

THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XXII. No. 252.

JANUARY, 1912.

ONE PENNY.

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

[The following story appeared in the "Medium and Day-break," London, more than thirty years ago, and met with so much appreciation that it was issued in book form in 1878. The story is of such general interest that we have decided to present it to our readers in a slightly abridged form, and feel sure it will prove of deep interest.—Editor, L.B.]

CHAPTER I.

"Cutty," I said, "do you wish to go and live with me?"

"I guess so, ma'am."

"What is your surname—your last name? Cutup what?"

"Anything I can get a chance to," she answered, blushing deeply.

"Spell your first name, child."

She gave me a quick glance, and carefully spelt: C-u-t-u-, and added, "I know you think 'tis a funny one, so do I—I don't like it."

"Well, dear, I think you would rather live with me than live here."

"Oh! it don't make much difference," she answered, "though I don't suppose 'tis very respectable for a big, strong girl like me to be willing to remain in a poor-house."

"My dear—"

She flushed red, and said, "How strange that sounds! Nobody ever calls me that, my mother did, though, and my father, before he lost his money—he was so discouraged. A-ho!" It was a prolonged sigh, and from it I learned a tale of sorrow. Her long, dark eyelashes were weighted with unshed tears. I placed my arm around her, drawing her gently towards me. I smoothed her beautiful hair. She trembled and hung down her head. I spoke tenderly to her, saying:—"Cutty, I think you will do very nicely for me—to come and help take care of my little kitchen. I am quite alone, excepting when I have visitors, and then you could do all, except the washing and ironing, very well then. Glad Jennie, who lives next door, comes in twice a week to do some cooking; the rest, I believe could be managed between you and I."

"Well, I don't care much," she answered, in a despairing kind of way I could not understand. I went on after talking with Cutup awhile longer, and met the overseer's wife questioning her concerning the girl.

"Strange child," she said, "for her age, but very smart, and, I judge, very affectionate. Can't reach her true nature."

"How old is Mrs. Daley," I asked.

"I think near thirteen," she answered. "Yes, that's it—thirteen some time in the summer."

"Does she work well?"

"Very, very well indeed."

"Capable about house?"

"Yes, and very quick."

"Is she neat in her habits?"

"Yes; almost too neat."

"Well, every child has some faults; what are her's, please?"

"Really, madam," answered the overseer's wife, "she's the very queerest girl in religion you ever heard of. She can't read the Bible, I believe, half through, and won't argue or quarrel with her teachings. She needs somebody, I think, to dissuade her from the ideas she has got of hell and eternal punishment. I will tell you, madam, what the trouble is: She lost her father first—I've heard the story from a reliable person. Her father was doing very well about five years ago as book keeper; he was well educated, and, I'm told, a very well-disposed person. His wife was high-spirited, and I guess rather extravagant; one of those girls, they say, brought up to do nothing. Well, she had two children John and this Cutup; I believe Cutup was

her mother's middle name. Matters went on smooth enough until these two little ones were born, when Mrs. Stone thought she must have a nurse for the babies, and a servant to do the work. By the way, Mr. Stone had got a cottage half paid for, and was struggling hard to pay for the rest. His salary was good, and he might have managed if she had done her part; but no, she must live genteel. I've heard he said nothing, but kept getting more and more discouraged, until he commenced to take a little drink—just enough to get his dis-appointment, I expect. That made her life here worse now and then a muss, you know, worse. It's an old story—the girl's education had been taught to live genteely at home, to do the house-keeping, must keep two servants, though he was kind enough to say, 'I might as well make the tale brief, madam, and harder, until I was a perfect sot, and consumption and drink took to you will believe I took to drink too; they say I was killing her, and I couldn't bear it; and her father, had a new way of thinking, and I was away from the door; then I grew desperate and I was worse and worse, until she was born, and I also, I was one of those two children. Her mother wouldn't do anything with them, but they were brought up here—around her. My husband whipped me, and I never loved him! he did me terribly! Cutup loved me very dearly, and used to cry over him and talk to him. One night, after dark, they were sitting out on the porch, and I overheard them hold such an odd conversation. Cutup says, 'I can't encourage Johnny, you are so silly and totally depraved, and you got to hear the in-voice of your parents, you know. There's no hope for mother, she might as well go to hell, too. We can't help her, she's ordained that they weren't of the elect.'"

"Who told her that," she asked, "Mrs. Daley?"

"She said her sister was a school teacher, and that an old lady who lived opposite her had her a good deal. She asks strange questions; I never heard of such a child. She is a queer chick—that is, she is not fit for bad traits, she hasn't any, really—not that I could call her ugly or malicious."

I was interested in the girl more than I confessed. I could conceive at once of her true nature. She was indeed smarter than Mrs. Daley's comprehension could define. She was idyllic, sensitive, enquiring, with marvellous intuition. Discouraged, despairing—and well she might be, for she was desolate, I knew. Mrs. Daley had told me that Johnny died in jail, sent there for setting fire to a gentleman's barr, where he had gone to live; a vindictive act, to be sure, but people who knew the matter was cruel to do that in the extreme.

I saw her through the open door. She was standing by the side of a beautiful white goat, which was feeding in the yard. I watched her as she stroked the creature. The love she gave the animal was so pure, so true, so lovely, my heart, for a rich, glowing smile came over her eyes, brightened; she smiled, and her teeth showed, even teeth! Oh! what a charming way to that smile! Her white dress dropped off one round, white shoulder. She was leaning with her arm around the goat's neck. I believe a good artist would have given a two years of work to paint her then and there.

"Mark!" said Mrs. Daley, "she is saying something queer to that animal. Mark! do ye hear it?"

"No," I replied; "what was it?"

"She says, 'Nanny, I wish I could be your mother, I shouldn't worry about mother and Johnny being in torment all the time.'"

I looked at her with a deep pity; this child with the brilliance of beauty and such intellect encircling her, and such a bleak commencement of life! I arranged with Mrs. Daley to take Cutup from the almshouse on the following day. When I passed through the yard I said:—

"Cutup, dear, I will come for you to-morrow. I think you and I will be very happy together. You must go to school. Mrs. Daley tells me that you study every day, and that you are a good scholar by your own exertions."

She flushed hot, and a pitiful tenderness came in her voice as she remarked, "I want to learn, madam, but I cannot go to school with other girls."

Believing it best not to hold argument with her at present, I bid her "Good day," and went down the road, thinking of her blameless, stainless life, crushed out by fear and hopelessness, wrought of early teachings. Eloquent to me was her plaint of despair, and I yearned to correct the mistake, awakening gladness in her heart for its staying darkness. My own gloom and uncertainty had been something like her's.

CHAPTER II.

Last evening Miss Phœbe Wilberforce and her sister, Miss Hope Wilberforce, spent two hours with me. They are members of Rev. James Treat's Church—have been for years. They spoke of their last visit. It was before Cecil died. Miss Phœbe gave her sister a nudge, which was intended for a sly one, but I saw it. Miss Hope looked quite frightened. I smiled, answering, "Yes, dear Cecil was here then, and made us very happy by his sunny nature. Both ladies gazed at me as though I was insane or devoid of proper grief for my dead, for I had smiled. The door-bell rang. It was Mr. Mackenzie, the affianced of Miss Hope—a forbidden lover, the villagers said, for old Mr. Wilberforce could not countenance the gentleman's religious ideas, or ideas of religion. Miss Phœbe was also shocked at her sister's choice. Mr. Mackenzie and I had always been at high dispute upon Bible matters, and I was not surprised when he, quite abruptly, asked: "Mrs. Blake, what is your idea of the first chapter of Genesis?"

I did not reply directly; and I saw Hope's pleasant face crimson as she glanced quickly towards Phœbe, then at her lover.

"Don't, please, Henrique," she interposed; "you are always teasing Mrs. Blake."

"No teasing, Hope," he replied, "'tis healthy to get an exchange of ideas. We should be isolated souls were it not for this commerce of conversation."

"Well, then, let it be upon some scientific theme," she pleaded.

"That's just what I am at Hope," her lover replied.

"Science and religion do not agree, Henrique, you say," interrupted Hope.

"Perhaps Mrs. Blake can make them," retorted Henrique.

I answered, "Mr. Mackenzie, I am not willing to discard the Bible for science."

"What will you do, then," he asked, moving his seat nearer to me.

"Oh, dear!" sighed Phœbe; "Henrique, I'd rather go home than hear you advance your terrible ideas. Mrs. Blake, I tremble for him. Father says he is almost—shall I say it, Hen.?"

"Yes, yes," answered the gentleman, smiling.

"Well, almost an infidel."

He laughed heartily, and turning to Mrs. Blake asked, "What do you think of Genesis first? Do you believe it?"

I answered, "Moses evidently was mistaken. He is quite guilty of sins of omission."

Henrique smiled. "I should say of commission, Mrs. Blake. He tells us this wonderful earth was made in six days."

"Perhaps," I said, "the days were millions of years in length."

"That will not help it, Mrs. Blake. Moses makes great mistakes. He tells us the very first created organic existences were grass, herbs, and fruit trees."

"Certainly," said Miss Phœbe, "the Bible says so, and of course it is right."

"According," said Henrique, "to the best researches of our greatest minds, we had first a few ordinary mosses, a few soft-bodied animals devoid of skeleton forms, and some marine insects."

"Who's *we*?" asked Hope.

"I speak generally, my dear." Turning to me he continued, "Mrs. Blake, we did not get fruit trees first, but shell-fish and polyparia. What the fossiliferous rocks yield?"

I answered by half interrogation, half assurance—"Marine forms very low in the scale of existence?"

"Yes, Mrs. Blake, and millions of years must have elapsed before grass, herbs, and fruit trees could have existed."

"Do not dispute the Bible, Henrique, please," pleaded Hope, in her quiet way.

"No; we only want to rectify Moses' little. What does the patriarch say of animals, Mrs. Blake?"

"They were created on the fifth day," I answered.

"Yes; and they are found as low in the rocks as the vegetables; and vegetables, he says, were created on the third day."

"God created on the fifth day," added Hope, "fowls and every living creature that moveth—the great whales with all the rest; what a day's labour!"

Mr. Mackenzie smilingly replied, "Yes, my dear, but He rested upon the seventh day, you know—that God who is never weary. Now, Mrs. Blake, during the Carboniferous period, we had only shell-fish, fishes, radiota; then came reptiles; then birds, and theirs was called, you know, the Triassic period. According to Moses, these animals, which should have appeared at intervals separated by millions of years, all came in one day."

"How do you know this?" asked Miss Phœbe; "what authority have you for saying such awful things?"

"As good, and better, than Moses had for saying what he has said."

"O, Henrique! I certainly shall not stay to hear such talk! Mrs. Blake, I am surprised at you, indeed I am. Father would not like it if he could know what our conversation is."

"Please forbear a little, Phœbe," replied Henrique; "it will do you good; some day you will recall this evening's conversation. We are told, Mrs. Blake, that God created beasts, and cattle, and creeping things, and men upon the same day. I suppose the creeping things implies reptiles."

"I suppose so," I assented.

"Well, reptiles are found in the carboniferous formations, and geologists of great eminence teach that cattle did not come until the third period, and man near its close."

"I have not read of any rain," timidly suggested Hope.

"It does not speak of it, dear," answered Henrique, "until all things were created; yet impression of rain-drops have been found in the rocks as low as fishes. We hear from Moses nothing of the condition of things following chaos, nothing of the wearing away caused by water, nothing of the constant change of land and sea. Of these things Moses was ignorant."

"What of it?" asked Hope, in her ignorance. She never had in all her life been allowed to read a word that bore a shadow of contradiction to the Old Testament writers. She had been forbidden to attend all geological lectures; was never allowed to express the promptings of intuition. Born and bred beneath the rule of father, mother, and older sister, the catechism and weekly Bible-class had been the extent, length, width and depth of her instruction. She remembered from being a little girl how she had dreaded the Sundays; how the minister preached of a heaven she was going to if she was very, *very* good indeed, or the hell if she was not very, *very* good indeed. She also remembered telling her mother once, for which she received a terrible whipping, that "she almost dreaded going to heaven, since there was to be nothing but singing and praising all the time."

"What of it, my dear, why we know positively what changes are taking place, and have taken place. What is now land has been covered by the sea, and where the sea is, has once been land. And this is not the half. I question the authority of the Bible concerning the creation."

Miss Phœbe said, "O, dear! it is dreadful; I shall inform father."

"Why do you question the authority of the Bible, sir," I asked, somewhat severely.

"Because," he answered, "if I am going to live according to the Bible, I want a correct one, and not one full of errors. Infidels stalk the earth to-day, Mrs. Blake, on account of these very things. What of everlasting punishment do you believe in it?"

"No," I answered firmly. "Evidence of true Christianity, I believe, lies in deeds, not creeds. In a high and comprehensive sense, we want to look at God and the future, and this is impossible unless we reason. Sir W. Drummond says, 'He that will not reason is a bigot, he that cannot reason is a fool, he that dares not reason is a slave.' True reason comes of knowledge and discernment; if people would see that the pure religion comes of trying to better their own lives, and the lives of their neighbours by devotion to charity and love, instead of devotion to ceremony, then would God's will soon be done on earth. What we want to obey is the voice of the Infinite speaking in our own souls. Let us do this and we have no need to fear eternal punishment. Generally people believe because somebody has taught them to believe. I believe that which intuition teaches me. Does not every soul experience an inward consciousness of a God? It is God in the soul."

"Yes, Mrs. Blake; and this is what keeps me from being an infidel," added Mr. Mackenzie.

"I have been to South Barntown pauper-house," I remarked, "and have engaged a beautiful little girl of twelve years to come and live with me. She is very smart, poetic and refined, but has had the misfortune to lose her father, mother and brother, and is possessed with the idea they are suffering everlasting punishment in fire and brimstone. It is a great pity."

"That's it, Mrs. Blake; thank God I have found a reasonable church member. I do hope you will relieve her mind about eternal torment. Don't let her grow up a martyr to such cruel teachings."

(To be continued).

Stories from the Ancient Greek myths, for our Boys and Girls.

BY THE EDITOR.

INTRODUCTION.

MY DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

Some of you have already read, in the LYCEUM BANNER, about the Gods and Goddesses of the ancient Greeks. It is now my intention to tell you something about the Greek Heroes and their marvellous deeds, such as Jason and the Golden Fleece; Perseus and his rescue of Andromeda, who was chained to a rock so that the cruel sea monster might eat her; Theseus and his wonderful deeds of valour in ridding the country of cruel monsters; and Hercules and his twelve labours.

As you grow older you will hardly find a well-written book that does not make reference to these ancient myths, or draw some illustration from them; you will be unable to visit an art gallery without seeing statues and paintings of the Greek Gods, Goddesses and Heroes. And as you read more and more of the world's progress, you will find that we owe to these old Greeks the beginnings of Mathematics and Geometry, or the sciences of numbers and the shape of things; the beginnings of our Geography and Astronomy, or the shape of the earth and the construction of the heavens; of Logic, or the art of reasoning; and of Metaphysics, or the study of our thoughts and minds. So the Greeks played a very important part in the world's progress.

The reason of their wonderful progress is that these old Greeks were willing to learn from still older nations around them. From the Phœnicians they learnt shipbuilding, and letters; from the Assyrians they learnt painting and carving, and from the Egyptians they learnt astronomy, and religious rites and ceremonies. In this they were like our own forefathers, the Northmen, or Norsemen, who, though they were wild and rough in their habits, were humble, and glad to learn from every one who could teach them anything.

Now all nations when in their infancy loved fairy tales—stories of the marvellous, the real and unreal mixed together, in which their fancy had free and full play, as boys and girls do to-day. The Norsemen had their "Sagas," and "Eddas." The Arabs had their "Arabian Nights," which furnishes so much material for modern pantomimes. The old Romans had their "Fables," from which we get the word "fable." And in like manner the Greeks had their "Muthoi," from which we get the word "Myth."

So I want you to look upon the ancient Greeks as being like children in heart and mind, for although they were full grown men and women, yet they were as children in heart and disposition; frank and free, full of trust and affection, and loved to see and admire the beautiful and marvellous things in nature, and peopled the skies, mountains, fire and water, woods and glens with Gods and Goddesses, who had their likes and dislikes, their loves and hates, just like the common people, only on a larger scale.

Now these stories are not all true, but they do not lose any of their interest on that account, but on the other hand they gain much of their interest for us. For when the Greek hero died, the poets, who were the national story tellers, sang his praises on all

festive occasions, and in doing so they naturally added their own fancies and imaginings to them, as boys and girls do to-day when telling of some wonderful thing they have seen or heard about. It is their wonderful richness of incidents of daring deeds and narrow escapes that have made these myths the favourite stories of men and women, and boys and girls for long ages. And while you are delighted with them now as stories, in after years you will learn to see in them many beautiful spiritual and moral truths.

THE BIRTH AND ADVENTURES OF PERSEUS.

Once upon a time, long, long ago, there were two princes who were twins. Their names were Acrisius [A-kris-i-us] and Prœtus [Prœ-tus], who lived in the pleasant district of Argos, in Hellas. From their infancy they began to quarrel; and when they grew up each tried to take away the other's portion of the kingdom, and keep all for himself. So at length Acrisius succeeded in driving out Prœtus; who went across the sea and married a princess for his wife, and induced a number of giant warriors to help him, who were called Cyclopes [Si-klopes], and they drove out Acrisius in his turn. In order to settle matters they divided the kingdom. Acrisius took Argos and one half of the land, and Prœtus took Tiryns and the other half. Then Prœtus engaged the Cyclopes to build around Tiryns great walls of unhewn stone, which may yet be seen.

There came a prophet to the hard-hearted Acrisius, who said, "Because you have risen up against your own blood, your own blood shall rise up against you; because you have sinned against your kindred, by your kindred shall you be punished. Your daughter Danae [Dan'a-ē] shall bear a son, and by that son's hands you shall die. So the Gods have ordained, and it will surely come to pass."

This filled Acrisius with fear; he did not mend his ways, but sought a plan by which to save his life. So he had a brazen subterranean chamber specially made in which to shut up his daughter and her nurse. But Jupiter, the King of the Gods, visited Danae in the form of golden dust, which fell through the roof of the chamber. In due time a son was born. Danae reared her son in the brazen chamber till he was four years old, when her father one day chanced to hear the child while at his play. Filled with rage at seeing his plans come to naught, he called forth his daughter and her faithful nurse, and put the latter instantly to death. His daughter begged him to have pity on her, but he was merciless, for he took her and her babe down to the seashore, and put them into a large chest, or strong box, and thrust them out to the sea for the winds and waves to carry them whither they would. All the people who saw this heartless deed wept at the fate of the child and its mother.

So they floated on and on, and the chest danced up and down upon the waves, and the baby slept upon its mother's breast; but the poor outcast mother could not sleep, but watched and wept for grief.

And now they passed the last headland and came to where the waves were gentle, the breeze calm, and the sky clear. For these were the days when Halcyone [Hal-si-on-ē] and Ceyx [Sē-iks] built their nest, and no storms even ruffled the summer sea. And who were Halcyone and Ceyx? Halcyone was a fairy maiden, the daughter of the beach and the wind. And she loved Ceyx, a sailor boy, whom she married, and none were more happy than they. But

her husband got drowned during a storm. His wife saw him drowning and leapt into the sea to rescue him, but was too late. Then the Gods took pity on them both and changed them into two sea-birds; ever after each year they built a floating nest during the calm summer days. And from this touching incident, bright happy days are called Halcyone days.

For two days and nights Danae and her baby was upon the open sea. She was faint with hunger and weeping, but the baby slept all the time, as if protected by some good spirit. At last she fell asleep, and when she woke up she saw some great frowning cliffs, and the water was dashing madly against them, making the foam fly high into the air. Wild with terror she shrieked for help. A tall, stately man, dressed in a rough cloak of frieze, made his appearance on the rocks. He quickly leapt down the rocks to her aid, and quickly cast his fishing net over Danae and the chest, and drew them safely on shore.

Then the fisherman said:—

“O beautiful damsel, what strange chance has brought you to this island in so frail a boat? Who are you, and from whence have you come? Surely you are some king's daughter; and this boy is something more than mortal?” And as he spoke he pointed to the babe, whose face shone like a morning star.

(To be continued).

Correspondence.

[The following letter has been handed to us for publication as evidencing the help that might be rendered to Lyceums in distant lands by Lyceumists from the Mother Country, and the good such service is capable of doing.—Editor L.B.]

“To the Secretary,
Easy Road, Leeds, England.
Dear Friend and Brother,

It is, indeed, with the greatest pleasure that I, on behalf of the officers and members of the Perth Lyceum, Western Australia, tender your Lyceum our heartiest fraternal greetings, expressions of good will, and every good wish for your future prosperity and success.

You are no doubt surprised to hear from us, but a short explanation will suffice. Just about two months ago two former members of your Lyceum visited ours, much to our gratification, and at once threw themselves in the work, helping us all they possibly could, and what is more, quickly endeared themselves to all of us. Our marching and calisthenics were badly led, but our two friends reorganised them and put them on a much better and pleasurable footing. We, on our part, did our little bit to make them feel at home with us, as much as is possible to those to feel at home who are in a strange land 10,000 miles away from those who are near and dear to them. I hope we succeeded to some small extent. Unhappily for us, our friends followed callings in which it is not an easy matter to find employment in Western Australia, and as they were unable to satisfy their little material wants in this State, after spending six happy weeks with us, they were forced to go to the Eastern States, where, no doubt, a larger field of spiritual labour will be opened up to them in due course. I can safely say that from the oldest to the youngest member of our Lyceum there was not one who did not sincerely regret their departure. I have omitted to state, although, no doubt, you have already guessed, our two friends are Messrs. Harrison and Shepherd, who take with them our heartiest good wishes for their future success. In closing, I should like to add that whilst your Lyceum turns out such good and sterling workers for the glorious cause of Spiritualism and Truth, success and honour must eventually and inevitably be your lot.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

GEO. F. RICHARDS, Hon. Sec.,
Perth Lyceum, Museum Street, W.A.

P.S.—I must further add, that in the event of any members of your Lyceum leaving to go to any place in Australia, via Fremantle, we shall be extremely pleased to delegate one or more of our committee to meet them at the boat, and give any required information. Those doing so will be recognised by their Lyceum A.J.D. Badge, and we, on our part, will wear a double bow of red and white ribbon.—G.R.

Lesson Plan for Jan., 1912.

BY MRS. GREENWOOD.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date	Opening Hymn	S.C.R.	Musical Reading	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
JAN. 7	83	82	216	135	395
„ 14	391	373	215	142	*364
„ 21	351	347	†310	138	341
„ 28	349	323	242	137	320
FEB. 4	330	322	232	125	314

* Tune, *Aurelia*, Bristol Tune Book.

† Impromptu Readings from selected Lyceumists.

A suitable invocation may be found in the last response of G.C.R. 147, which, if committed to memory by the Lyceum and said in unison, is a change to the usual method.

PEARLS.

- JAN. 7th.—“No heart is pure that is not passionate;
No virtue is safe that is not enthusiastic.”—*Seeley*.
- „ 14th.—“It's wiser being good than bad;
It's safer being meek than fierce;
It's fitter being sane than mad.”
“Broken Earthenware.”
- „ 21st.—“Do the Truth you know, and you shall learn the truth you need to know.”
—*George M'Donald*.
- „ 28th.—“You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one.”—*Wendell Phillips*

LESSON PHOTOGRAMS.

- JAN. 7th. 135, *Manual*.
- I. Things that hurt:
- Love of Self.
 - Love of Pleasure.
 - Love of Self-Will.
- II. Things that Cure:
- Patience to possess inward peace.
 - Self-abnegation. All that is immoderate, superfluous or painful shall pass away.
- III. How to attain the Highest Happiness:
- Having wide thoughts.
 - Having much feeling for the rest of the world.
 - Having lofty aims.
 - Desiring what is perfectly good.
- JAN. 14th. 142, *Manual*.
- I. Aim of Spiritualism:
- To effect a complete at-one-ment, &c. Unison of man with God.
 - To create Harmony.
 - Out of which comes Absolute Religion.
- II. What it does: See G.C.R.
- III. The Call to Worship by:
- True Aspiration.
 - Noble Effort.

JAN. 21st. 138, *Manual*.

Explain what Death is; the results to the body and the spirit; how we get our knowledge

respecting it; the relation between earth-life and spirit-life, and the general experience of spirit people in spirit life. (If the teacher has consulted "Outlines of Spiritualism" he will find it helpful in describing the last named).

The epitome of the subject is contained in the last response by the Lyceum.

JAN. 28th. 137, *Manual*.

I. Spiritualism is knowledge pertaining to the Spiritual Nature of man.

II. Division of Study:

- (a) Science.
- (b) Philosophy.
- (c) Religion.

(See replies in the G.C.R. for definitions).

III. Duty of Spiritualists:

- (a) Cultivation of superior faculties.
- (b) Living true lives.

IV. Nature of Man:

- (a) Physical body.
- (b) Spiritual body.
- (c) Innermost spirit.

(See definitions in G.C.R. to above).

THE PEACE BRIGADE.

(CONDUCTED BY C.W.M.)

Two months have passed since our last article appeared, and this month's issue sees us entered upon another year. To all our readers, our members and workers, we give sincere greetings, and earnestly hope that the year may be one of effort for the cause of brotherhood and of peace, and that steady progress and success will crown all efforts. Those Lyceums who have responded to the call we hope will persevere in their noble work, determined to overcome obstacles and win success; and those who yet hesitate to enter the work and try to practice much of what the Lyceum teaches, we hope will awaken to the fact that "the workers win," and deeds are more powerful than words in expressing the soul's sincerity in wishing to improve.

We begin the year well by enrolling more members from Blackburn and forming a new branch at Glasgow—to which we send a hearty welcome and every good wish for success.

We must now reserve all further matter of our own, for we desire to give the essay of our friend and brother, Master John Wm. Dickinson, Shildon (No. 41 of the Brigade), which, due to circumstances over which we had no control, has been long delayed from appearing.

ESSAY ON

"WHY UNIVERSAL PEACE IS DESIRABLE AND ESSENTIAL, AND WAR TO BE CONDEMNED."

"I think universal peace is desirable for one thing because so many lives are lost which might be saved. If universal peace is carried out, soldiers and sailors under the Government will be unnecessary, battle-ships will be useless, arms of all descriptions will be destroyed, anarchists will be less active, and the police staff will dwindle down. Accidents would not occur so often, work would be much more easily obtained, and all these and many other things would

be different from what they are at the present time.

"Universal peace is essential for the welfare of mankind in general. It is necessary for the development of industry, and it would also shorten work for everybody. Children would be better educated than they are at present. No evil doings would get into their minds, so that when they grew to be men and women they would know more of the world and its doings.

"If the expenditure for war material is carried on, the nation will become bankrupt. If war broke out between two European nations, millions of workmen would be thrown out of work, food would be scarce, thousands of small manufacturers would be rendered bankrupt through want of means to carry on their businesses, tens of thousands of people in good circumstances would be in want, the import of food stuffs would decrease, prices would reach a height that no one could buy anything, and this would mean a general famine."

This is certainly a praiseworthy and creditable attempt, showing real thought. Much food for reflection is provided by it, as probabilities are given which can be worked out more fully by earnest thought, and which space would not here allow. Some of the points might profitably be discussed in the branch meetings during the week.

The following article appeared in the American paper, "The Progressive Thinker," for December 2nd, 1911, and as we consider it well worth our readers' serious attention, we are here reproducing it:—

"THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT.

"For half a score or more of years, thousands of good people in all enlightened countries of the world have been praying and working to abolish war, and to influence emperors, kings, presidents and lawmakers to agree to the creation of courts of arbitration in which international disputes may peacefully be adjusted to the end that war might be abolished. Good progress was being made, but recently an opposing influence has been set in motion which bids fair to thwart all these beneficent efforts.

"It is the 'Boy Scout Movement.'

"Gen. Baden-Powell introduced it into Russia, and the Czar has ordered all the peasant boys between twelve and fifteen years of age to be given thorough military training by regular army officers. The official dispatch says: 'It is thought that the military training will awaken interest in the army at an early age, and thus facilitate the transformation of raw recruits into perfect human fighting machines. Hopes are also entertained that the early awakening of enthusiasm for the army will operate against the spread of socialism among the youth of Russia.'

"Late information from Berlin is to the effect that Emperor William will inaugurate the movement in Germany 'for the purpose of fostering a war spirit among the boys of that empire.' And now certain plutocrats of the United States are planning to make the movement popular here. It is clear that the original promoters of the movements hope to cultivate the killing instincts in the youth of the country, and thus retard if not wholly destroy the anti-war movement. The scheme was adroitly planned, and the real object is hidden, while the supposed advantages accruing to the boys are painted in brilliant colours. The Boy Scout plan was conceived by the cruel, heartless, plutocratic monopolist who places a

higher estimate on the sacredness of property than on the preciousness of human life. He knows that all wars are fought by mere boys from sixteen to twenty years of age, and almost without exception by the sons of the poor and of working people. That is the reason why he is now proposing to train the children in military methods, and to foster in their minds the murdering spirit which he tells the boys is a glorious thing to cultivate, and calls it patriotism.

"His real object is to create a big army which can be hurled upon working people whenever they make an effort to improve their conditions of living. Not very long ago I heard, in Denver, a street discussion between a Socialist working man and a finely dressed gentleman, evidently a capitalist. The rich man said, 'Oh! you go on, with your fine talk about abolishing war. When the time is ripe for it, we will hire half of you working people to go into the army and shoot down the other half for \$13 a month.'

Jesus said, 'Peace on earth, good will to men. Behold, a new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another.' Twelve million Socialists in the world, speaking a score or more of different languages, make those words their chief mottoes, and yet some people say that Socialists are anti-Christian. I maintain that it is to the shame and disgrace of the Protestant churches that it may be truthfully charged that many of their ministers are urging on this 'Boy Scout Movement.' For two thousand years they have been praying 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

"Do they expect to hasten the coming of their Lord's Kingdom on earth by fostering in the youth of the country the murdering spirit? While not a Roman Catholic, I am happy to be able to say that the Pope of Rome is using his influence to promote the anti-war sentiment, and for the establishment of international courts of arbitration.

"I hope every working boy who reads this will stay out of the Boy Scout organization. If he does not, he will be expected at some future time to run the cruel bayonet through the quivering body of his brother whom he does not know and who has done him no harm; he will be ordered to tear out his heart, cleave open his head with a sword, scattering his blood and brain upon the ground, and like a ferocious wild beast, cripple, mutilate, murder him, destroy his property and bring unutterable anguish to parents and friends, all because he has been trained to obey the orders of his officers. All this and more he will be expected and required to do, and which, if he refuse to do, will subject himself to be imprisoned and shot as a deserter and coward.

"It has been said that 'man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.' Oh, that we might be kind each to the other, and know 'that an injury to one is the concern of all.'

"ROBERT ADDISON DAGUE.

"Tacoma, Wash."

NEW MEMBERS.

BRANCH No. 3, BLACKBURN (Mount Street).—Violet.

114 Mr. T. Tyrell.	124 Mrs. Whitwell.
115 Mr. G. Ormerod.	125 Annie Letthard.
116 Walter Alston.	126 Annie Alston.
117 Benjamin Lund.	127 Polly Raby.
118 Timothy Whalley.	128 Annie Howarth.
119 Henry Barrett.	129 May Addison.
120 Fred Robinson.	130 Gertie Kenyon.
121 John Gibson.	131 Sarah Marshall.
122 Henry Lund.	132 Maggie Gorman.
123 William Cooper.	

BRANCH No. 4, GLASGOW (Elmbank Crescent).

133 Mrs. Gentleman.	148 Miss L. Fletcher.
134 Mrs. McGibbon.	149 Mrs. Stewart.
135 Mrs. Hunter.	150 Mr. J. Stewart.
136 Mrs. Hamilton.	151 Mr. A. Russell.
137 Miss M. Bolton.	152 Mr. C. Rothead.
138 Miss B. Rainy.	153 Mr. T. Rothead.
139 Miss A. Rainy.	154 Mr. W. Gentleman.
140 Miss J. Bussell.	155 Mr. J. Gentleman.
141 Miss M. Reid.	156 Mr. W. Hunter.
142 Miss J. Fletcher.	157 Mr. G. Hunter.
143 Miss M. Fletcher.	158 Mr. R. McGibbon.
144 Miss K. Sclater.	159 Mr. D. McGibbon.
145 Miss N. Sclater.	160 Mr. J. McGibbon.
146 Miss M. Sclater.	161 Mr. D. Hamilton.
147 Miss M. Clark.	162 Mr. W. Guild.

Mr. Robert A. Owen

President of the Lyceum Union

Begs to send his

New Year Greetings

To all Lyceumists.

Bluebell Guild.

OBJECT: To promote Gentleness, Kindness
and Good Behaviour. Membership is
open to all.

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

We will continue our "TALK ON THE TONGUE."

A man who lived many years ago likened the tongue to a spark of fire.

All of you know that a spark of fire has been responsible for many high conflagrations, much human misery, and many premature deaths. People have lost homes, property, relatives, and friends all through an unchecked spark of fire. And the tongue is equally dangerous when improperly directed, or allowed to run on unchecked. How many homes have been broken up through fiery words. Husbands and wives have been separated, perhaps for ever, through some wanton mischief done by unbridled tongues. Many children have left their homes, and become outcasts, through hasty words; bosom friends have become bitter foes. All of us must admit that the tongue is a very powerful weapon, and can be utilized either for our well-being or to our undoing.

Mankind is capable of controlling and instructing many high and powerful forms in nature's great and varied menagerie. The fierce lion, the vicious tiger, the high ungainly elephant, the ox, the horse, etc., all of which are possessed of enormous physical strength, have been subdued by the superior intellect of man, yet the control of such a small member as the tongue, seems to present greater difficulties than all the rest. Even the good and great men whose praises are extolled in the bible, and, who are some-

times held up to us as patterns of goodness, manifested this deplorable weakness, and failure to control the tongue. David said, in haste, "All men are liars," Peter swore; Jonah was angry; Job cursed the day of his birth.

We all know that the tongue is made the willing servant of the mind; and needs no second bidding to perform its office.

What a shame it is that we should force it to utterance both in and out of season. Sometimes we make ourselves appear very foolish through being too ready to set our little servant chattering, Quakers teach their children to sit for hours without speaking, in order that by their meditations they may guard against a too free use of the tongue. An old axiom states we should be swift to hear, and slow to speak. Now that we have seen what a beautiful and useful little member of the body the tongue is, let us not disgrace ourselves by enlisting it into our service for unkindly and mischievous purposes.

Let us each try and use the tongue in such a way as to show that we are grateful for the many good services it can render to us: only speaking such words as are just, true, kind and gentle. Remember the sweet, helpful tone of our beautiful hymn, beginning with the lines, "Speak gently, it is better far. To rule by love than fear. Speak gently, let no harsh word mar, The good we may do here."

It is easy to let an unkind word escape us, or set a scandalous untruth in circulation that it behove us often to pray, as did David—that God will set a watch in our hearts, and keep the door of our lips. The tongue is a powerful engine, steered by the mind; let us see that it is exercised towards the attainment of human happiness. The power of the tongue, for good or evil, cannot be too greatly estimated, it is said to be the silver bell of the soul. Shakespeare writes, "The tongues of dying men enforce great attention, like deep harmony, when words are scarce, they're seldom spent in vain; for they breathe truth that breathe their words in pain. Let us not wait for the time of sickness and approaching death. Let us each be careful to form the good habit of speaking wisely, righteously, and truly always, for our real success in life depends upon these things. As we progress in such goodness of habits, so will the individual character become strengthened, and we may rightly take our places amongst those who are worthily striving to reveal the angel of wisdom in their personalities. May we all derive some pleasure and profit from this little chat upon the "tongue"—and, ere the time of our youth has fled, let us seize upon the golden opportunities that are being ever presented to us—to guard our thoughts and guide our tongues towards peace, goodness, and happiness, so that

While on earth we stay,
Striving to nobly live:
Trying, from day to day,
Some joy to give.

Miss Mabel Patten, of Bolton, Bradford Street, sends me a nice letter in which she says, "We are doing splendid at our meetings. Everyone is delighted with the work we are doing. I have five more members for your Guild." Thank you, Mabel, I have duly enrolled the new members. I am glad to learn your meetings are so interesting and instructive.

The following letter reaches me from Leicester, Silver Street Lyceum.

Dear Flora Belle,

"Will you kindly accept these Lyceumists as members of the Bluebell Guild. I myself wish to join, being a Leader. We are at present getting up a concert for our Lyceum."

MISS M. LEACH.

Thank you, Miss Leach, for your good list of new members, which have been duly enrolled. I hope your concert will prove a big success, and fill all hearts with joy and pleasure.

Wishing all members of the Bluebell Guild a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I remain, your affectionate sister,
FLORA BELLE.

BOLTON (Bradford Street), Second List.

3164	Mr. Holloway.	3167	Alice Lloyd.
3165	William Smith.	3168	Esther Hoff.
3166	Thomas Worthington.		

LEICESTER (Silver Street).

3169	Miss Mary Leach.	3179	May Reavill.
3170	Winnie Harvey.	3180	Ada Clarke.
3171	Mary Bromley.	3181	Grace Hault.
3172	Lucy Bromley.	3182	Dolly Chambers.
3173	Florrie Smith.	3183	Mr. Daniel Jewitt.
3174	Evie Horner.	3184	Mrs. Alice Jewitt.
3175	Gertrude Piccaver.	3185	Mr. Joseph Hurst, present conductor
3176	Edith Hurst.		
3177	Lucy Langley.	3186	Phyliss Smith.
3178	Daisy Wayne.	3187	Lilly Harvey.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND, 1911.

The following contributions have been duly acknowledged:—

Heeley Lyceum, Sheffield, 6/9; Woolwich and Plumstead Lyceum, 5/-; Hammerton Street Lyceum, Burnley, 10/-; Mr. Coupe, 2/6; Mrs. Harwood, 2/6; Dundee Lyceum, 10/-; Keighley Lyceum, 10/-; Old Shildon, 14/-; Bradford Street Lyceum, Bolton, 5/-; Littleborough, 5/-; Holborn Hall Lyceum, Hull, 10/-; Armley Lyceum, 7/6; Preston Central Lyceum, 3/-; Daulby Hall Lyceum, Liverpool, 10/6; Mrs. Wilkinson, 4/6; Colne Lyceum, 5/-; Preston, Lancaster Road Lyceum, 2/-; Dover Court Lyceum, Toronto, 10/-; Widnes Lyceum, 2/6; Darlington Lyceum, 5/-; B.B., Abbey Road Lyceum, Barrow-in-Furness, 5/-; Shipley Lyceum, 2/6; Daisy Hill Lyceum, nr. Bolton, 2/6; Lancaster Lyceum, 5/-; Macfield Lyceum, 6/-.

The E.C. offers its grateful thanks for all donations to the above Fund.

Trusting those who have not yet responded to the appeal cards may try to do so before December 31st.

Sincerely yours,

JESSY GREENWOOD, Hon. Sec.

Ash Leigh, Hebden Bridge.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS LYCEUM UNION.

The Officers and Executive Council of the above Union will visit the Spiritual Church, Holborn Street, Hull, on January 13th and 14th, and attend the Lyceum open session at 10-30 a.m. on the Sunday, and will also address the public meetings at 2-30 and 6-30 p.m., to be presided over by Mr. R. A. Owen, Liverpool, President of the Lyceum Union. Tea will be provided at 4-30, price 6d. each, for friends from a distance.

Friends in the surrounding districts are invited to rally in full force at the above Hall, and make the visit a big success.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890, BY J. J. MORSE.
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 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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JANUARY, 1912.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1912.

"THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER."

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

With this issue we commence another year of earnest effort still further to spread the Lyceum teachings as proclaimed by spirit people from the higher spirit realms. We take for our motto this year "The greatest good of the greatest number." We sincerely hope that all Lyceum officers will take this as their guide in all their deliberations.

In order to help the new secretaries we repeat our advice given in the last issue:—

Perhaps a few words of advice on how to get the most news into the 120 words allowed free of charge may be helpful to new secretaries. In order to save repetition of words bring all your recitations under one head by saying the following gave recitations, and then set down all who gave recitations. Treat all the songs, solos and readings in the same way. If a number of young ladies sing or recite, instead of putting *Miss* before each one, as *Miss Brown, Miss Jones, Miss Smith, Miss Green*, write *Misses Brown, Jones, Smith, Green*, and so save three words.

Then please remember that a duet is a piece sung in two parts, treble and alto, or treble and tenor; and a trio is a piece sung in three parts; and a quartette is a piece sung in four parts, treble, alto, tenor, and bass. When two or more scholars sing a hymn, unless they are singing the different parts, they should be reported as singing in *unison*. By paying attention to the above hints on reporting the items of the Lyceum sessions, the newly appointed Lyceum Secretary will have acquired the ability to write a report to the local press before his term of secretaryship is over.

It will be seen by the announcement on another page that the Lyceum Union's Executive Council opens its New Year's efforts at Hull. No doubt the friends there will unite their forces to make the event worthy of the occasion. It is cheering to learn that the Society meeting in Day Street, Hull, have recently opened a Lyceum. The Executive Council will visit Attercliffe, Sheffield, on April 13th and 14th. The following two dates for 1912 are open, July 13th and 14th, and October 12th and

13th. Lyceums desiring to make arrangements for either of those dates should apply early to the General Secretary of the Lyceum Union for terms of the visits.

We are glad to announce that the Ashington Lyceum has been re-opened, and promises to become more successful in the future than in the past. We believe the newly organised Tyneside Lyceum District Council has been instrumental in reviving the above Lyceum. We trust they will be equally successful in their efforts to revive those that lapsed at Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, Ferryhill, Ouston, Spennymoor, and the one lately lapsed at West Pelton.

An effort is being made to establish a Lyceum at Kettering. This is an isolated district, and they have no Lyceum Manuals or other necessary books. At present they are using the Society's hymn books from which to select silver chain recitations, which makes the task before them doubly hard. But "The Workers Win."

The sad news is just to hand from Blackburn, Mount Street, that they are having to close their Lyceum on account of the Society finding the financial burden too heavy. This is a great pity, as the Lyceum was one of the most flourishing in the district. We trust the officers will do their best to keep in touch with the children till other arrangements can be made.

We also learn that the Manchester, Longsight, South Street Lyceum has had to close on account of the conductor leaving to go to Australia, and the closing of the Society. For a long time the faithful few have had a hard struggle to maintain the above Lyceum. Circumstances are too much for them at present, but they will rally and try again.

From far away Toronto, Canada, comes the news that another Lyceum has been started by Mr. John Watson. In a letter to hand he informs us that this is the third he has started in Toronto. The first was at Douglas Hall, the second at Occident Hall, and the third at Armstrong Hall. Secretary, Mr. H. B. Hippey.

Mr. J. W. Humphreys, of Fordesburg, South Africa, sends greetings of love and sympathy to all Lyceum workers. We are sure our readers will most heartily reciprocate his good wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year.

Our good friend, Mr. Walker, of Buxton, in renewing his subscription for 1912 adds: "I am pleased to say that LYCEUM BANNER is as interesting and instructive as ever. It holds its position well to the advantage of both young and old. Your noble duties consist in foundation laying, and without a good foundation a good superstructure cannot be built. May you be long spared, with good health, to continue the good work you have in hand." We trust the LYCEUM BANNER during 1912 will be as interesting and instructive as that of 1911.

To our readers individually and collectively, and the BANNER staff, we wish a happy and prosperous New Year.

Our Groups' Special.

DEAR BANNERITES,

Permit me, for the ninth time in successive years, to wish you all a very happy New Year. Many have been the themes that have been written upon in these columns during the past nine years. Earnest attempts have been made to secure the interest of readers upon topics relevant to our duty and obligations as Spiritualists.

Some appreciation has been shown in occasional letters which have found their way to the abode of the writer, and I would here signify my pleasure at the encouraging comments which have reached me indirectly.

In lighter vein many of our younger readers have been interested and amused with the rhyming puzzles which for a long time proved a feature of this page, but which have been withdrawn since the introduction of "Psychic Studies," some fifteen months ago. It is my purpose once again to present this innocent and simple form of amusement for our young readers, and I am hoping to receive a good response in the shape of solutions to the puzzles.

For the principal portion of the page I contemplate presenting "papers" for use of "groups," dealing with subjects contained in the *Lyceum Manual*. It is quite possible that each paper will run over two numbers of the BANNER, as our space is very limited.

By way of commencement I purpose this month dealing with that portion of "Pope's Essay on Man," which appears in our *Manual*, and which is tabulated as "Silver Chain Recitation, No. 1," the Divine Order.

Beautiful, comprehensive and expressive as this inspired effort of the poet truly is, there is no single effort which has been productive of more controversy amongst dogmatists than has the concluding line of this section of the magnificent poem.

Even in our Lyceums this expression of the poet has given rise to long and earnest discussion, and indignation has been freely manifested at the many possible consequences which a superficial observation of the seeming doctrine involves.

It is essential that we should carefully analyse the whole text of the poem, or at least stanzas 9 and 10, as printed in the *Manual*, before we pronounce a decision. Nay, let us do more. If possible let us learn something of the environment and capacity of the man who gave this gem of poetry to the world.

For whether we agree with the poem in its entirety or not, we are compelled to acknowledge the superior perceptions of the man who could attempt to so boldly and confidently outline for us the operations of Deity, through all the variable conditions and developments of the world in which we live.

The author of this poem lived in our state, in our country, when human thought was swayed by vicious dogmatists concerning God and Religion. Some two hundred years ago, when these wonderful lines were first compiled, the continental countries of Europe were under the dogmatic rule of a very narrowly defined Christianity, which provided salvation only by the acceptance of exacting creeds, and whose methods of worship were characterised by stringent dogmas.

We have only to acquaint ourselves with the history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to find out the barbarous methods employed to punish all who differed in belief from the doctrines of the muscular communities, as represented by the churches of the period. Imprisonment, torture and death was the general penalty paid for an honest expression of judgment on religious matters; if such expression did not accord with the popular faiths; and when we remember that to-day all self-respecting Christians are rapidly discarding the principal doctrines which at that period formed the base of all evangelistic work, namely, the doctrine of a wrathful God, who would wreak His vengeance upon the bulk of helpless humanity,—the doctrine of eternal damnation and the everlasting burning of souls in a literal sulphurous hell,—the doctrine of cruel soul-torture by a personal Devil,—all doctrines which are fast being relegated to the limbo of forgotten things, to give place to more soul-inspiring and invigorating teachings of a humanitarianism which are delightfully refreshing and encouraging to sincere and eager souls struggling towards the light of freedom, the shores of moral justice, and the harbour of spiritual peace. We have only to note the acts of persecution which were common to the times of Pope's earth life, or just prior to that period, to gauge the crudity of spiritual perceptions and the harshness of ecclesiastical influence which obtained.

John Calvin, a noted Christian zealot, whose name has been perpetuated by a system of dogmas concerning Salvation; who preached a brimstone hell as a fitting punishment to all unbelievers, and who was himself responsible for numerous acts of inhuman cruelty, done in the sacred name of Christ; this same John Calvin, we are told by reliable historians, personally superintended the imprisonment and torturing of one Michael Servetus, a reformer of a somewhat different school, and ultimately put him to death by burning with lighted faggots.

[Oh! for more space to denounce such cruel conduct amongst human beings, conduct which is claimed in some quarters to be condoned by a wise and loving God.]

Next month I intend to continue this topic and to extract pleasure and profit from the consideration of the poem itself.

Below is given a rhymed puzzle, wherein is hidden the name of a prominent worker in our Lyceum Movement in England. It is open to all Lyceumists of sixteen years of age and under. What you have to do is to find out the name and forward it to the address given below. All solutions must be in by the 23rd of January, 1912. Winners will receive a Card of Merit.

PUZZLE.

In a somewhat Ancient Order the initials you will find
 Of a gentleman whose features are familiar to my mind;
 With his wife and little family he's as happy as can be,
 As he basks within the shadow of a curious growing tree.
 Initials and the surname total up to letters six,
 And you'll find them in the *Manual* in number fifty-six.
 Just look with care at the first verse, and not beyond third line,
 And you can sing the name to Songster number 89.

Now make your choice with caution, and send to me
the name,
And for your right solution I will meet the winner's
claim.
Remember you are looking for a name you all know
well,
And it's written in these last two lines, but I am not
to tell.

Yours lovingly,

FRANK HEPWORTH.

312, Hornby Street, Bury.

Botany for the Young.

BY J. KNIGHT.

DEAR BANNERITES,—

It is now three years since I commenced our botany lessons, and I feel sure those of you who have made a study of them, so far as they have gone, will know very much more than when you began. I know I do. And if you will only follow up the work until the end of the year, I expect to have completed the structure of a plant. I commenced with telling you something about *Roots*, their structure and the work they had to do; something about their enemies and their friends, and how they provide nice little dainties for the one and protect themselves from the other; and so with the *stem*, and the *leaves*—though I wish to tell you something more about leaves before we consider flowers, and fruits, and seeds.

I very much desire that those of my readers who can, will write me short essays on any of our lessons, or about some favourite plant or flower, or on any departmental study in botany. I have already received a few promises, and I can assure you these short articles will not only add to your interest and pleasure, but will fix the subject in your memories. I intend to award a suitable prize to the essay I consider the best sent in during the year.

I also desire to answer any questions on botany that any of you may ask me. In writing me, use ink, write in a clear plain hand, so that I may know just what information you desire.

It is with the greatest possible pleasure that I ask our Editor to print the welcome letter of our dear friend, Victor Lucas, Esq., of Firth Park, Sheffield, and I hope we shall be favoured with his article on Holly and other evergreens.

I hope this year will be the happiest and most prosperous that any of you have experienced.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,—

I sincerely wish you all a very Happy, Bright and Prosperous New Year. Some kind friend sent me November's LYCEUM BANNER, and my first thought was the Botany Page. But don't think that I ignore all the rest of the pages, because every page is interesting reading, for the simple reason that the longer I live the more I get nearer the truth. Why, my dear young friends, when you are having such beautiful thoughts about trees and plants expounded to you through the medium of your LYCEUM BANNER, you are being brought into touch with the very highest ideals of truth as it is so marvellously revealed in all the beautiful creations of God. When we speak of God, we do so in the most reverent spirit of reverence to the creator of life, as revealed in each one of us. We are living in wonderful times of man's ingenuity, in trying to conquer everything, but it is just at this point of my letter that I want to impress upon your minds that in all the long years of scientific

search that are past, and all that is to come, the fact remains that it is only by this spirit called God that life is.

Many attempts have been made to manufacture seeds of trees and many vegetables, they have been sown under all kinds of conditions to encourage generation, but they were always wanting the one essential, the germinating power of life.

In November, after reading Mr. Knight's notes on trees, I was so delighted with the simple truths he was teaching that something said to me that I must answer it. I did so, but by some accident the notes got wet on the way and were thus delayed for your December issue. So I promised to send another, as near like it as possible, but again, as I sit at my desk writing, my mind is being led to say something about truth as it can be learnt from the tiny seed to the giant of the forest.

On page 228 in your *Lyceum Manual*, I read these words: "What is Truth? That which really exists, for Truth is God's."

I know Mr. Knight will forgive me for taking another line of thought, but I feel I cannot get away from it, because in all I say about trees I know that there is a valuable lesson to be learnt that we can put into our daily life as we live it.

In speaking of trees, I do so from a life study of them, so let me ask every boy and girl Lyceumist to begin with me at the beginning of the life of a tree. In order to do so, I want you to get some seeds, say, Acorn, Chestnut, Sycamore, Elm, Mountain Ash, or Common Ash, or some pips from an apple or an orange. Take a tumbler glass, three parts full of water, drop into the water your seeds, those that fall to the bottom are sound and will germinate and grow, those that float are useless; they are like the man-made artificial seeds, they have no germinating life in them. When the little root first bursts itself free from the seed vessel, or pod, it is called the embryo rootlet, its function is to fix itself into the earth, so that it can then supply motive power to burst open the prison cell which hold the first two leaves, which are called rough leaves. Note that these rough leaves are only the portions of the seed which has been so beautifully protecting the future roots, stems and leaves. The little stem begins to grow, and other baby leaves of better shape, until you get a young tree, which is called a seedling. Now, if I allow those seedlings to grow, as they would, into any ugly shape if left uncared for, they would be no good at all, but if I trained them and cared for them, I could have them to answer all I want.

Here is the lesson I first want you to learn from trees, and then I will take you a step further in advance, that you boys and girls who read this are just like the young trees, you are seedlings. How are you going to grow? Be good, be true, be brave, promise your dear fathers and mothers that you will be like the potter's clay in their hands, so that they can mould you into such a life as will give them joy, peace, and everything which God intended you to be. I have planted many, many thousands of trees, to become, as it were, permanent fixtures in the landscape, to give an ornamental aspect in the place where they were planted. Boys and girls, become like these trees, so that whatever sphere of life you are called upon to fill, you may be an ornament to the position you occupy. It does not matter however humble or exalted your position may be. I

cannot say more at present, but I would suggest to every one of my friends, young and old, to read 83 in *Lyceum Manual*, it conveys all I wish. But I promise my dear friends of Polton a letter on the Hollies for next month.

P.S.—I have just had a very large beech tree cut down, and I counted in the cross cut section no less than 86 rings; each ring is a year's life added to the tree, and according to the number of these rings the tree is adding diameter to the thickness of its timber, and also value. Let every Lyceumist boy and girl think of this, and remember that as each year they live they are like the tree, adding a ring to their lives of either usefulness or uselessness, which they will be responsible for. Boys and girls, let it be the first—usefulness.

V. H. LUCAS.

The Crucible.

CONSTITUTION FOR SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCILS.

(Continued).

ARTICLE 7. BUSINESS.

Special business shall be introduced to the Council by motions only, written notice of which shall be sent to the secretary four weeks before the meeting when they are to be considered, and the secretary shall publish all such notices in the Official Organ.

Ordinary business may be considered without notice, at the discretion of the Council.

The Council may elect sub-committees to deal with subjects requiring special consideration.

ARTICLE 8. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council.

In the event of absence a chairman shall be elected from among the members present.

The District Visitor shall keep an account of all visits made to Lyceums, etc., and present to the Council a summarised report at each of its meetings; he shall also fulfil the requirements of Bye-law III. in the Constitution of the Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Treasurer shall receive and expend all monies and keep a proper account of same, presenting to each Council meeting a report of the financial position.

The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence, keep the minutes of all meetings and perform such other duties as usually belong to this office.

ARTICLE 9. DEBATE.

As the Council is a deliberative assembly, each delegate or associate shall be limited to one speech on each subject, not exceeding five minutes' duration, except the mover of a resolution, who may have ten minutes and the right of five minutes to reply.

ARTICLE 10. AUDITORS.

Two Auditors shall be elected annually from the members of the Council, to audit the accounts and books and present a report at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 11. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

At the annual meeting the order of business shall be:—

1. Hymn and Invocation.
2. President's Address.

3. Pro tem appointments, if necessary.
4. Minutes of the last District Council Meeting.
5. Correspondence.
6. Reports.
7. Open Council:—
 - (a) Standing Orders.
 - (b) Notice to amend Constitution.
 - (c) Notices of General Motions.
 - (d) Motions arising out of the business of the District Council.
8. Election of Officers and Auditors.
9. Decide place and date of next District Council Meeting.
10. Votes of thanks to retiring Officers and Committees.
11. Votes of thanks to local friends for kind assistance.
12. Hymn and Benediction.

For quarterly and special meetings the agenda shall be arranged by the Secretary.

ARTICLE 12. REVISION OF CONSTITUTION.

The Articles of this Constitution shall only be amended at a Quarterly Meeting of the District Council by a two-thirds majority of the delegates present thereat, but not oftener than once in five years, as per Article XVII., page . . . Written notices duly setting forth the proposed amendments, alterations, or additions, must be in the Secretary's hands four weeks before the Council Meeting at which they are to be considered. Copies of each must also be supplied to the Secretaries of all other District Councils for their consideration and decision. And when any such motions have received a two-thirds majority vote in its favour of the Combined District Councils, the same shall be sent to the General Secretary of the Union as a motion or motions to go before the Conference; and such proposed alteration shall not come into effect until passed by the Conference.

Those who are interested in these articles and are comparing them with the present Constitution will no doubt observe that in re-writing the foregoing Articles all the main principles at present in vogue have been retained, whilst one or two new ones have been introduced. In ARTICLE 2, Section (a) the month for Annual Meeting is altered from March to February; the point is not of very great importance, and is made so that Councils may deal with Conference business in time to meet the requirements of the main Constitution. Section (d) will probably arouse some opposition, but what I hope is an impartial view leads me to the belief that no Council should have power to do just as it pleases, and further, that the B.S.L.U. Executive, or failing them the Conference, would be more likely to be in a position to consider the best interests of the *whole* movement than any D.C., however ably administered.

In ARTICLE 3 it will be noticed that the clause which at present gives D.C. power to strike Lyceums off their Roll has been left out, my reason being that if the Lyceum Union is prepared to retain a Lyceum as a member, that should be sufficient to entitle such Lyceum to membership with subsidiary bodies, where desired, and that if a D.C. finds that any Lyceum ceases to be properly conducted it should first endeavour by persuasion to have the Union methods reinstated, and if failure is met with, report on the matter should then be furnished to the Secretary of the B.S.L.U.

Only a slight alteration has been made in ARTICLE 5 (except for re-drafting), and that is the omission of the provision whereby the Officers are made the Committee; this is quite unnecessary, as where no committee is specifically elected it automatically follows that the Officers act in that capacity.

The article on finance will no doubt meet with severe criticism on account of the innovation which Clause (a) introduces. At present only a few Councils have subscriptions from Lyceums, but as it was suggested in my April article (L.B., page 57) that Councils might be called on to pay 1/- per Lyceum to the Union, it therefore becomes necessary to provide the Councils with a definite source of income from the Lyceums constituting them.

A further clause should be added to the ARTICLE as printed last month, i.e. (e). Such other means as the Council may deem desirable and expedient.

Of the ARTICLES submitted this month only one calls for comment, viz., BUSINESS: Special business (i.e., proposals to amend Constitution and other important matters requiring the decision of Lyceums before the D.C. meeting) has been provided for separately from Ordinary Business.

The Constitution for Lyceums appears to me to fulfil all necessary requirements, and I do not desire to suggest any amendments or alterations thereto.

Next month I hope to bring these Articles to a conclusion by reference to a suggestion received from a correspondent, and possibly some criticism of the U.D.C. and its proposed Constitution, as published last month.

Persons who may wish me to deal with any particular point must forward their letters to reach me not later than January 16th, 1912.

DIOGENES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

To the Editor LYCEUM BANNER.

Sir,—It has been with deep interest that I have read the articles (just concluded) regarding "Love, etc." I am sure that those who have read them have gained much information from the clear manner in which they are written. Personally, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the author. I cannot accept Dr. Peebles' idea of twin souls, and am inclined to think that by careful selection we may choose a partner who is similar in temperament to ourselves without going out of our own circle of friends. Love demands sacrifice and service; and both maid and youth should realize this before they marry. The welfare and comfort of both should be the aim of their endeavours.

There is one point that puzzles me somewhat, which is, that a large number of men select partners because their intended wives possess a knowledge of cookery. I do not wish to belittle such knowledge, but I do think that such reason is very slender as regards marriage. I cannot but think that passion is oftener than not a determining factor in the selection of a partner. By this I mean that we choose because of good looks, position, or money. Blatchford says, "As for real love; boys know nothing about it. At forty a man falls in love fatally; if he is lucky he falls in love with his wife."

Since the first article appeared I have tried to get a definition of "Love," and up to the present time have been unsuccessful. Only last week I heard a discussion by five married men, whose ages ranged from 20 to 54, one of whom said, "No one could tell what love consisted of, as nothing was explained regarding it," to which sentiments they all agreed.

I sincerely hope that many questions will be asked, so that we may become wiser, as I think that the

majority of unhappy marriages are due to ignorance of the responsibility attached to wedlock.

I will close by quoting two pearls, the first by Kingsley: "Wherever is love and loyalty, great purposes and lofty souls, even though in a hovel, or mine, there is fairy-land."

The other by J. R. Miller: "We should choose our friends thoughtfully, wisely, prayerfully; but when we have pledged our lives we should be faithful whatever the cost may be."

INQUISITIVE.

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.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—I much regret to announce the passing on of Miss Elsie Wood. The Lyceum passed a vote of condolence.—J. GREGORY, Secretary.

HOLLINWOOD (Byrom Street).—It is with regret I have to announce the passing on of one of our Lyceumists, Miss Florrie Richards.—W. FITTON, Secretary.

On Saturday, 23rd Dec., 1911, Eleanor, the dear wife of Geo. Fredk. Knott, passed from the earthly to the spiritual condition of life in the presence and companionship of angel-friends. That she may have great happiness in the new freedom she possesses is the earnest wish of her loved husband.

The severed link is joined again,
The mother and child can meet,
Both now transcend the earthly pain,
And with the angels greet.

The advent of the spirits birth,
Is balm upon the soul,
Of one whose life is yet on earth,
Until the change shall roll.

—G. F. KNOTT.

UNITED DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

The next meeting will be held at Commission Street, Bolton, on March 2nd and 3rd. Business for agenda should reach me not later than January 19th. Delegates staying overnight please inform me before February 1st. Full particulars later.
FRED FRANCE, Hon. Sec.

BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The first meetings of the above Council will be held in the Beatrice Street Hall, Horwich, on Saturday and Sunday, January 13th and 14th at 3 p.m. prompt. Important business will be transacted. A good attendance of delegates and intended associates is essential for a successful meeting. The meetings on Sunday, January 14th, at Lyceum, at 10 a.m. 3 p.m., and 6-15 p.m., will be conducted by the Council. The local Lyceum will hold a tea party and social on the occasion of the District Council's first meeting, in aid of the D.C. funds. Tea 4-30, Social 7. Tickets 6d. each. I trust that all Lyceums in the district will rally and support the effort. We shall be pleased to enroll a good number of associate members on the above date.
ED. WALSH, Secretary.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Heywood (William Street Lyceum) on Saturday, December 9th, 1911, there being only six Lyceums represented. Mr. Knott presided. After the D.V. report and the delegates' report of the U.D.C. meeting had been accepted the motions were dealt with and were referred back to the Lyceums for further consideration. Our next meeting will be at Dearnley Lyceum on March 9th, 1912.
E. DEAN, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Crewe, Mill Street Hall, on Saturday, 2nd December. Our President, Mr. Keeling, unfortunately was ill and could not attend. In his absence Mr. Monks was elected to the chair.

Attendance 10, viz., 3 members of the E.C., 6 delegates, representing 6 Lyceums, and 1 associate.

The geographical position of Crewe prevented some Lyceums from being represented, owing to expense.

Two points were raised which may be of interest to other D.C.'s, viz., a scheme whereby each Lyceum sends a visitor to all the Lyceums in the District, thus making a complete system of inter-visitation and helping to raise the standard of efficiency. The scheme was deferred a quarter for further discussion, the main point being expense; in this district it is calculated to run about twenty shillings to each Lyceum. The other point is: a notice of motion by Mr. Mack, "That in future all delegates' expenses be pooled."

A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously passed for the entertainment and hospitality afforded by the Crewe Lyceum and Society.

On the Sunday the Lyceum Session and the services were conducted by Messrs. Monks, Robb and Ross, Mr. Mathison presiding.

H. WALKER, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SESSION COMPETITION, 1911.

Maximum marks	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	120
Name of Lyceum	Singing	Reading	Marching	C'listh'ngs	Pearls	Group Lesson	General Dis pline	Questions & Ans'rs	Total
Liverpool (Daulby)	10	11	10	10	11	14	10	9	85
Crewe	11	9	12	11	11	12	10	6	82
Wigan	12	11	11	10	10	7	12	9	82
Widnes	9	9	13	11	10	10	9	6	77
Chester	9	8	9	8	10	14	10	5	73
Southport (Hawkeshead)	8	9	10	8	8	8	9	0	69
Birkenhead	8	10	9	8	8	No	9	9	61

Groups

W. J. POWELL, Judges.
GEO. A. MACK,
H. WALKER, Secretary.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

We held our quarterly meeting at Tottenham on Sunday, December 10th, where we had a very good day. The afternoon session was very good, including a violin solo from Colenso Mortimer; pearls, solos and recitations were also very good. There were 7 Lyceums well represented, including President, Treasurer, District Visitor, also Mrs. Clegg, Miss Morris, Mrs. Barrington, Mrs. Craft, Messrs. W. Underwood, S. Williams, Graham, Humphreys, Ashley, Craft, Harrison, and others were present. After tea we held our business meeting, when there was much done, and in the evening we had a solo from Mr. Humphreys, "Farewell," words by C. Kingsley, followed by addresses from Mr. W. Underwood, Miss Morris, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Ashley, Mr. Clegg and finally our President, Mr. P. Smythe.

Although the societies of London are not fully awake to Lyceum work, yet I am sure our Lancashire and Yorkshire friends and workers will be pleased to know that London is making a great effort, and although greatly hampered, we are making rapid strides. The visit of the B.S.L.U. last July has inspired us with a purpose of putting our shoulders to the wheel, and doubtless ere long, they will pay another visit to our district. Our motto is "The Workers Win," and with the sympathy from our other District Councils and many workers, we shall eventually be able to clear away a lot of misrepresentation, and then we can truly say that London is worthy of ranking with Lancashire and Yorkshire, and be a credit to the Lyceum Cause.

ALEX. BROOKING.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held on Saturday, Dec. 16th, 1911, at Vernon Street Temple, Nelson. Mr. Tom Holland, President of the Council, presided, and gave a short opening address. The minutes of previous meeting were adopted. The Secretary's report was accepted, which showed that a new Lyceum had been opened at Earby. The Financial report, D.V.'s report, and Assistant D.V.'s report

were accepted, which showed the Lyceums were in a fairly healthy condition. The Adjudicators' report of the Silver Shield Competition, as printed in the LYCEUM BANNER, was accepted, showing that Hammerton Street Lyceum, Burnley, had been the successful Lyceum to hold the Shield for 1911-12. The report of the U.D.C. meeting, held at Armley, as printed in the LYCEUM BANNER, was accepted. The various motions from the U.D.C. were discussed, and it was decided to use our efforts to have an interim Conference for the discussion of the Constitution. It was also decided to support the motion for holding a Demonstration of Lyceums at some convenient centre.

The following notice of motion was passed for next U.D.C. meeting, viz:—"That in the opinion of this District Council, the time has arrived when the Permanent Secretary Fund might be abolished."

Messrs. Higham and Elliott were elected delegates to next U.D.C. meeting.

Letters were read from various Lyceums re "Associate Fees," which caused some discussion, but it was decided to leave it over to next meeting, as was also the consideration of the Shield Competition.

The resignation of Barnoldswick Lyceum was tendered, and Messrs. Elliott and Chadwick were deputed to see them. Mr. Elliott gave the report of the Education Committee, and it was accepted. Messrs. H. Hargreaves, Nelson; F. Edwards, Blackburn; and Miss Crabtree, Accrington, were appointed Assistant D.V.s for the quarter. The Credential Committee reported that there were present, 24 Delegates, 8 Associates, and 4 E.C. members, making a total of 36. The invitation from Northgate, Blackburn, was accepted for next quarterly meeting.

A vote of sympathy was accorded Mr. and Mrs. W. Fisk in their family bereavement. Votes of thanks were passed to local friends for kind invitation and entertainment.

The evening was spent in a social manner, and a dialogue, entitled "The Cricket Match," was ably gone through by several young ladies.

G. C. HIGHAM.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF MR. R. LATHAM.

The following further subscriptions have been received by Mr. Geo. C. Higham, Secretary of the above Council, in addition to those previously announced in the LYCEUM BANNER:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	86	15	5
Rutherford Street Lyceum, Newcastle-on-Tyne...	0	10	0
Hebden Bridge Lyceum and Society ...	1	0	0
Blackpool Lyceum ...	0	3	0
Bury Spiritualists' Lyceum ...	1	1	0
Armley Spiritualists' Lyceum ...	0	2	6
Heywood Progressive Lyceum ...	0	9	0
Gateshead Spiritualist Choir, Rectory Hall ...	2	0	0
Warrington Lyceum ...	0	9	0
Colne Leaders, Lyceum and Friends ...	1	0	0
Otley Road Lyceum and Society, Bradford ...	0	10	0
Boynton Street Lyceum, Bradford ...	1	0	0
Brighouse Lyceum and Society ...	0	7	6

£95 7 5

107, Burnley Road, Padiham, near Burnley.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Subscription List on behalf of Mr. Reuben Latham will be closed after January 16th, 1912. Those wishing to subscribe are requested to forward their subscriptions to the Secretary, on or before the above date.

GEO. C. HIGHAM, Secretary.

107, Burnley Road, Padiham, near Burnley.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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 after December 29th.

RULE 3.—Ordinary reports must not exceed 120 words. Special reports will be inserted as follows: The first 120 words free of charge. All above that number will be inserted at the rate of 6d. for every nine words. Payment must accompany all special reports or they will be cut down and inserted as ordinary reports.

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later

than Wednesday, January 24th, to ensure insertion in the February issue.

ACCRINGTON (Carter Street).—Our Lyceum is doing very nicely, but I am sorry we are losing a family, Mr. Ormerod and two sons, oldest being our marching conductor, who have now sailed for Australia. Our good wishes for their success go with them. We held a farewell party on the last Saturday in November. The Lyceumists presented a purse to the two boys. On November 26th we had a good session, during which solos were sung by Miss Nellie Ormerod and Miss Sarah Ellen Lawson. In the evening a service of song "Ministering Spirits" was rendered, Miss Crabtree being the reader.—Miss Maggie Bryning, Secretary.

ASHINGTON.—We held a fruit banquet in connection with the Society, to which the Lyceumists were invited. The children rendered songs, recitations, etc., after which games were arranged by Bro. Barton. Bro. Redpath was the chairman, and Bro. Farcett, organist. There was a good attendance, and all were highly pleased with the evening's gathering.—H. Barton, Conductor.

BARROW (Abbey Road).—On Sunday, December 3rd, we held our Lyceum Anniversary. The services were conducted by our Lyceumists, the elder ones giving short addresses and the younger ones recitations, solos, etc. Only a poor attendance in the afternoon, but in the evening very good. The different items given were much appreciated by the friends. Everyone enjoyed the musical part of the programme.—W. Brooks, Sec.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On Sunday, December 17th, we held our election of officers which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Miss Metcalf; Assistant Conductors, Mr. Jump and R. Rotron; Guardian, Mr. J. Flanagan; Captain of Guards, Mr. W. Shaw; Guards, Nellie Lintott and Monro Waddilove; Treasurer, Mrs. McGreaves; Secretary, Joseph Shaw; Leaders of groups, Mr. Garnet, Mr. R. Rostron, and Mrs. Jump, whilst Miss Metcalf, Mr. Batten, and John Jump also volunteered their services. Musical Directors, Mr. Ridings and Mr. E. Pilkington. It was also decided to try for three months the system of two sessions per Sunday, at 10 a.m. and 1-45 p.m.—Joseph Shaw, Secretary.

BOLTON (Commission Street).—As the New Year dawns upon us so do we draw into service our newly elected Lyceum officers, which consists of Conductor, Miss Rostron; Assistant, Miss Violet Wadilove; Secretary, Mr. Hibbert; Treasurer, A. Bridge; Musical Conductor, B. Mayoh; Assistants, R. Pilkington and L. Bolton; Guardians, E. Howard and E. Bridge; Marching and Calisthenics, J. Hibbert and L. Neild; Visitors, A. Bridge and L. Neild; Leaders of Groups, Mr. Robinson; Ernest Bolton, and Violet Wadilove.

BRADFORD (Boynton Street).—We held our open session on Sunday, December 3rd. In the morning recitations were given by Masters N. Haley and F. Johnson. Miss Tempest sang, and the Misses Leckie and Fernihough gave a duet, which was well rendered. Miss Florrie Winder recited, and the Misses Ada and Annie Carter gave a duet from the *Manual*. In the afternoon the silver chain recitation was taken by Master W. Gibson. Musical reading by Ada Carter, Masters N. Haley and F. Johnson, and the Misses A. Ward and F. Winder. N. Johnson and Hilda Croft recited. It is with pleasure we have to record the silver wedding of two of our elder Lyceumists, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Fernihough, which was celebrated in our rooms in honour of the event. We all join in hoping that they may live to celebrate their golden wedding.—A. E. Carter.

BRADFORD (Holme Street).—On December 3rd we held our open sessions morning and afternoon, when we had a fairly good attendance. The responses were also good. The following gave recitations: Masters H. Robinson, G. E. Robinson, and Misses E. Gush and E. Snarey. Solos by Messrs. V. Snarey, W. Robinson, E. Robinson, and Miss Chambers. Mr. Lightowler ably conducted the session. During the week we had Mr. Hanson G. Hey with us who gave an essay to the Lyceum Study Group on the "Seven Principles of Spiritualism." A most enjoyable evening.—W. Robinson, Secretary.

BURNLEY (Hammerton Street).—On Sunday, December 3rd, we had a very pleasant open session, when the following programme was gone through: Recitations by Alice Longworth, Martha Longworth, and Mrs. Chappell. Songs were nicely rendered by Miss E. Longworth, Miss S. Hoole, Mr. W. Metcalf and Master A. Hoole. Readings from the *Manual* were given by Mr. A. Thornton, Ivy Redman, Dorothy Landsown, and Fred Parkinson. Mrs. Rhodes named the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Barrowclough. On Saturday, December 16th, the children of our Lyceum gave an Operetta, entitled "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Our warmest thanks to the children, and those who so ably tutored them, for providing us with one of

the best concerts we have ever had at our school.—(Mrs.) S. A. Riley, Secretary.

BURY (off Paradise Street).—On Christmas Day we held our Annual Tea Party and Entertainment. Close on a hundred persons sat down to tea, after which there was a grand entertainment, consisting of a musical drama in four acts, entitled a Christmas Carol, which was played splendidly by members of the Lyceum and Society. Also a French Farce, entitled "French before breakfast," which was very laughable, played by members. Taken on the whole the programme was gone through splendidly, under the careful tuition of Mr. Frank Hepworth, who played the leading parts in both the Carol and Farce.—W. Rockliffe, Secretary.

CHADDERTON (off Brook Street).—On Dec. 3rd we held our Lyceum Open Sessions, afternoon and evening. The marching and calisthenics were fairly good. Recitations were given by Elsie Cartwright, Joshua Cartwright, Harold Oldfield, and one in the Lancashire dialect by Mr. G. Wilson. Solos by May and Florrie Evans, and Mr. Holden. Mrs. Schofield gave a reading from the *Manual*. There was also a good response to pearls. Miss Greenwood and Miss James, from central Lyceum, sang "Angels lead my footsteps." Mr. Whiteley was Musical Conductor. On the 10th Mr. Taylor, D.V. and two friends from Heywood, paid us a visit, giving us good advice and a little tuition for the welfare and success of our Lyceum.—Mrs. M. Oldfield.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, Dec. 10th, we held our usual Open Session, when recitations from the following were much appreciated:—Evelyn Elliott, Flora Bramwell, Annie Smith, Lizzie Hewitt, Nellie Aris, Ethel Wale, Beatrice Wilkinson, Wilfred Fletcher, Willie Fletcher, Willie Latham and George Winwood; violin solo, Mr. Widdowson; violin and banjo duet, Mr. Wale and Miss Wale. We should like to extend heartiest Season's Greetings from Chesterfield Lyceum to all Lyceums at home and abroad, and best wishes for spiritual progression during 1912.—E. Widdowson, Secretary.

DEARNLEY.—Sunday, Dec. 3rd, was our Lyceum Day. In the afternoon we had a P.S.A., conducted by Lyceumists. In the evening we held our Open Session, when we had a good attendance of Lyceumists and friends, including several from Rochdale and Todmorden. After we had taken the silver and golden chain recitations, our Conductor left it open for questions and discussion. There were several questions asked by friends. Mr. Fred Knott, of Rochdale, who was present with us, answered the questions, and also gave a short address on Lyceum work. Altogether, I think, we had a most profitable session.—Mrs. E. Dean.

EARBY.—We had a moderate attendance at our Open Session on Dec. 3rd. Recitations and readings were given by Misses D. Phroffitt, E. Maunder, R. Ward, D. Bartlett, M. Hodgkinson and C. Riding, and a solo by Mrs. J. W. Clark. Mr. G. Bradley conducted. I think we are progressing nicely.—J. W. Clark, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD (off Westwell Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 3rd, we paid a visit to Rishton, when we had another combined session. We also had a few visitors from Blackburn. Readings were gone through very smartly, and the marching also. We had solos by Mr. Baxter, L. Holt and A. Holt. Afterwards we had a pianoforte duet by E. Leaver and Richard Leaver.—Miss A. Anderton, Secretary.

HOLLINWOOD (Byrom Street).—Our Lyceumists gave a Service of Song on Sunday night, Dec. 17th, entitled "Abbey Bells" (reader, Mr. Wood, Manchester). There was a good attendance. Mr. Prestwich officiated at the organ, and the choir sang very well. Altogether it was an enjoyable evening.—W. Fitton, Secretary.

HOLLINWOOD (Hudson Street).—On Sunday, Dec. 3rd, we had our Lyceum Anniversary. In the afternoon, at 2-30, we had Open Session and a good attendance. We went through the marching and calisthenics very nicely. In the evening, at 6-30, we had a service of song, entitled "Ministering Spirits." Reader, Miss Cadman, of Chadderton. The after circle was conducted by Mrs. Thornton, of Hollinwood, and Miss Cadman, of Chadderton. Altogether we had a very good time. On Saturday we had our Christmas tea party and social, which was well attended. On Christmas morning we went out carol singing till about 6 o'clock.—Wm. Hy. Dawson, Sec.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street).—On Saturday, Dec. 2nd, a social evening was promoted in aid of the caretaker and accompanist. An impromptu entertainment was arranged of songs, recitations, trio, etc. There was a good attendance, and refreshments were served during the evening. Sunday, Dec. 3rd, was our half-yearly meeting and election of officers for the ensuing six months, when the following were elected:—

Conductor, Mr. G. Smart; Assistant Conductor and Secretary, Mr. Frost; Treasurer, Mr. E. Walsh; Guardian, Miss Emsutt; Marching and Calisthenics, Messrs. Fernihough and Gough; Librarians, Messrs. Fernihough and Davies; Musical Directors, Messrs. Gough, Rycroft, Gilbert, Fernihough, Ridgways, Robson; Leaders, Messrs. Ridgways, Walsh, Davies, Fernihough. It is hoped the Lyceum will improve during the next twelve months.—R. Frost, Secretary.

KETTERING (Silver Street).—A Lyceum was successfully opened here on Dec. 10th by the Missioner, Mr. Wootten Harvey. Fifteen children came through the pouring rain. The children were instructed in the chain recitations and other features of the Lyceum system, which was quite interesting to them. We trust the good work done will be ably sustained.—Wootten Harvey.

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NEWCASTLE, BENWELL.—We held our open session on December 3rd, in the absence of our planned speaker, Miss Lawrence. Our conductor, Mr. Dodgson, gave spirited addresses to the children on Lyceum work, which were very attentively listened to. The President of the parent society also spoke a few words on "Conduct" in the Lyceum. Recitations and pearls by the children and leaders. The pearls are becoming quite a feature now and the time is eagerly looked forward to by the children. Altogether a very pleasant and helpful time, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.—Mrs. M. Salkeld, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (Rutherford Street).—On Sunday, December 3rd, we held our open session, which was well attended, especially by the younger Lyceumists. Silver and golden chain recitations were well responded to, and the marching was energetically done. Solos were rendered by Miss E. Elnor, Master E. Curtis and Messrs. A. Brinklow, G. Dawson, and J. Walton. On December 13th we had our bazaar, which was a great success. On December 18th we held a social evening, which was much enjoyed by everyone.—Nellie Taylor, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—On December 1st a concert was held for the benefit of the Lyceum, and proved a success in every way. A high class programme was provided by the following well known local artistes, and greatly enjoyed by all: Misses Lilian Baxter, soprano; and Nance Bullin, contralto (both of Hucknall); Madam Newton, elocutionist; Messrs. R. Cordon, flautist; S. Fillingham, humorist; and the Byron Quartette Party (Gold Medallists); Messrs. H. Bloor, alto; P. Butler, tenor; F. Woolley, baritone; and J. Clare, bass. The sum of £12 3s. 6d. was handed over to the treasurer by Mr. J. Hopkin, who had the concert in hand. Our thanks are due to Mr. Hopkin and the artistes for their generous services.—A. Shipley, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Mechanics Hall).—November 26th, open session. Recitations were given by Amy Reynolds, Hilda Hartwell, Gracie Holmes, Cissie Randall, Mabel Reynolds, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Newham, Mr. Peel and Miss Stanley. Solo by Ida Rayner. Mr. J. W. Rayner gave two violin solos. Subjects given in the Liberty Group: Mr. Peel, "An experience in a coal mine," "A wonderful machine, the body," and "Arguments against Spiritualism;" Mr. Reynolds, "Death, what then?"—Lewis Cooke, Secretary.

PADIHAM.—We celebrated Christmas by having a Christmas tree and tea party on Monday, December 25th, when 80 persons sat down to a good repast, which was served entirely by our Lyceumists. After tea we spent the evening in a social manner. Mr. A. Butler and Misses A. McManus and May Dandy contributed to our entertainment. Mr. Anderton ably presided at the piano. Thanks are due to our conductor, Mr. Higham, and a band of willing workers who made the affair such a success. The proceeds are for the purchase of new Manuals and Songsters.—G.C.H.

PRESTON (Clarke' Yard).—On Sunday, December 3rd, we held our monthly open session with a fair attendance of scholars. The marching and calisthenics were very well done. The readings were well responded to. Recitations were given by Misses Alice Spencer, Rena Collis, Annie Collis, Nellie Spencer, M. A. Margison, Will Beetham, Mabel Cartmell and John Cartmell. Songs were rendered by Miss Amy Coupe and Miss Fanny Moorby.—J. Downey, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—On December 2nd we held our annual tea party and prize distribution. Choice books were presented by Mr. Reuben Latham, of Burnley. Mrs. Nurse, one of our conductors and Vice-President, introduced Mr. Latham, and spoke of his work in the Lyceum movement, and appealed to the Lyceumists to take a lesson from it. Mr. Latham especially pleased everyone by the able manner in which he spoke to the children, also the elders, to attend the Lyceum and take an interest in its welfare. The entertainment during the evening was given by the Lyceum scholars. A good number of friends were present and a very enjoyable time was spent.—J. Nurse, Secretary.

ROYTON (Cotton Street).—On December 9th, we held a farewell party and presentation to one of our most faithful workers leaving for America. Mr. Stretton, conductor, presided, and

Mr. Wolstenholm made the presentation. Songs were rendered by Messrs. Stretton, Jackson, Wolstenholm, Smith and others. Also an unveiling of the members' photos by the President. On November 26th we held our Lyceum open session. In the evening the service of song "Ministering Spirits" was well rendered by Misses Shepherd, Thornton, and Mr. J. W. Kenyon. Both afternoon and evening were well attended.—C. Stretton, Conductor.

ROYTON (Union Street).—On December 10th we held our anniversary. In the afternoon we had an open session. Mrs. Nurse gave a short address and complimented us on our marching. Solos by Miss Garside and Mr. Chisnall. Miss Greaves and Roebottom gave recitations. Our silver chain recitation was No. 30, and the golden chain 106. A good session. In the evening Mrs. Nurse spoke on "The child and its growth." Mr. Chisnall rendered a solo, "Beautiful Hills." The Lyceum choir gave a selection from the Songster, under the able tuition of Mr. Cockroft, our organist.—Miss B. Clarke, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, DARNALL.—Our Society having decided that one Sunday per quarter be allowed to the Lyceum we held our third Lyceum day on Sunday, December 24th, when our speaker was Mr. E. Vickers, of Heeley, our District Visitor, who took for his subject in the evening "The teachings of the Lyceum." An inspiring address but only a poor audience. Recitations rendered by Ada Cottam, Amy Gallimore, Clara Wilson, Mary Roberts, and Cyril Gunstone. No. 332, "Waiting on the other side," was sung by the children in memoriam for Horace Saxelby Salmon, who passed to the higher life on October 25th, 1911. Miss V. Stoakes at the organ and Mr. R. Bowmer conducted.—Geo. Sharman, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—Owing to the exigencies of her scholastic curriculum, Miss Alice Smart has been reluctantly compelled to relinquish her post as Lyceum Secretary. During the past month the Lyceum has been conducted and addressed by the Misses E. Monk, M. Riding, and Messrs. T. Devereux, C. Houldcroft, Victor Cain, E. Beardsworth and G. Robb (D.V.). We were highly complimented by the last mentioned on our general efficiency. Having received a large number of costly books on the Occult from a generous donor—a lady—we propose, next week, inaugurating our new library. On the 31st December, Mr. Beardsworth addressed the Lyceumists on "What might have been, compared to what is." Watchnight service conducted by Mrs. Hyde.—Maud M. L. Riding, Secretary.

STOCKTON.—On December 3rd we had our open session. A beautiful morning, which tuned the hearts of all that were present. There were 40 present and 7 sick. Recitations were given by Arthur Carter, Lily Williams, and Hilda Jones. Marching and calisthenics were a little improved. Our assistant conductor gave some encouraging advice to the Lyceum. Our Conductor winding up the session with general remarks.—H. W. Westbrook, Secretary.

TODMORDEN, RIVERSIDE.—On December 3rd, we held our open session, a profitable time was spent. December 17th we had election of officers for 1912, as follows: Conductors, Mr. A. J. Scholfield and Mr. W. Clarke; Assistants, Miss B. Lee and Mr. L. Sutcliffe; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. T. Wild; Assistant Secretary, Mr. F. Pratt; Auditor, Mr. W. Clarke; Guardians, Miss E. M. Lord and Mr. H. Stephenson; Captain of Guards, Mr. H. Stephenson; Guards, Miss L. Sutcliffe and Mas. H. Firth; Teachers, Senior Girls, Miss F. Fielden and Miss L. M. Firth; Junior Girls, Miss B. Lee and Miss B. A. Crossley; Senior Boys, Mr. W. Clarke and Mr. F. Pratt. 23rd, annual party, when Mr. A. J. Scholfield will distribute prizes to Lyceumists for regular attendance.—Thomas Wild, Hon. Secretary.

WARRINGTON, DRUID'S HALL (Sankey Street).—On Wednesday, November 20th, Mrs. Caldwell, of Wigan, gave a first-class entertainment in aid of our Lyceum; she occupied the whole of the evening before a crowded audience. The characteristic songs and gesture were rendered in a magnificent style. The character readings, by the sound of speech or step, were really marvellous. Any Lyceum or Society thinking of arranging entertainments could not do better than give Mrs. Caldwell a chance of showing her qualifications as an entertainer.—H. Foster, Secretary.

NAME OF TOWN NOT STATED.

On Sunday, December 3rd, we held our open session. Recitations were given by the children, followed by marching and calisthenics. Sorry to report such a poor attendance, as only two visitors were present. I am hopeful for a better outlook in the future.—J. Arnold, Secretary.