.m., will be conducted by members of the Council and Delegates.

H. WALKER, Secretary.

British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the returns of the past year, 1909.

During the year 71 Lyceums have subscribed to the fund, as also have 35 private subscribers. You will, on comparing these numbers with those of 1908, find that the number of subscribing Lyceums is the same, and a decrease of 15 in the number of private subscribers.

Money received from Lyceums	£26	17	8
Money received from Private Subscribers	11	16	8

Total receipts... £38 14 4

On the whole I consider the returns very favourable, and hope you will do the same. It is very encouraging to find so many Lyceums, who have given their support since the organisation of this fund, still to the front with their subscriptions. It is also good to find a still greater number of new Lyceums sending in subscriptions.

There are, however, many Lyceums who are in affiliation with our Union, who do not do their share toward helping forward this deserving cause. May I ask these last mentioned to send their subscriptions along this year.

I am pleased to bring to your notice the fact that many Lyceums from over the seas are now contributing to the fund, and also that each year their number increases. It is indeed encouraging to know that, though absent from us, they do not forget us, and that they show their appreciation of our work in so substantial a manner.

I have issued a monthly report in the BANNER, acknowledging the receipt of all monies I have had from Lyceums and private subscribers.

Amongst the many good friends who have helped us, it seems invidious to mention names, but I now feel at liberty to disclose to you that "Starnos," a most regular supporter and well-wisher of our work, was our late friend Dr. Andrew Jackson Davies. His name will appear on our list no more. He ever refused to have his name published, but always wrote in terms of great respect and love for our worthy Secretary, Mr. Alfred Kitson, whose noble character and work had won his highest appreciation.

There is also another valued contributor to this fund, whose generosity has extended over the period since the P.S.F. was founded, in the person of Mr. Richard George, of Smethwick, who passed away on April 1st. These separations give a tinge of sadness to the report, yet we know these loyal, ardent and enthusiastic workers for the cause can, and will, continue to help us.

Thanking all past subscribers, and hoping for their renewed support this year.

Our good friend, Mr. Wadsworth, has again most kindly presented us with the Cards which we send out to subscribers to solicit renewed subscriptions. I am sure, you will all render him your thanks for such kindness.

I remain, yours truly,

JESSY GREENWOOD.

TRANSITION OF MR. S. S. CHISWELL.

In our last issue we stated that Mr. S. S. Chiswell was seriously ill, and expressed a fervent hope for his recovery, but, alas, he had a sudden relapse, and passed quietly into spirit life on Tuesday evening, April 12th, aged 58 years.

Mr. Chiswell was an ardent Spiritualist and the honoured conductor of the Liverpool Children's Lyceum, held at Daulby Hall for a number of years. He was elected one of the first members of the Lyceum Union's Publishing Fund Committee in 1892. He was elected President of the Lyceum Union in 1894, and served on the Executive till May, 1905. The interment of his mortal form took place on Saturday, April 16th. Mr. H. A. Kersey, Mr. J. Venables, Mr. J. J. Morse, and Mr. E. A. Keeling—all past Presidents of the Lyceum Union—attended the funeral service. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Chiswell, who has been an invalid for a long time, and the family, who must feel their loss very acutely. They have the sweet and priceless consolation of knowing that he is *not* dead, but arisen into the Summer-land of eternal life and happiness.

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.

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

Twelve copies, 10½d.; 18 copies, 1s. 4d.; 24 copies, 1s. 9d.; 36 copies, 2s. 7½d.; 42 copies, 3s.; 48 copies, 3s. 4d. All orders for four dozen copies and upwards are supplied at 10d. per dozen. All parcels sent post free. Accounts due Quarterly: March, June, September, and December.

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

Annual subscription, post free, 1s. 6d. To Canada and the United States, 40c. U.S. currency or postage stamps taken.

Office—Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

MAY, 1910.

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

The Lyceum Conference is drawing very near, and hearts are beating high in joyful anticipation of the happy event. We hope to be favoured with fine weather so that the children may have a splendid demonstration on the Monday, and give the inhabitants of Birkenhead a big surprise.

Will friends who are not attending as delegates who are coming to the Demonstration, please send word to Mr. Herbert Gray, 24, Highfield Crescent, Rock Ferry, so that sufficient provisions may be arranged for.

The following circular letter has been sent us for insertion in this month's issue of the LYCEUM BANNER which clearly indicates the spirit of enthusiasm our Birkenhead friends are displaying to make the demonstration a huge success:

IMPORTANT TO ALL LYCEUMISTS.

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, the forthcoming National Lyceum Union Conference will, this year, be held at Birkenhead, on May 14th, 15th and 16th.

As this is the coming of age of the N.L.U., we at Birkenhead intend to celebrate it in a befitting manner by giving an opportunity to Lyceum Scholars to take part in a Demonstration at which all Delegates and Distinguished Visitors will be present.

We propose to assemble in the centre of the town and preceded by a band, march to the park, where a massed demonstration will take place consisting of marching, calisthenics, etc. By this means our Cause would gain a great amount of publicity and beneficial results would undoubtedly accrue.

Complete arrangements will be made for supplying refreshments to the children. Dinners 4d.; Teas 3d. We should like all Lyceums possessing Banners or Bannerettes, Flags, etc., to bring the same.

We trust your Lyceum will embrace this opportunity of giving a mighty impetus to our Cause and render us your cordial co-operation and help.

Awaiting your earliest reply,

Yours faithfully,

H. GRAY, Sec.

24, Highfield Crescent,
 Rock Ferry.

Delegates should be careful NOT to leave their credentials at home as no one will be allowed to pass the barrier until they have shown them to the Credential Committee: Messrs. Albert Wilkinson and Reuben Latham.

The souvenir decided on in honour of the occasion will contain the portraits of our beloved Founder, Dr. Andrew Jackson Davis, of the President, and of all the past Presidents, with suitable text printed on art paper suitable for framing. They will be on sale at the Conference, price 6d. each. After the Conference they may be had of the General Secretary of the Lyceum Union, when 2d. extra will be charged for postage and cylinder or tube, to save them from being crushed.

Greetings have reached us from Mrs. R. Hill, Toronto, late of Armley; Mr. J. Southworth, Fall River, Mass., late of Blackburn; and Mr. Wm. Miles, Wellington, New Zealand. The latter encloses a photograph of their Lyceum members enjoying their annual outing. Our readers will be glad to learn the Lyceum movement is in a healthy condition in these far away centres of Lyceum activity.

We desire to draw the attention of all Lyceums who are desirous of forming a District Council to the forepart of Article XVII, page 7, of the Lyceum Union's Constitution, which reads as follows:

"That Lyceums in good financial standing with this Union, may apply to the Executive Council for power to organise themselves into a District Council. In case of their application not being granted they shall have the right to appeal to the Lyceum Union's Conference, whose decision shall be final."

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The visit of the Executive Council to Bolton, Bradford St., on Saturday and Sunday (April 9th and 10th), was a memorable one.

All the members were present except Mrs. Jessy Greenwood who is ill.

The meeting for business lasted until after 10 p.m.—being then adjourned—and a lengthy agenda was gone through.

The various reports were fully considered and adopted.

It was agreed that the London and Sheffield Lyceum District Councils be allowed to send a representative to the Lyceum Conference and Celebration.

The celebration souvenir was decided upon, and it is to take the form of a large card, suitable for framing, containing the portraits of all the past Presidents, along with that of Andrew Jackson Davis, with suitable text. These are to be sold at 6d. each. It was also decided to invite all past presidents to a seat on the platform.

It was decided to issue a new leaflet in the place of "A Lyceum: What it is," of which 60,000 copies have been sold. This will give Lyceums a chance of making a fresh appeal to the public. It was also agreed to open in the *Lyceum Banner* a "Questions and Answers" column, with the hope that Lyceumists will make good use of the same. Also much more important business was done.

SUNDAY.

Though the morning was dull and damp, friends from Hindley, Horwich, Leigh, Daisy Hill, Bury, and Manchester were not prevented from attending. Also there was a splendid gathering of local Lyceumists, all full of joyous and eager anticipation of the good things in store.

The Conductor, Mr. Billsborough, cordially welcomed the E.C. Then six boys and six girls recited a welcome on behalf of the Lyceum. This pleasant incident was followed by two little girls in white presenting each member of the E.C. and each Lyceum leader with a pretty button-hole flower as a memento of the occasion. The chain recitations were well rendered, all being in unison. A number of pearls, some being real gems of thought, were given. The marching proved very interesting and contained some excellent figures of a complicated nature, which were executed with good decision and precision.

The afternoon's session was a big attraction to the public. The singing was hearty and well sustained, and the chain recitations again proved to be thought-rousing, while a good number of recitations were contributed by the children. Pearls too were again in evidence.

There was very little time for speeches, resulting in the remarks by Mr. Wilkinson being cut short. The naming of a baby by the Vice-President, Mr. Latham, was thoughtfully and lovingly performed.

The evening meeting, commencing promptly at 6-30, was well-attended, and was presided over by Mrs. Bentley (President). Invocation being earnestly offered by Mr. Latham speeches were made by the following members of the Council: Mrs. Law, Messrs. Johnson, Wilkinson, Owen, Venables, Keeling, and Kersey. All the speeches were full of helpful and inspiring words, which awakened thought on the important theme of training the children in the truths and principles of Spiritualism.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION

WILL HOLD ITS

Twenty-First Annual Conference

AND CELEBRATE ITS COMING OF AGE

IN THE

Co-operative Hall, Birkenhead, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 14, 15, and 16, 1910.

Saturday at 6 p.m. Sunday at 10-30 a.m.

Teas will be served in the Spiritual Hall, Grange Road, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Saturday; price 6d. each.

Sunday: Dinner in the Conference Hall; price 1/3. Tea in Spiritual Hall; price 9d.

Monday: meet at 9 a.m. and proceed via the Docks to Seacombe, New Brighton, Liverpool and back to Birkenhead and meet the Lyceum scholars in the Market Place, and, preceded by a band, march in procession to the Park for marching and calisthenics, to be followed by brief addresses by two of the distinguished visitors. A Grand Social and Ball to be held in the evening in the Co-operative Hall; tickets 1/-. Dinner and Tea on Monday in the Conference Hall, prices 1/-, and 6d.

A GRAND PUBLIC MEETING

Will be held on the Sunday at 6-30 p.m. in the Co-operative Hall, to be addressed by the President and President-elect, and Members of the Executive Council.

President - Mrs. ANNIE E. BENTLEY (Manchester).**AGENDA.**

- 1.—Opening Exercises.
- 2.—Appointments, (*pro tem*).
- 3.—Minutes of the last Conference.
- 4.—Correspondence.
- 5.—Reports. (a) Secretary's General Report, (b) LYCEUM BANNER, (c) Treasurer, (d) Permanent Secretary Fund, (e) Delegates to the S.N.U. Conference, (f) Auditors', (g) Committee *re* interview with the Trustees and Donor of the *Lyceum Manual* and *Spiritual Songster*, (h) Financial Revision.
- 6.—Unfinished business on the Agenda.
- 7.—Elect place of next Conference. Invitations received Bradford (Ivy Rooms), and Hull (Lime St.)
- 8.—Elect Officers. The following have been nominated: **PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Lizzie Nurse and Mrs. Annie E. Bentley. **VICE-PRESIDENT:** Mr. Robert A. Owen, Mrs. Annie E. Bentley, Mrs. Lizzie Nurse, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. Albert Wilkinson. **TREASURER:** Councillor John Venables.
- 9.—Elect Executive Council: Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. R. A. Owen, Mr. H. A. Kersey, Mrs. L. Nurse, Mr. R. Latham, Mr. H. Rau, Mr. J. Knight, Mrs. A. E. Bentley, Mr. G. F. Knott, Mr. Musgrove, Mr. Swane, Mr. S. Lee, Mr. F. Shaw, Mr. J. Jackson, Mr. B. Dyson, Mr. Moorey, Mr. Mathison, Mr. T. H. Wright, Mr. J. Kay, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. D. Griffiths.
- 10.—Elect Auditor: Mr. G. F. Knott and Mr. H. F. Lawton.
- 11.—Elect two Representatives to the Spiritualist National Union Conference at Leicester.
- 11A.—Elect Hon. Secretary to the P. S. Fund.
- 12.—Motions:—1. That the question of investment of a portion of the Lyceum Union's capital be sub-

mitted to the Conference.

THE LYCEUM UNION'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

2. That no person be appointed District Visitor who is a paid worker in the Movement.

PENDLETON, Ford Lane, Lyceum.

3. That if the Trustees of the Lyceum Manual and Spiritual Songster will not trust us as a Union with the ownership, management and completion of these books now we have reached our majority, then this Conference therefore instructs its Executive Council to proceed at once to compile two books of a similar nature to take the place of those now in use.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS, Dalkeith Street, Lyceum.

4. That the LYCEUM BANNER be subject to the following: (a) Cover on BANNER replaced. (b) Answers and questions invited. (c) Lessons for Leaders and Teachers.

OLDHAM, Elliott Street, Lyceum.

5. That the additional readings, recitations and songs to the Lyceum Manual be published in a supplement form.

MANCHESTER, Collyhurst Lyceum.

6. That the cover be replaced on the LYCEUM BANNER the first issue after the Conference.

DARWEN Lyceum.

NOTE: Similar motions to No. 6 are to hand from the following Lyceums: Manchester (William St.), Accrington (China St.), Burnley (North St.), Nelson, Keighley, Preston (Clarke's Yard), and the North-East Lancashire L.D.C.

ALFRED KITSON, General Secretary.

- 13.—Notices of Motion for next Conference.
- 14.—Votes of thanks to retiring Officers, Executive Council, Auditor, the local Society and Lyceum.
- 15.—Closing Exercises.

British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For the Year ending 31st December, 1909.

GENERAL FUND.

1909		£	s.	d.	1909		£	s.	d.			
Jan. 1	To Balance	2	14	3½	Jan. 10	By Fares—Executive Council						
	„ Collections at Propaganda Meetings—					Derby	4	9	4			
	Derby	2	3	2		„ Hymn Sheets & Handbills	0	10	9			
April 11	Barrow	2	11	4	April 11	„ Barrow	3	12	10			
July 30	Hull	2	0	0		„ Hymn Sheets & Handbills	0	16	0			
Oct. 10	Manchester	2	0	2	July 30	„ Hull	4	7	3			
						„ Hymn Sheets & Handbills	0	11	6			
				8	14	8						
May 9 & 10	„ Collection at Conference at Burnley	6	1	11	Oct. 10	„ Manchester (Maskell St.)	2	13	0			
	„ Contribution from Burnley (North Street)	3	11	3		„ Hymn Sheets	0	7	6			
Dec. 31	„ Contributions from Lyceums	42	4	9					17	8	2	
	„ Bank Interest	5	2	6	May 9 & 10	„ Fares—Burnley Conference	4	9	6			
	„ Proportion of P.S. Fund (one fourth)	9	8	1		„ Agendas, Ballot Papers, etc.	1	18	6			
				77	17	5½			6	8	0	
					Aug. 31	„ United District Council Fares	0	4	8			
					Dec. 31	„ S.N.U. Conference Fares	0	8	6			
						„ District Visitors' Expenses	9	14	7			
						„ Auditing Accounts	1	1	10			
						„ Typing Council Minutes	1	4	7			
						„ "Two Worlds" Advertisement	0	12	0			
						„ Gas Account, Office Fire	1	17	8			
						„ S.N.U. Affiliation Fee	0	10	0			
						„ Employers' Liability Insurance	0	10	0			
						„ Postage, etc., Gen. Sec.	5	14	0			
						„ Treasurer	0	8	11			
									6	2	11	
						„ Mrs. A. Kitson, for 5 years' Office Cleaning	10	10	0			
						„ Meetings of Sub-Committees	2	10	9			
						„ Proportion of Gen. Secretary's Salary (one fourth)	26	0	0			
						„ Wadsworth & Co., Envelopes, Post Cards, etc.	0	18	6			
						„ Lyceum Return Forms	0	11	0			
						„ Cheque Book	0	5	0			
	To Deficit	9	0	8½								
		£86	18	2						£86	18	2

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING "LYCEUM BANNER."

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	To Balance	593	3	7½
"	„ Sales as under:—			
	Lyceum Manuals, No. 1	884		
	„ 2	407		
	„ 3	552		
	„ 4	205		
	„ 6	378		
	Outlines of Spiritualism (cloth)	88		
	„ „ (gilt)	48		
	Physical Exercises (paper)	200		
	„ „ (cloth)	97		
	Spiritual Songsters (cloth)	414		
	„ „ (gilt)	14		
	Reminiscences (A. Smedley)	73		
	Pledge Books	4		
	Hymn Sheets No. 1	1150	279	12 9
	„ 2	1725		
	„ 3	1950		
	„ 4	1000		
	„ 5	2250		
	A. J. Davis Pamphlets	1815		
	Registers (large)	18		
	Registers (small)	105		
	Leaflets (A Lyceum, &c.)	4200		
	Services of Song:—			
	Rest at Last	271		
	Ministering Spirits	120		
	Unseen Hands	171		
	Badges	2072		
	„ Sale of Lyceum Banners	171	11	11
	„ Advt. in Lyceum Banners	3	15	0
	„ In Memoriam's	0	11	0
	„ Proportion of P.S. Fund (three fourths)	28	4	3
		£1076	18	6½

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	By Wadsworth & Co., Printing, Binding, etc.:—			
	Lyceum Manuals, No. 1	1000		
	„ 2	300		
	„ 3	500		
	„ 4	100		
	„ 6	300	170	16 7
	Spiritual Songsters (cloth)	400		
	„ „ (gilt)	30		
	Outlines of Spiritualism	104		
	A. J. Davis Pamphlets	4900		
	„ E. J. Roberts, Hymn Sheets and Extra Printing		6	1 0
	„ Boxes for Badges		0	8 8
	„ Fire Insurance		1	16 0
	„ Carriage on Parcels and Office Stamps		22	3 0
	„ Wadsworth & Co., Printing 46,750 Copies Lyceum Banners, Contents Bills, etc.		123	13 4
	„ Carriage on Lyceum Banners		38	8 8
	„ Office Postages		3	0 0
	„ Merit Cards, Postage, Press Guide and Sundries, etc....		4	5 8
	„ Proportion of Salary of General Secretary (three-fourths)		78	0 0
			448	12 11
	„ „ Balance		628	5 7½
		£1076	18	6½

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	To Donations from 72 Lyceums	27	1	2
"	„ „ 40 Subscribers	11	13	2
		38	14	4
	By Postage, etc.	1	2	0
		37	12	4
		£37	12	4

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	By Publishing and Banner Account (three fourths)	28	4	3
"	„ General Account (one fourth)	9	8	1
		37	12	4

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	To Proportion, Secretary's Salary, Publishing and Banner Department	78	0	0
"	„ General Department	26	0	0
		104	0	0
		£104	0	0

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	By One Year's Salary of Gen. Secretary	104	0	0
		£104	0	0

LYCEUM HOME FUND.

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	To Balance at Bank	99	7	6
"	„ Bank Interest	2	7	0
		101	14	6

1909		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	By Tallent, Bateman & Co., Legal Expenses	10	0	0
"	„ Balance at Bank	91	14	6
		£101	14	6

STATISTICAL RETURN to the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, for the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1909.

No.	Name of Lyceum.	Total on the Sessions			No.	Name of Lyceum.	Total on the Sessions		
		Register	per	Officers. Mem. Sund'y			Register	per	Officers. Mem. Sund'y
1	Accrington, Carter Street	4	16	1	81	Hull, Lime Street	10	66	1
2	Accrington, China Street	5	53	1	82	Hull, Wright Street	6	30	1
3	Altrincham, Kingsway	6	9	1	83	Hyde, Clarendon Street	8	52	1
4	Armley, Theaker Lane	12	91	2	84	Jarrow, Market Street	6	57	1
5	Ashington	6	40	1	85	Johannesburg, President Street	3	65	1
6	Ashton-under-Lyne	9	44	1	86	Keighley, Heber Street	14	66	1
7	Bacup, Market Street	10	50	2	87	Lancaster, Gage Street	9	63	2
8	Barnoldswick, Green Street	7	22	2	88	Leeds, Bethel Street	6	25	2
9	Barnoldswick, West End	7	39	2	89	Leeds, Church Street	10	32	1
10	Barnsley, George Yard	2	31	1	90	Leeds, E., Easy Road	8	48	2
11	Barrow, Abbey Road	7	29	2	91	Leeds, Grove House Lane	7	17	1
12	Barrow, Dalkeith Street	8	44	2	92	Leeds, Joseph Street	7	22	1
13	Batley Carr, Carr Street	14	57	2	93	Leicester, Albion Street	6	59	1
14	Belper, Jubilee Hall	24	120	2	94	Leicester, Queen Street	21	50	1
15	Birkenhead, Co-op. Hall	9	63	1	95	Leigh, Brown Street	12	58	1
16	Birmingham, Saltley	8	37	1	96	Leigh, Market Street	3	18	1
17	Birmingham, Smethwick	10	42	1	97	Lincoln, Exchange Arcade	14	55	1
18	Blackburn, Northgate	10	48	2	98	Littleton, Well Street	10	18	2
19	Blackburn, St. Peter Street	12	140	2	99	Liverpool, Daulby Street	11	57	1
20	Blackpool, Albert Road	14	95	2	100	Liverpool, Erskine Street	7	25	1
21	Bolton, Bradford Street	10	90	1	101	London, Battersea	2	30	1
22	Bradford, Carlisle Road	18	42	1	102	London, Brixton	10	45	1
23	Bradford, Laisterdyke	10	40	2	103	London, Fulham	6	30	1
24	Bradford, Little Horton	3	19	2	104	London, Manor Park	6	24	1
25	Bradford, Otley Road	11	24	2	105	London, Plaistow	2	18	1
26	Bradford, Shirley Road	9	42	2	106	London, S. Tottenham	9	14	1
27	Bradford, West Bowling	8	40	2	107	Longton, Stone Road	8	24	2
28	Brighouse, Martin Street	7	37	2	108	Maccelsfield, Cumberland Street	8	44	1
29	Brownhills, High Street	6	24	2	109	Manchester, Ardwick	12	55	1
30	Brighton, Manchester Street	12	43	1	110	Manchester, Cheetham Hill	8	40	1
31	Burnley, Hammerton Street	19	99	2	111	Manchester, Collyhurst	10	54	1
32	Burnley, North Street	27	99	2	112	Manchester, Harpurhey	7	53	1
33	Burton-on-Trent, Hurlinghow Wharfe	7	38	1	113	Manchester, Hulme Junction	8	40	1
34	Bury, off Paradise Street	11	58	2	114	Manchester, Longsight	20	68	1
35	Cardiff, Queen Street	5	25	1	115	Manchester, Openshaw	11	73	1
36	Castleford, Joseph Street	5	69	2	116	Manchester, Princess Road	12	76	1
37	Chadderton, off Brook Street	6	24	1	117	Manchester, West Gorton	10	31	1
38	Chester, Commonhall Street	6	44	1	118	Mexborough, Queen's Arcade	6	15	2
39	Chesterfield, Assembly Rooms	13	73	1	119	Middleton, Gilmour Street	10	53	1
40	Clayton-le-Moors, Victor Street	3	27	1	120	Middlesbrough, Grange Road	18	112	1
41	Cleckheaton, Old Robin Street	13	23	2	121	Millom, Main Street	3	13	1
42	Colne, Cloth Hall	33	50	1	122	Monkwearmouth, Calvert Street	9	40	1
43	Crewe, Mill Street	13	54	1	123	Morley, Fountain Street	6	30	1
44	Crompton, Rochdale Road	7	26	2	124	Motherwell, I.O.G.T. Hall	6	36	1
45	Daisy Hill, Mabel Street	10	26	1	125	Nelson, Vernon Street	25	195	1
46	Darlington, Bondgate	6	58	1	126	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Royal Arcade	22	36	1
47	Darwen, Churchbank Street	14	88	2	127	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Benwell	8	43	1
48	Dearnley, Rochdale Road	12	54	1	128	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Heaton	16	48	1
49	Derby, Charnwood Street	8	28	2	129	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Rutherford Street	9	32	1
50	Dewsbury, Bond Street	10	46	2	130	New Hirst, Miners' Hall	4	33	1
51	Doncaster, Temperance Hall	7	28	1	131	Nottingham, Burton Street	10	40	1
52	Doncaster, Wood Street	5	11	1	132	Nottingham, Hawarden Terrace	3	27	2
53	Dukinfield, Railway Street	7	23	1	133	Nottingham, Lamartine Street	6	34	1
54	Dundee, Barrack Street	16	40	1	134	Nottingham, Parliament Street	9	49	1
55	Dundee, Rattray Street	17	51	1	135	Oldham, Coronation Street	4	20	1
56	Earlestown, Earle Street	5	28	1	136	Oldham, Elliott Street	12	64	1
57	Edinburgh, George Street	6	30	1	137	Oldham, Union Street	13	41	2
58	Elland, James Street	11	23	1	138	Padiham, Ightenhill Street	14	46	2
59	Foleshill, Broad Street	8	42	1	139	Pendleton, Ford Lane	12	108	2
60	Fordsbury, Main Street	6	28	1	140	Pontypridd, Crossbrook Street	8	32	1
61	Gateshead, St. Catherine's Place	8	52	1	141	Portsmouth, Victoria Road	4	18	1
62	Glasgow, Govan, Paisley Road	11	23	1	142	Preston, Clarke's Yard	13	83	1
63	Glasgow, Waterloo Street	14	60	1	143	Preston, Market Street	5	40	1
64	Great Harwood, West Well Street	8	48	1	144	Rawtenstall, Bk. Ormerod Street	14	59	1
65	Grimsby, Strand Street	9	21	1	145	Rishton, Eachill Street	6	34	1
66	Hadfield, Albert Street	8	22	1	146	Rochdale, Penn Street	8	38	1
67	Halifax, Alma Street	16	90	2	147	Rochdale, Regent Street	10	96	2
68	Halifax, Raven Street	16	90	2	148	Rotherham, Percy Street	7	29	2
69	Heaton Norris, Baker Street	6	18	1	149	Royton, Union Street	9	35	2
70	Hebden Bridge, Victoria Street	15	31	2	150	Runcorn, Ashridge Street	10	56	1
71	Heckmondwike, Tower Street	7	22	2	151	Scarborough, North Street	2	12	1
72	Heywood, William Street	19	50	1	152	Seacombe, Assembly Rooms	6	36	1
73	Higher Broughton, Hilton Street	9	42	1	153	Shaw, Lyon Street	8	31	2
74	Hindley, Bridge Street	10	54	2	154	Sheffield, Attercliffe	32	100	2
75	Hollinwood, Byrom Street	11	50	1	155	Sheffield, Balaclava Road	4	32	1
76	Hollinwood, Hudson Street	6	30	1	156	Sheffield, Darnall	6	30	1
77	Horwich, Beatrice Street	20	90	1	157	Sheffield, Heeley	20	82	2
78	Hucknall, Watnall Road	2	18	2	158	Shildon, Main Street	10	50	1
79	Huddersfield, Ramsden Street	17	33	1	159	Shipley, Teal Court	9	21	2
80	Huddersfield, St. Peter Street	4	28	1	160	Slaiithwaite, Laith Lane	9	25	2

STATISTICAL RETURNS—Continued.

No.	Name of Lyceum.	Total on the Sessions		
		Register. Officers.	per Mem. Sundry	
161	Southport, Hawkshead Street	6	34	1
162	Southport, Wright Street	6	24	1
163	South Shields, King Street	4	32	1
164	South Shields, Robinson Street	9	37	1
165	Sowerby Bridge, Hollins Lane	21	79	2
166	Stalybridge, Bennett Street	9	36	2
167	Stalybridge, Chapel Street	3	24	1
168	Stockport, High Bank	12	41	2
169	Stockport, Lower Hillgate	4	30	2
170	Stockton-on-Tees	16	72	1
171	Sydney, N.S.W.	10	50	1
172	Todmorden, Riverside	17	48	2
173	Toronto, Canada	8	43	1
174	Ulverston, Theatre Street	5	39	2
175	Uppermill, Court Street	5	12	1
176	Wakefield, Kirkgate	7	38	2
177	Walsall, Bradford Street	14	83	1
178	Warrington, Sankey Street	8	42	2
179	Wellington, New Zealand	5	43	1
180	West Pelton, Old Store Hall	10	22	1
181	Whitworth, Market Street	6	10	1
182	Widnes, Victoria Road	6	18	1
183	Wigan, Millgate	11	29	2
184	Windhill, Schoolhill	12	18	2
185	Winnipeg, Canada	6	24	1
186	Wolverhampton, Temple Street	6	36	2
187	Wombwell	9	28	1
188	Yeadon, Abbey Lane	6	18	2
189	York, Cromwell Road	6	41	1
190	York, St. Saviourgate	11	22	1
Total.....		1820	8387	

NON-FEDERATED LYCEUMS.

1	Birmingham, Camden Street	—	—	—
2	Birmingham, Handsworth	—	—	—
3	Burnley, Richard Street	5	46	1
4	Cleckheaton, Walker Street	11	21	2
5	Coventry, Bell Street	—	—	—
6	Cwmgrose, Church Street	—	—	—
7	London, Peckham	—	—	—
8	London, Little Ilford	3	14	1
9	Manchester, Bradford	8	26	1
10	Manchester, Pendlebury	—	—	—
11	Merthyr, Lesser Drill Hall	—	—	—
12	North Shields, Albion Street	7	29	1
13	North Shields, Savile Street	8	65	2
14	Ossett, Dale Street	4	20	1
15	Plymouth, Morley Street	—	—	—
16	Reading, Blagrove Street	3	27	1
17	Royton, Cotton Street	—	—	—
18	Sheffield, Sherde Road	—	—	—
19	Sheffield, Stanley Street	—	—	—
20	Southend-on-Sea, Milton Street	—	—	—

NOTE.—A blank in the columns indicates that no returns have been received from that Lyceum.

ALFRED KITSON, General Secretary.

April 22nd, 1910.

Botany for the Young.

By J. KNIGHT.

Dear Bannerites,

I want you to get your April BANNER and at the close of my article, where it says, "No plant so narrow be." &c., write *place* instead of *plant*.

What beauty, what joy, what love is manifest all around us. In wood, dell, field, lane and hedgerow; aye, everywhere, plant, herb and tree are vying with one another, and with our feathered songsters, as to which can put forth the grandest song of happiness and praise.

A little sun, a little rain,
A soft wind blowing from the west,
And woods and fields are sweet again.
And warmth within the mountain crest,
So *blessed* is the earth we tread,
So *filled* with love and *life*, her frame,
Millions of years have dawned, have fled,
And still her magic, and still her magic
Is the same.

The more I learn of nature's ways, the sweeter, younger, and more joyous becomes my life, and the stronger my conviction that our Lyceums should teach the children to seek for *heaven* HERE and NOW, by cultivating those interior perceptive faculties that can take cognisance of, and realise, love and beauty all around; and by rooting within each a strong determination to get the *best* out of *this* life, and of being the *Angel now*; ever remembering we only pass this way *once* and that the longest life on earth is too short to acquire all that is here knowable. So seek to know what is best and most useful for all time.

Eastertide I spent between Barrow, Lancaster and Morecambe, and to see here and there patches of coltsfoot, primrose, lily of the valley and the ever-present and ever-beautiful daisy was to me more delightful than I can express. And I had the joy of again meeting my dear friend, Mr. Lucas, one of nature's gentlemen, and a lover of his fellow men; a sweet and soulful singer of praise and adoration. Last year he had a lovely canary creeper growing in his little front garden. I begged of him to tell all of you something about it, and how to grow it. I am pleased to say he had the paper ready for me when I was coming away, and here it is:—

My dear young friends,—In response to a kindly invitation from your well-known contributor of botanical notes to your excellent little paper, the LYCEUM BANNER, I take it as a privilege, nay, an honour, to do so, because when Mr. Knight and myself met for the first time as entire strangers to each other, it was through a little flower, which will form the subject of my note, that brought about a friendship which will never diminish neither in our earth life, nor eternity. I would like to appeal very forcibly to all who read this note to study flowers and nature as much as ever you can; such a study makes a noble manhood and womanhood, and the world is in need of all the noble men and women it can hold. Keeble has a beautiful verse which I think is grand and noble, as follows:—

"Thou who hast given me eyes to see
And love this sight so fair,
Give me a heart to find out Thee
And read Thee everywhere."

The little flower which pleased Mr. Knight so much was growing in my front garden, and is generally known as "Canary Creeper," first because it is in colour like canaries, second, because its habit of growth is to creep or climb. Thus, you see the definition of its common name is very applicable. Its botanical name is a little more difficult to pronounce, *Tropæolum aduncum*; in syllables it is, *Tro-pæ-o-lum ad-uncum*, or—a-dun-cum. Now, why does this beautiful flowering plant have such a name as this? *Tropæolum* is derived from the word, *Tropaion*, or trophy; the leaves resemble a buckle and the flowers a helmet. So you see the definition is very simple, because in olden times the soldiers used to go to battle girded about their bodies with belts buckled with huge buckles of brass and steel, and upon their heads they had helmets of leather and metals of different kinds. And when you take the leaves and flowers of this plant you see a close resemblance to a buckle and helmet. The flower has attached to it what is known as a hook, or spur, and these little hooks will catch hold of anything and cling to it for support, and through this clinging arrangement the plant is secured to any position to which you may wish it to adhere. Thus you have in as easy a way as I can give it to you, the meaning of the common and the botanical name of Canary Creeper, *Tropæolum aduncum*.

To cultivate it with success, simply ask any seedsman for a penny packet of Canary Creeper, sow each seed in the place where you wish it to grow, or climb, let the soil be just moist enough to ensure germination, place a number of strings up the wall or round the window, over rock work, or wherever you wish to have it, and I venture to say with so little trouble you will have one of the prettiest sights you ever saw. After the flowers are over they will seed, and then you can save your own seed for next season. If you care to grow them in pots, you can form any kind of shape your minds will think of with wire or wire netting, and the plants will cover this, and whatever your wishes or desires are that the plants should do, they will do it, if you only give them moisture and a little attention.

Now, my little friends, and older ones as well, this beautiful plant teaches us all a valuable lesson. It is this: We have a daily, a constant battle to fight against all that is wrong, and we need to gird on and round about us a belt, buckled tight with the buckle of truth and justice, of the brotherhood of man, and trust in God, so that we may be prepared to win the trophies of all that we hold dear to our hearts. Gird yourself with spurs

like this beautiful flower, and only hook on to all that your parents would have you do, and thus you will profit by a lesson from a flower, and become a citizen of the town to which you belong, worthy of the highest honour.

VICTOR H. LUCAS, Barrow-in-Furness.

British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

DISTRICT VISITORS' QUARTERLY REPORTS.

For the Quarter ending March 27th, 1910.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.—There are 11 Societies in this district; all but one have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Walsall*: Generally maintains its efficiency. Good order, singing and chain recitations. Teachers in love with their work. Liberty Group progressive. *Birmingham* (Camden Street): My first visit to their new rooms. Splendidly arranged. Rather small to admit of marching or calisthenics. Good order, well supported by adults. An efficient staff of officers. Educative work, progressive. *Smethwick*: Lyceum grows in numbers. Orderly, appreciative, attentive, well disciplined. Marching and calisthenics well done. Scholars' individual efforts good in songs, recitations, soles, etc. Quite a happy time. *Foleshill*: Good attendance. Lyceumists attentive and receptive. Instruction of an interesting and educational value being given by an able leader. Harmony, brightness, and good will generally prevailing. *Coventry* (Bull Street): I was late on arrival, but found good attendance of adults, only a small number of children. Groups were duly formed. Liberty Group considered some of the problems contained in the golden chain recitations. I hope to see good progress made during the year. There are plenty of Leaders. They only need the scholars. Postage 1/.

ROBERT H. MORGAN, D.V.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—There are 15 Societies in this district; all but two have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Star Street*: I visited this Lyceum again to help them all I could. They are doing fairly well; good conduct throughout. *Otley Road*: This Lyceum is small, but very good. Great credit is due to the few elders who keep it going. *Windhill*: A good attendance, but no groups. I promised my assistance to help them to form same. Expenses 6d. *Keighley*: This is a fine Lyceum. 74 present. Groups, pearls, responses were very good. Expenses 1/6. *Cleckheaton* (Walker Street): This is the youngest Lyceum in my district. The attendance was small. I would like to see a good Lyceum in Cleckheaton. Expenses 4d. *Farsley* (Beck Bottom): This Lyceum is making steady progress. Expenses 4d.

HENRY RAW, D.V.

BOLTON DISTRICT.—There are seven Societies in this district; all but two have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Daisy Hill*: This Lyceum continues to make progress, good instructive sessions being held. Pearls and recitations are a marked feature. I am pleased to report that efforts are being made to get into a larger room. 30 present. Expenses 9d. *Horwich*: I am pleased to report good, steady progress in reading and responses. Singing hearty, group lessons well attended. General order and conduct excellent, all vying with each other to make the sessions instructive. Expenses 1/-. *Hindley*: I found this Lyceum still flourishing, greater interest being manifested by the parent Society. The children asked some very pointed questions on the various chain recitations. Expenses 1/-. *Bolton*: This Lyceum continues to maintain its high standard of excellence. Important subjects being dealt with in all the groups. General order good.

R. BILLSBOROUGH, D.V.

DERBY DISTRICT.—All the Societies in this district have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Belper*: Good and punctual attendance. A very pleasant and enjoyable session. *Burton-on-Trent*: This Lyceum is in a very healthy state. Good order and discipline, and also good marching and calisthenics. Steady progress is being maintained. Expenses 1/9. *Derby*: This Lyceum is not so large as formerly. There is good behaviour, and splendid talent among the members.

ARTHUR HARDY, D.V.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 11 Societies in this district; all but two have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Halifax* (Alma Street): Over 100 present.

Conduct good. Remarks on the chain recitations pithy and to the point. Marching and calisthenics smart. No groups formed on morning of my visit. *Raven Street*: Afternoon session. After opening exercises groups were performed. A very good discussion took place in the Liberty Group. Expenses 1/6. *Brighouse*: There were 40 present, a good portion of them being children, which promises well for the future. Keep plodding on, friends. *Slaithwaite*: I found a few earnest workers with many difficulties in the way. There is a circle held for Lyceumists one hour before the usual Lyceum session. A plan others might follow with advantage. Expenses 3d.

BENTLEY DYSON, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT. There are 18 Societies in this district; all but three have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—On January 16th I visited *Leeds* (Easy Road) and found a good Lyceum. Deep interest was taken in the session. A larger room would be a great benefit, as this Lyceum is making rapid progress. Expenses 1/5. *Leeds* (Bethel Street): I visited this Lyceum on March 13th and found a very poor attendance. The conduct of the few present was very good. Expenses 1/5. On March 27th, I visited the *Psycho* Lyceum and found there was no session owing to the non-attendance of officers. Expenses 1/3.

JAMES KITSON, D.V.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.—There are 17 Societies in this district; all but four have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—January 23rd. *Birkenhead*, 11 a.m.: 38 present. A heavy snowstorm materially affected the attendance and session. Expenses 7d. *Erskine Street*, 3 p.m.: 20 present. The session was conducted by a visitor (well known), which added to the interest of an enjoyable session. Expenses 2d. February 6th. *Seacombe*, 2-45 p.m.: 30 present. Change of officers, etc., would doubtless account for a rather poor session. Better discipline should be commanded. Expenses 6d. Feb. 13th. *Southport* (Wright Street), 10-30 a.m.: 17 present. A good session, notable for the intelligence displayed by the young children in responding to questions. 3 p.m., *Hawkeshead Street*, 28 present. One of the best sessions I have witnessed here, and with better discipline will improve still further. Expenses 2/-. Feb. 20th. *Warrington*: Pleased to report an all round improvement. Attendance reached 42, all of whom seemed to have taken fresh interest since my previous visit. The discipline was excellent. Expenses 2/8. March 20th. *Wigan*, 10 a.m. and 1-45 p.m.: 33 present. Although sorry to note the decreased attendance, the quality of the sessions has greatly improved. Originality of thought and ideas is being steadily cultivated amongst the Lyceumists with surprising results. Expenses 3/2. March 27th. *Daulby Street*, 10-30 a.m.: 48 present. Inattention to bell signals, and other details in marching, were noticeable in an otherwise excellently conducted session. The intelligence displayed by the children is most marked.

R. A. OWEN, D.V.

LONDON DISTRICT.—There are 24 Societies in this district; 16 of which have no Lyceum.

General remarks.—Four interviews have been held with societies lacking Lyceums, with promises of further consideration of the matter. The Lyceums have been visited and helpful suggestions made where needed, and words of encouragement given. There is a great amount of work before us to awaken interest in the Lyceum work in this district and bring them into active operation. Total expenses 4/10. M. CLEGG, D.V.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.—The number of Societies and Lyceums in this district not supplied.—Ed. L.B.

General remarks.—*Grey Mare Lane*: This Lyceum has improved since my previous visit. Chain recitations good. Marching and calisthenics might be greatly improved. They are greatly disappointed at not being admitted into the Union. Expenses 2d. *Hollinwood* (Hudson Street): Everything, including the ready responses to questions was excellent. *Openshaw*: A very stormy Sunday appeared to have very little effect on the attendance. They are a strong Lyceum, and capable of wielding a great and good influence on many lines. Expenses 2d. *Hulme Junction*: I was surprised to find the door fast, and after waiting 15 minutes I returned home greatly disappointed. *Maskell Street*: The usual routine. A greater interest in the groups would have a beneficial effect. *Higher Broughton*: Punctual start. Numbers increased, and order well maintained. Pleased to see Mr. Tinker once more amongst the children. Expenses 4d. *William Street*: Many absentees on the male side when the register was called. I am pleased to report they have joined the D.C. and hope to be of greater use in the future.

Expenses 2d. *Harpurhey*: An increased attendance. Mr. Wightman, who was conductor some eight or nine years ago, has once more resumed office. The session was marred by the absence of the musical director. Expenses 5d.

ANNIE E. BENTLEY, D.V.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.—There are 25 Societies in this district; all but four of them have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—I find that nearly every Lyceum in my district has adopted the idea of allowing questions on the silver and golden chain recitations and musical readings, which I think is a very good plan, and I trust it will be adopted generally throughout our movement. I think if the speakers, when possible, would give the Lyceums a call, still more good would be done than is at present. Expenses, Blackburn 9d, Brierfield 1/5, postage 3d.

WILL EDWARDS, D.V.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.—There are 17 Societies in this district; all but one (Waterhead, which is newly opened) have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Royton* (Union Street): A good gathering and splendid session. Recitations, solos and pearls were excellent. Good work has been done by the officers, and the organist, Mr. Buckley, and I hope the enthusiasm created will continue. Expenses 5d. *Bury*: About 40 present. Recitations, solos, etc., are needful, and I hope they will again make their sessions bright and draw out the individual talents. Group classes have good attention and order, and in the Liberty Group good ideas were suggested for arousing interest in Lyceum work. Expenses 4/-. *Crompton*: 15 present. Although few in number, they seem to be in earnest. I appealed to them to see their absentees, and also try to get others to attend, and so create life and interest in the movement. Expenses 6d.

FRANK SHAW, D.V.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 17 Societies in this district; all but three have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Barnsley*: A great improvement both in number and conduct. Responses good. Answers to questions readily given. Expenses 2/3. *Heeley*: A most enjoyable session, up to the old standard. A paper read to Liberty Group by Master Vickers, on "Fossils and fossilization," showed a fair grasp of the subject. Expenses 8d. *Mexborough*: It is a pleasure to visit this Lyceum and give words of encouragement. The marching has not lost any of its old dash. The spirit of its arisen Conductor seems to be animating the Lyceumists. Expenses 10d. *Stanley Street*: A severe storm prevented many of the children from attending. Expenses 6d. *Balaclava Road*: This Lyceum has more than doubled its membership. Good progress is being made. Expenses 8d. *Darnall*: A number of the young men and young women are interesting themselves in the welfare of this Lyceum, and things are brighten-

ing up. The numbers are nearly double. The responses were well read, and recitations nicely rendered. Expenses 6d. *Rotherham*: Pearls have been taken up again with marked success. Altogether things are looking very bright.

WM. MARKLEW, D.V.

STOCKPORT.—There are 11 Societies in this district; all but one have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Hyde*: I was very pleased to find a marked improvement. Reading and responses good. Marching and calisthenics excellent. A good and bright session all through. Expenses 8d.

J. MARSTON, D.V.

TEESIDE.—There are five Societies in this district; all but one have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Middlesbrough*: 75 present. The healthy interest manifested in this Lyceum by the senior scholars speaks well for the future. *Stockton-on-Tees*: 77 present. This Lyceum is steadily progressing. The general conduct is good. *Darlington*: The high tone of this Lyceum is a credit to the cause. The conduct is excellent, and the interest is most marked. Number present 42. *Shildon*: 34 present. I was sorry to find a falling off of members. A little more interest on the part of the elders would soon build up a strong and efficient Lyceum again. I am glad to learn the Society is soon to open a new church. Expenses nil.

CHARLES HARRISON, D.V.

TYNESIDE DISTRICT.—There are 19 Societies in this district; all but six have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Newcastle* (Heaton and Byker): The change of hall prevents marching, but the time thus gained has enabled them to improve the calisthenics. Altogether a healthy tone pervades this Lyceum, which I hope will continue to expand. Expenses 4d. *Rutherford Street*: This Lyceum has suffered from misunderstandings. I trust the difficulties will soon be removed, and the good work proceed as before. Expenses 3d. *North Shields* (Saville Street): This Lyceum continues to make good progress. A larger hall would be a distinct advantage. Uniformity of subjects is followed in each group. Questions are asked and readily answered for the benefit of the whole Lyceum. "Where did God get His name from?" was one of the questions asked. This was the question which called forth Mr. Herbert E. Clarke's article in last month's LYCEUM BANNER. Expenses 2d. *South Shields* (King Street): The attendance was not so good as formerly. Those present did fairly well. I trust that on my next visit I shall find them enthusiastic. Expenses 10d. *South Shields* (Robinson Street): A good increase in numbers since my last visit. I was invited to conduct the session owing to the conductor's being ill. Recitations by boys and girls were a pleasant feature, and I trust will be maintained. Expenses 10d. and postage 2d.

JONAH CLARKE, D.V.

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