

THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

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ONE PENNY.

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

CHAPTER III.

Cutup came about noon to-day. She had walked a distance of four miles. Mrs. Daley had promised to send her on by an early train, but from the girl's reluctant confession, I found Mrs. Daley was not to blame. I feel sure the girl wished to shun society and human companionship. She had not much luggage; a large cotton handkerchief contained her wardrobe. She wore the same dark calico she had yesterday, a faded sunbonnet, a pair of stout shoes, and stockings the colour of a mud-puddle. I saw traces of tears on her cheeks, and she looked very weary. I did not wonder the poor child refused to become a passenger on the eight o'clock train. I did not allude to her scanty wardrobe, but she said:—

"I have not much, madam; I have been there two years, and never saw my own dresses after I entered the doors. I had good clothes—or better than these—for, though mother was sick all the time, she kept me neat."

The young voice was pathetic, and I saw a warm flush come on her cheek when she spoke the name "mother." I could not make the servant of her I had intended. She was not fit for a menial. I touched her softly on her white forehead, brushing back her curling hair, and kissed her on the cheek. This act started her from her feeling of desolation; she knew all love for me was not dead; she quivered from head to foot; her heart beat like the heart of a caught bird, and she trembled like a guilty criminal. There came a sudden ring of the bell, and looking hurriedly around, she fled through the oriel window, which was open. Then she stood looking upon the ground with downcast eyes and burning cheeks. Oh! how my heart ached for her. So proud, so humbled, so loving, so desolate. It was only a pedlar. I returned and went through the window to her.

"Cutty," I said, "you must not act like this. Is it because you are ashamed of your dress? Tell me, Cutty, why you are so shy."

"Because," she faltered—I put my arms around her. I thought of the angels who had healed my grief, of the free, pure air, of the birds in their liberty, of human love, which belonged by right to this child. "I will be responsible for her, the defenceless, motherless one. If I have taken her at my mercy, it shall be a blessed one. First, I will teach her to love me; then I will teach her that there is no despair in this world—that all is sweet, precious hope through eternity. I have suffered as she does. The difference in our years shall lend a charm to our intercourse; she shall feel secure beneath my shelter," were my inward thoughts and resolution. I fully remembered her expression of features when I asked her her last name, "Cutup what?" and she replied, "Anything I can get a chance to." I saw now that those words were the seat of a half-desperation, half-recklessness; and I shuddered, thinking what she might have been if left much longer an exile from truth and love. My whole soul was engaged. I had not felt so interested in anything since I buried my darling Cecil. Cutup would help me to bear the loneliness of his absence, and I would tell her how lovely his life had been; I would impress upon her how well I loved him, and he me, and I felt sure he would be glad I had taken this poor motherless little one under my protection.

So the days went by, and each one opened my eyes to see the girl's true character. I found love was life to her; but she had lived so long within herself, that I knew it would take time to draw her towards me as I fervently desired; and every day I felt so hurt by the appealing look in her eyes, that I did not commence to comfort her. I wanted my teachings to come about naturally. The more I studied her, the more I beheld evidences of martyrdom to her terrible religious belief. I thought her meditative, poetic eyes the most beautiful I had ever seen, and

I loved to watch her when she was in deep thought. I had sought for a servant and found a companion; and in three days' time found also that housework was not so disagreeable to me as it had been all through my life. I assisted Cutty in all the necessary labour of our pleasant home. In fact, I wanted to be with her at all times; so she washed and I wiped the dishes, she swept and I dusted, she stood on one side of the bed and I on the other, and when the work was done we went up stairs and sat down together.

I insisted on her sewing a little each day. Then I commenced her system of education. She pleaded so hard and pathetically to study at home that I consented. We got Cecil's old school books out, and she went to work with determined resolve. But I was greatly amused at the theological questions she would mix up with everything she did. I engaged a dress-maker to make her a complete outfit, and I bought her a pretty new hat and two pairs of neat boots.

I was astonished when I showed them to her. I longed to see her clap her hands and express her delight, her bounding expression of joy and delight. That she was very grateful was evident by her whole expression. She wore her new clothing with the dignity of a woman of the world. In order to make her seem less a woman, I decided she should have a companionship of one of her own years. Across the way lived Mrs. Holt, who had a daughter two years younger than Cutty, a pretty, frolicking piece of flesh, full of wit and humour.

I invited Lizzie Holt over to see Cutty, and was again disappointed. I found that Cutty shrank away from her visitor, but Lizzie kept up her visits, and Cutty became a little more friendly.

One afternoon, when returning from Cecil's grave, my heart calm and peaceful with the intuitive communication I had held with my darling, I chanced to come suddenly unawares on Cutty and Lizzie, sitting together in the summer-house. I did not intend to listen to their conversation, but I heard Cutty's voice speaking excitedly, which was so unusual that I paused to learn the cause. "What makes me so sober, Lizzie? I should think everybody would be sober when there is so little chance of getting to heaven."

"Go there sure enough," exclaimed the roguish Lizzie, "I s'pose—I don't think much about it; what's the use? Who cares for the church members? I know for sure some of 'em won't go to heaven; and if they ain't scared, when they know all about it, I ain't."

The child dropped her voice almost to a whisper, and added, "Dacon Gurney stole wood off my father's wood-pile, 'cause father saw him by the moonlight; his wife puts water in the milk she sells, 'cause I saw her myself; and Miss Green,—she's a great Christian—told an awful lie. She said she paid five dollars for her new bonnet, and mother asked the milliner herself, and she said she only paid two and a half; and I know lots of wicked things church members do,—lots and lots. They expect to go to heaven; and if they do, wicked's they be, I shall go, I know!"

Cutty said, very solemnly, "I should not think they would dare to do so; they are of the elect, you know, Lizzie."

"What's the elect?" asked Lizzie.

"Oh! God's chose so many people from the commencement of the world to be saved."

"Saved at any rate?" asked Lizzie, with expectant face.

"I suppose so," answered Cutty. "I hardly understand it; we must all try, I suppose, because we don't know whether we are of the elect or not."

"Then I'll run my chance," exclaimed Lizzie.

"You know you must do all you have got to do here. Lizzie, because if you happen to die wicked, you never, never will be happy any more—you go away into everlasting torment."

"What's that hell fire," said the child, jumping up from her seat. "I don't believe it," she added; "flesh can't burn forever—we should burn right up."

"'Tis the soul," said Cutty.

"Then my Sunday school teacher and the minister tell a lie. They say there can't anything hurt the soul—that you can't destroy it."

"But it does burn forever," argued Cutty; "the Bible says so."

"Oh!" exclaimed Lizzie, "I guess its the skeleton that burns, 'cause I saw Dr. Martin's skeleton; he keeps it hung up

in his back study. Oh! oh!" shuddered the child, "and I see there's teeth in the head now: you know it says, 'There shall be gnashing of teeth,' so of course it must be the skeleton. Pooh! that won't hurt."

Cutty evidently felt quite shocked with Lizzie's logic, for she said piteously, "You couldn't talk so if you had buried all your people as I have mine."

"Don't you think your folks have gone to heaven?" asked Lizzie, looking into Cutty's eyes with strange wonder.

The child shivered and sighed, and whispered, "Don't let's talk any longer."

I turned away with a heavy heart to think of the agony of mind and heart Cutty was enduring concerning the fate of her father, mother and brother. And I resolved to dispel her terrors by teaching her the new revelation. Her "wilderness shall blossom like a rose." It was near tea-time, so I said joyfully, "Come, dear, we will go down now and get tea."

"Please let me do it to-night, Mrs. Blake; black Jennie told me to-day you never did a thing until I came here. I do not want you to work—it is so little, I can do it all easily. Your hands are so white and small—they were not made for housework."

"Not quite thirteen," I remarked as I smiled at the compliment, and so well educated in housekeeping. "I wonder what the girls of the period would say to see you making the tea, measuring the tea in the top of the canister, setting the table, cutting the bread, turning the toast like a good little housewife!"

CHAPTER IV.

I love the twilight now. When Cecil died, how I dreaded the twilight, for then my gloom increased, and tears came fast and I remembered how many twilights we had sat together, hand in hand, watching the sun set, heart communing with heart. How we planned our future and talked of religion which we never questioned—for we were together then and our souls were content. Cutty had been gone across to see Lizzie Holt, so long that I began to grow uneasy about her, and thought I would go for her. As I drew near I heard her laugh heartily; it did me good, for it was the first time I had heard her laugh. Lizzie had a large piece of ribbon tied round the cat in bows nearly as big as Miss Tab herself. Little Carlo, the dog, was encouraged to bark at the cat, who naturally had her back up in true Grecian bend style.

"I told you, Cutty, I'd show you how them ladies looked in Washington Street when I went to Boston with father the other day," she remarked at the comical appearance.

Mrs. Holt called me on one side and asked—

"What makes Cutty so sad and mature Mrs. Blake?"

"Oh!" I replied, "she has leaped the bounds of girlhood into trouble. She has buried her mother, father and brother."

Mrs. Holt sighed, saying, "Well I never should think she came from the poor-house. I wish Lizzie behaved half as well. But she talks the queerest on religion, Mrs. Blake. I am in hopes she'll frighten Lizzie into being less roguish; but somehow, the child never was much alarmed by the thought of future punishment."

"And I hope she never will be," I remarked.

Mrs. Holt looked at me with astonishment, and let the matter drop.

I led Cutty home, and drew her attention to the soft beautiful moonlight, bathing all the scenery in its silvery radiance. I could see there was a struggle going on within; the quivering lips, the downcast gaze and twitching fingers were quite evident of her mental conditions. She leaned towards me and burst into a flood of tears, sobbing—

"Mrs. Blake, I can't help it! I can't—Oh! I can't!"

"Cutty, what is it! tell me, dear, I will help you if I can."

"It—is—because—perhaps—what makes me cry—is—because you are so kind to me. I never meant to love anybody again, I have been hard-hearted so long." "No, darling, not hard-hearted." When I called her 'darling' she threw her arms around me, and quivered in my arms like a frightened dove. I caressed her, saying tenderly, 'poor little lamb.' Her heart seemed breaking with the anguish of memory and the knowledge that love for her had not perished wholly out of earth.

"Other used to call me that," she remarked, as soon as she could stifle her sobs. She was a good mother, Mrs. Blake, only she was so discouraged,—and—and—" she faltered.

I knew she must have courage so I pillowed her head on my bosom, and said, "Now, Cutty dear, tell me all, and I will tell you all about how I suffered when Cecil, my precious boy, died, and for so many long months afterwards. Tell me all, dear, I know I can make you happy." She looked at me; her lips trembled with incredulity.

"You cannot Mrs. Blake; 'tis not for me to be happy—but to think they are miserable, and must be through all eternity—that there is no happiness in my being good or trying to love God. I had rather be wicked and go where they are."

"Cutty," I said softly, "do not think so; wait a little until I explain these things to you; you have been educated by the old, worn out religion."

"And it seems so cruel," she interrupted me in her eagerness to explain, "that mother was so wicked here because she was so plagued, and then when she died she must be punished there for ever and ever."

"Oh! Mrs. Blake, I cannot love God, how can I?"

"Cutty, if this life was a total failure to your mother she will overcome it in the other life, and rise glorified through her experience."

"But she has no chance. Then, again, perhaps she was not one of the elect."

I knew that with her marvellous reasoning powers I must render into her understanding clear explanations. I was thankful for her wonderful intuition, for of course it would help me in my task, for I resolved to attack the false doctrine at its foundation; the axe should be laid at the root of the tree.

"Cutty, have you been to Sunday school much?"

"Yes'm, most always."

"Have you your catechism here?"

"Yes'm."

"Well, dear, supposing we go in and look over it a little."

"I don't like it," she answered.

"Why, Cutty?"

"You know, Mrs. Blake, I think."

I did know, but gave her no reply. Taking her hand in mine, and breathing an inward prayer to be inspired to teach her aright, I asked her,—

"How long is it since the world was created?"

"About six thousand years," she replied.

So very gently and simply I related to her the story of the birth, and growth, and developments of the earth as taught by the ablest geologists. Noting the long millions of years required to lay down the various stratified rocks. She listened with a look of incredulity on her features, which gradually gave place to a look of wonder and amazement. "What is God?" was my next question. "The creator of the world—a being without commencement or end," came the ready answer. "What do you think, Mrs. Blake?"

"God is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, He is defused through all space, and worlds."

"Well, Mrs. Blake, it is said we are of God—in His image—what does it mean?"

"Man is a finite image of God, within him is the God—principle, the soul, which is hidden in his being as the gem is hidden in the hard rock. It should be the object of all religions to enable each individual soul to break through its coverings and reveal its divine, angelic nature, was my answer to her problem.

(To be continued.)

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTION.

A special Executive Council meeting is to be held to deal with the revision of the Lyceum Union's Constitution. Lyceums having amendments or recommendations to place before the Executive Council are urgently requested to send them at once to the General Secretary of the Lyceum Union.

And, also, in order to rectify the unsatisfactory way in which "Grace" is rendered at tea parties, many Lyceums using the old orthodox words, "Be present at our table Lord," etc., the Executive Council respectfully urge that the verse No. 327 in the Lyceum Manual be printed on all tea tickets, so that all may be able to join in singing it.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,

AN APPEAL FOR MANUSCRIPTS.

In accordance with the following resolution passed by the Delegates in Conference assembled at Bradford on June 4th, 1911, the Executive Council beg to solicit the help of all Lyceumists who possess suitable silver and golden chain recitations, musical readings, Lyceum songs, melodies, etc., original or selected, that are not restricted by copyright; and that they will kindly send the same on to the Lyceum Union's Secretary, in order that they may be submitted to a sub-committee, and their merits reported to the Executive Council:—

"That having regard to the fact that the prolonged efforts have up to the present failed to secure for the B.S.L.U. possession without restrictions or reservations of the copyright of the *Lyceum Manual* and *Spiritual Songster*, this Conference instructs the E.C. to initiate steps towards the compiling of similar books, so that if future events make the acquirement of the present books impossible, the Union shall not be found unprepared."

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,

17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

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

BY THE EDITOR.

But Danae hung down her head, and sobbed out: "Tell me to what land I have come, unhappy woman that I am, and among what men I have fallen?"

And he said: "This isle is called Seriphos [Sē-rī-fos], and I am a Hellen (the ancient name of Greece), and dwell in it. I am the brother of Polydectes [Pol-i-dec-tēz] the king; men call me Dictys [Dick-tēz] the netter, because I catch the fish on the shore."

Then Danae fell down at his feet and cried:—"Oh, sir, have pity upon a stranger, whom a cruel doom has driven to your land; and let me live in your house as a servant; but treat me honourably, for I was once a king's daughter, and this my boy is of no common race. I will not be a charge to you, or eat the bread of idleness, for I am more skilful in weaving and embroidery than all the maidens of my land."

Then Dictys lifted her up, and said:—"My daughter, I am old, and my hairs are growing grey; and I have no children to make my home cheerful. Come with me, then, and you shall be a daughter to me and my wife, and this babe shall be our grandchild. For I fear the Gods, and show hospitality to all strangers, knowing that good deeds, like evil ones, always return to those who do them."

So Danae was comforted, and went home with Dictys, the good fisherman, and was a daughter to him and his wife till fifteen years were past, during which time the babe grew to be a tall lad and a sailor, and went on many voyages to the islands.

His mother called him Perseus [Pēr-sūs]; but all the people in Seriphos said he was not the son of mortal man, and called him the son of Zeus, the king of the Immortals. For he was taller by a head than any man in the island, and was the most skilful in all out-door games, and was brave and truthful, gentle and courteous, for good old Dictys had trained him well. And it was fortunate for Perseus that he had done so, for both he and his mother fell into great danger, and he had need of all his courage and skill to defend himself and mother.

The King had seen Danae and had fallen in love with her, but as he was greedy, crafty and cruel, she could not love him. At last Polydectes became furious, and while Perseus was away at sea, he took poor Danae away from the care and protection of his brother Dictys, saying, "If you will not be my wife, you shall be my slave." So she was made a slave, and had to fetch water from the well and grind corn in the mill, and was beaten and ill-treated like slaves are, because she would not marry the cruel king.

One day, while Perseus was at Samos waiting for his ship loading, he wandered into a wood to get out of the fierce rays of the sun, and having found a nice shady place by the side of a rippling stream he sat down to enjoy the scenery, and fell asleep. As he slept he dreamed that a beautiful tall lady came to him, with large eyes, clear and piercing, as if able to read his innermost thoughts, yet they were strangely soft and mild. On her head was a helmet, and in her hand a spear. Over her shoulders, above her long blue robes, hung a goat-skin, which bore up a large shield of polished brass, which shone like

a mirror. She stopped in front of him and looked at him, and he felt as if she were looking him through and through, into his very heart, as if she could see all the secrets of his inner being, and know all that he had ever thought of and longed for since the day he was born. Perseus could not endure her gaze, but looked at the grass on his feet, and trembled and blushed, as the beautiful visitor said:

"Perseus, you must go on an errand for me."

"And who are you, lady?" he asked. "And how do you know my name?"

"I am Pallas Athene [Pal'las A-thē-nē]; and I know the thoughts of all men's hearts, and discern their manhood or their baseness. And from the souls of clay I turn away, and they are blest, but not by me. They fatten at ease, like sheep in the pasture, and eat what they did not sow, like oxen in the stall. They grow and spread, like the gourd along the ground, but, like the gourd, they give no shade to the traveller, and when they are ripe death gathers them, and they go down unloved into hades, and their name vanishes out of the land.

"But to the souls of fire I give more fire, and to those who are manful I give a might more than man's. These are the heroes and sons of the Immortals, who are blest, but not like the souls of clay. For I drive them forth by strange paths, Perseus, that they may fight the Titans [Ti-tans] and the monsters, the enemies of Gods and men. Through doubt and need, danger and battle, I drive them; and some of them are slain in the flower of youth, no man knows when or where; and some of them win noble names, and a fair and ripe old age; but what will be their latter end I know not, and none, save Zeus, the father of Gods and men. Tell me, now, Perseus, which of these two sorts of men seem to you more blessed?"

Then Perseus answered boldly: "Better to die in the flower of youth, on the chance of winning a noble name, than to live at ease like a sheep, and die unloved and unrenowned."

"Tell me, O! fair and wise Goddess, how I can do this one thing, and then, if need be, I will die in the attempt."

"Be patient, and listen," said the Goddess, smiling, "for if you forget my words you will indeed die. You must go northward to the country of the Hyperboreans [Hī-per-bō-rē-ans], who live beyond the north pole, the sources of the cold north winds, till you find the three Gray Sisters, who have but one eye and one tooth between them. You must ask them the way to the Nymphs, the daughters of the Evening Star, who dance about the golden tree, in the Atlantic island of the west. They will tell you the way to the Gorgon, Medusa, that you may slay her, my enemy, the mother of monstrous beasts. Once she was a maiden as beautiful as the morn, till in her pride she sinned a sin at which the sun hid his face; and from that day her hair was turned into vipers, and her hands to eagle's claws; and her heart was filled with shame and rage, and her lips with bitter venom; and her eyes became so terrible that whosoever looks on them is turned to stone; and her children are the winged horse and the giant of the golden sword; and her grandchildren are Echidna [Ek-id-na], the witch-adder, and Geryon, the three-headed tyrant, who feeds his herds besides the herds of Hades [Hādēz]. So she became the sister of the Gorgons, Stheino and Euryte [Sthe-i-nō and U-rī-te], the abhorred, the daughters of the Queen

of the Sea. Touch them not, for they are immortal, but bring me only Medusa's head."

"I will bring it," said Perseus; "but how am I to escape the evil look of her eyes? Will they not turn me, too, into stone?"

"You shall take this polished shield," said the Goddess, Athene, "and when you come near her do not look directly at her, but at her image as it is reflected in this polished shield. And when you have struck off her head, turn your head away from it till you have got it safely wrapped up in the folds of the goat-skin on which the shield hangs, the hide of Almatheie [Al-ma-thē-e], the nurse of the Ægis-holder. So you will bring it back safely to me, and win to yourself renown, and a place among the heroes who feast with the Immortal Gods upon the peak where no winds blow."

"I will go," exclaimed Perseus, bravely, "though I die in the going. But how shall I cross the sea without a ship? And who will show me the way? And when I find her, how shall I slay her, if her scales be iron or brass?"

Then Mercury, who accompanied the Goddess, stepped forward and said: "These winged-sandals of mine will bear you across the seas, and over hill and dale like a bird, as they bear me all day long; for I am the messenger of the Immortals who dwell on Olympus."

Then Perseus bowed low in worship, while Mercury continued with his instructions:

"The sandals themselves will guide you on the road, for they are divine and cannot stray; and this sword itself, the Argus-Slayer, will kill her, for it too is divine, and needs no second stroke. Arise, gird them on, and go forth."

So Perseus arose, and girded on the sandals and the sword.

"Now leap from the cliff and be gone," commanded the Goddess.

"May I not bid farewell to my mother and to Ditys? And may I not offer burnt offerings to you, and to Mercury, the far-famed Argus-slayer, and to Father Zeus above?" asked the youth.

"You shall not bid farewell to your mother," exclaimed the Goddess, "lest your heart repent of your promise at her weeping. I will comfort her and Ditys until you return in peace. Nor shall you offer burnt-offerings to the Immortals; for your offering shall be Medusa's head. Now leap, and trust in the armour of the Immortals."

(To be continued).

WALSALL.—Sunday, January 7th, was celebrated as Open Session. Mr. John Jenkins conducted, in the unavoidable absence of the President, through illness. The session was made inspiring and instructive through the services of Misses Morgan, Shekleton, Ware, Mason, Messrs. Hutchinson and J. A. Jenkins. The Conductor welcomed many old and new faces to the Lyceum and appealed for united effort to make 1912 a record success in the history of the school. Miss Mabel Thomas accompanied at the organ in an able manner.—J. A. J., Secretary.

YORK (High Onsegate).—We held our general meeting on Sunday, January 7th, when the following Lyceumists were appointed to hold office for the ensuing six months:—Conductor, Mr. Barker; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Rownton; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Clint; Guardians (2), Misses Rownton and Heaton; Leaders, Elsie Rich and Hector Kirby; Attendance Marker, Wilfred Clint; Treasurer, Mr. Clint; Librarian, Miss S. Knowles; Secretary, Charles Rich. We have also commenced an afternoon open session, which has proved very successful, the session being very popular with all classes. Good attendances being the order of the day. The desire to make the Lyceum a living entity is shared by officials and scholars alike. "The workers win."—Charles Rich.

Temperance Page.

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

THE FOURFOLD PLEDGE

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

DECORATING THE TRADE.

I wrote an article for this page quite a long time ago on the subject of Public House Trusts, and was very gratified to find that I had voiced the opinions of a number of my readers. In the meantime the Trust has been working quietly and cannot be said to have aroused very widespread public interest.

From an article in the "Daily News" of January 16th, it appears that the Home Counties Trust are seeking further share capital for an extension of their holdings, and one may be forgiven for concluding that the article in question is only an ingenious advertising device. This may therefore be an opportune occasion for a further reference to the topic of Trust Public Houses.

It is from Gothenburg in Sweden, in what is there styled the "Bilag" system, that the idea took root of using the profits of the Drink Trade for the ultimate destruction of that Trade. There is nothing approaching unanimity as to the success of the Swedish scheme and it is held by many investigators that it has increased and not diminished drunkenness in Sweden.

The principles as introduced by Lord Grey, the founder of the first English Public House Trust, have been maintained fairly consistently throughout, except that the companies, instead of building their own houses in a distinctive style, are simply acquiring already existing public houses, and apparently running them without structural alterations in a number of cases. The professions of the Trusts are that they discourage the sale of intoxicating liquors by granting the managers of the public houses commission only on the sale of food and non-intoxicating refreshments, such as tea, coffee and mineral waters. Further, they propose to limit the amount of the profits which may be applied for the payment of dividends to their shareholders, and to give away any remaining surpluses to charitable institutions or to local bodies for town improvements, libraries, and the like.

This scheme poses as a reform of the public house, and a step in the direction of sobriety. In other words the founders of the movement realise that drunkenness is a curse, and they further realise that their fellow-countrymen have awakened to a consciousness of the fact. It is for this cause that they have decorated the public house, that they have sought to cover the running sores and the horror of its nakedness with a garb of respectability and virtue. There is still money to be made out of the "Trade," and it is nice for sensitive investors to feel that their money is helping to pay for the hospital as well as to send their brethren to beggary. The "philanthropic" principle of the Public House Trust, Ltd., appeals to the man who wouldn't like to be found out among the ordinary shareholders of a brewery concern.

The houses taken over by the Trust sell non-

alcoholic drinks, but they remain as much public-houses as ever. They offer increased enticements by their newness or cosiness or better appointment, without in any way removing the temptation to intemperance. If a customer wants tea or cocoa he must obtain it where the majority want beer or spirits. It is incredible that such a principle can promote sobriety. Nine teetotalers out of ten would prefer never to cross the door. To say that a man who is endeavouring to break away from the craving for drink should patronise the coffee department of a Trust public house, is to talk nonsense; he had better keep clear of the place altogether.

How can you be said to be befriending the cause of temperance by offering a man tea when you know he has come for gin and that you have a bottle of gin in readiness for him? If you wish the man to refrain from drinking gin, surely you should make a point of refusing to give him gin. By no stretch of imagination can you describe as friendly to temperance a movement whose chief act, if not its chief aim, is the sale of drink, whose premises are by various means made alluring to the idle and whose effort is to find countenance and patronage from a class which cannot enter a public house without a feeling of shame.

Most of my readers will have heard of that interesting community, the women of which earned their livelihood by taking in each other's washing. But ludicrous as we realise that economic plan to be, it is no more absurd, and much less tragic, than the plan of the Public House Trust, which offers to make a present of its profits over and above those absorbed by a reserve fund and a dividend of 5 per cent. on the subscribed capital. Some short time ago we heard how the Russians, having stolen from the Persians their national rights, and having established Russian control over the theft, proceeded to treat the unfortunate Persians as thieves at the first signs that they would like to have their own back. And now we have a company dealing in that which helps better than anything else to fill workhouses, prisons, hospitals and asylums, which breaks up homes and kills the nobler feelings in men, which is the natural enemy to advance, individually and nationally. Here we have such a company offering to support the institutions I have named with profits won out of their undoing. It is obviously the intention of those who contribute to charities that the work of such charities should be strengthened, but the Public House Trust contributes to charities a *small portion* of the funds it has accumulated by means which render the work of the charities more hopeless and pitiable. There is no credit in giving back a part of the goods one has stolen, still less is there a justification for making a virtue and a boast of it. To this extent the "philanthropy" of the Public House Trust is a cruel sham. If the directors have a real desire to promote sobriety and national honour, if they wish that the people may be better housed and enjoy brighter surroundings, if they wish that the problems of poverty and sickness may be made less acute, and if they desire to further these ends by grants of money, let them be consistent and keep their hands clean by banishing intoxicants from their premises. They will then remove the temptation to intemperance by removing the cause and they will have full scope for "pushing" the sale of non-intoxicating beverages. Their business success will not be at the expense of the institutions they desire to promote and their efforts will be worthy to be called philanthropic.

THE PEACE BRIGADE.

CONDUCTOR, C.W.M.

At the close of last year and opening out of this, millions of voices rang with the sentiments of peace, of peace on earth and good-will to humanity. For hundreds of years that cry has gone up, and yet now very far away it all seems. One's heart grows sad when one tries to realise the heartaches and the misery caused by nations going to war with each other. Think of the thousands of good, strong, able-bodied men, of all colours and countries, literally thrown into the Spirit World. Were they prepared? Had they accomplished the object for which they were sent into this life? I think not. What say you, my friends?

Before us lies a letter from our Burwood (Australia) friends, which we give for the benefit of all. It says:—"Will you send out full particulars regarding the Peace Brigade rules and regulations. We are in favour of the movement, even though I am in the Australian Rifle Regiment, and some of our boys are, and most of them will be members of the compulsory Training Scheme.

"The law out here provides that all boys who are medically fit must serve in the Citizen Forces from fourteen to eighteen as Senior Cadets, and from eighteen to twenty-six as soldiers of the Citizen Forces. So that makes it that the rising generation will have twelve years to do. Some boys don't mind it, but others do, and are being brought before the courts for bad conduct, etc., towards the officers. Any employer who attempts to stop any boy from doing his training is liable to a penalty of £100. Will you please let us know all about the Brigade?"

We are sorry to inform our Burwood friends that under the present conditions they could not become members of the Peace Brigade, the second rule of the oath of which reads, "I promise never to use arms of any description against any fellow creature." We do not advise anyone to do anything contrary to the laws of the country in which they live. But we must all look forward to the time when such inhuman laws as compulsory preparation for murder will be swept away in Australia and all other countries. We shall be a great deal nearer the realisation of that Brotherhood to which we are looking forward.

We have an essay from one of our comrades at Batley Carr, which we think is worthy of very careful consideration by all Lyceumists, both inside and outside of the Peace Brigade.

PEACE.

BY LIZZIE ROBERTS.

"Peace." What does it mean? First of all let us examine ourselves; and see if we are at "Peace with ourselves. Let us then think what we have done wrong and try our best to put it right. If we have quarrelled with anyone; friend or enemy; let us try to make it up with them and keep our "peace" with everyone no matter whom or where. If we do this then we *must* be at peace with God. If anyone says anything unpleasant to us or about us don't let us give "tit for tat," but let us rather keep a still tongue in our head and set a better example, and show them we can forgive if not forget. At anytime when anyone is in trouble let us try to help them, even if it is only by a word kindly spoken, and at the same time don't let us be thinking—"well, I wonder what they will give me," but let us be happy in the thought of living for others not for ourselves. Many times if we look around us we can see people drinking

intoxicants and gambling, don't let us point the finger of scorn at them, but let us try to talk to them when they can reason with us, and tell them what it has done for thousands of people and what it will do to them if they do not stop drinking or gambling. We may not be successful at our first attempt but don't let us get downhearted but try again to make some impression on the mind of the person, people may laugh at us but we shall be doing our best, let us always try to look on the bright side of life and press forward and upward to gain knowledge and understanding of the life that is to come. Of late, we have had a great upheaval in the country, what is it through? Why, through the masters' trying to ride over the heads of their employees. But peace has conquered at last.

So let us try to be at peace with man and God, and let us refresh ourselves and others, let us do our best to join friends together, to bring peace into the hearts of old people and to stand firm and constant in the path of duty. When we see little babies trying to walk we should think of ourselves trying to fight the battle of life alone. Why? We are always tottering and stumbling over the rough roads of life. Then let us ever be ready to learn from those who have trod the path. Let us not think ourselves above them, but rather, like little children, look up to their teachers—for we are only scholars in the schoolhouse of time. Therefore let us take all in that is true and for our good.

"Brigade." What does "brigade" mean? It means a number of people joined together to make one body, we have often heard of the "lads brigade." These are lads who have drum, bugle, and uniform. Bugles and drums to make them keep time and to let people know who and what they are. Don't you think that we could have drums, bugles, uniform, not what the words mean strictly speaking, but let our voices be drums and bugles and our faces our uniform. I don't mean let us shout at the top of our voices, but let us try to find the keynote, and when we have found it let us strike it hard. Never let us be fast to find a word of comfort to speak to the weary, and let us ever be ready to help our fallen brother or sister rise. These are ways of sounding our bugles and drums. Let us ever wear a smiling countenance for our uniform,—a smile and a cheery word goes a long way and costs nothing. I have often heard people say "why so-and-so always has a cheery word and a smiling face, and always seems so happy." Why! if anyone said that to us we could say, "That is because I am a member of the Peace Brigade, and I always try to bring happiness, sunshine and peace wherever I go. Then you see we should have sounded our instruments and worn our uniforms. How many of us have done this? Not very many of us I am afraid. We do all for our own good. Don't let us be like the snow, come for a short time then go away again, but let us keep it up for good. Don't let it be by jumps and giving up again, and so on, but keep it going quite smoothly all along the line. Let us be crusaders, to fight for the right; not with guns and swords, but with kind words and loving hearts towards our fellow creatures, whether friend or enemy. If anyone asks us to come forward and say or do anything, let us try to do it, and if we fail we can say we have done our best, and we cannot do any more."

Well done, little comrade, I am sure everyone will agree with the sentiments you have expressed, and hope more of your sex will take the opportunity of saying what they think about "Peace," and if we all do our best for the establishment of universal peace, then, as it says in the Lyceum Manual, "Angels can do no more."

Our Groups' Special.

DEAR BANNERITES,

In order to derive the largest measure of interest and profit from the study of this contribution I would recommend you to re-read the section supplied in the January number of the BANNER. What was the cause of Calvin's inhuman cruelty meted out to Servetus. Because the two differed in their interpretation of the "Eucharist" [U-ka-rist] or Lord's supper. Calvin insisted that when members of the Church partook of the Sacrament they *really did* eat of the *body*, and *drank in reality* of the *blood* of their Saviour, while Servetus held to the opinion that the Sacrament was symbolical, as a reminder of the nearness and living

reality of the Lord Jesus. And for this difference of opinion (which by the way to-day no one surely will argue that *either* opinion will make or mar the growth of righteousness in our midst), Calvin, the stronger power, caused Servetus to be lodged in an underground cell which reeked with filth and vermin, rats gnawing the living flesh from the body of the martyr, the while Calvin *sang praises to the love and goodness of his Creator*.

The foregoing account is but one instance among the tens of thousands of cruel tragedies that have been enacted in the sacred name of Religion. The thumb-screw, the maiden, the rack, and other hellish devices of soulless, ingenious torturers and murderers being employed in the process of "conversion" from unbelief.

It is refreshing to think that in times such as these one "Pope" should arise whose words were destined to bring a brighter view of God's wisdom and grandeur to the souls of struggling men and women who were desirous of ventilating holier and purer thoughts on life. This is the "Pope" whose expressions will live in the thoughts of mankind when other Popes' decrees have faded into oblivion, and their dogmatic assertions abandoned as accursed fetters of the soul. This is he who gave to the world that rich, poetical and truthful "Essay on Man," from which is extracted "The Divine Order," which constitutes No. 1 in our *Manual*.

The first lines suggest the unifying Spirit of God, by giving us the completion of sentient life in the harmonies of the Universe.

"All are but parts, of one stupendous whole, whose body Nature is, and God the soul." Mark the beauty, of the next succeeding lines "That, changed through all, and yet in all the same, Great in the earth, as in the ethereal frame." We observe the wonderful variety of life—manifestations around us, not only in what we call "organised" life, but in the denser or rarer forms of inorganic life. And yet in all forms of matter we observe some wonderful force of life-manifestation which prompts change and development. This is the great and all-penetrating God-spirit referred to by the poet. He further enlarges on the theme in the next lines.

"Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
Glow in the stars and blossoms in the trees,
Lives through all life, extends to all extent,
Spreads *undivided*, operates *unspent*."

The poet, after this comprehensive allusion to the spirit of God, vibrating throughout the extent and domain of Nature, then turns our thoughts to that marvellous product—*Man*.

"Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal part,
As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart.
As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,
As the rapt seraph that adores and burns;
To Him, *no high, no low, no great, no small*,
He fills, He bounds, connects and equals all."

With what grace, simplicity, and beauty the poet here describes the sweet impartiality of the God-Spirit! Contrast this interpretation of God with the teachings prevailing at the period of the poet's life. Pope's principles were characterised as blasphemous in that day, but, judging from the tenour of human thought to-day, the verdict will have to be reversed.

In the lines just quoted, we are urged to recognise the fulness of the God-spirit represented in what we describe as the variable conditions of life; that even in what appears insignificant and unimportant, the same magnanimity of wisdom and love is shown, as is

displayed in the more beautiful and spiritualised expression of life. This suggestion furnishes a difficult problem for mankind to solve correctly, for we can scarcely reconcile the evil or undeveloped demonstrations of life-forces, with the thought that the God-spirit runs through, and dwells in all the same.

It is here where the author draws up abruptly, and begins to admonish man, and in the next lines attempts to show who is at fault if we complain of Nature's revelations.

"Cease then, nor order imperfection name,

Our proper bliss *depends on what we blame,*

Here is the secret of our happiness or unhappiness. How ready we are usually to blame some external influence, when all things do not operate according to our ideas or reckonings. How often do we fall into error through taking too narrow and selfish a view of common causes of sorrow or unhappiness.

Epictetus, one of the world's greatest philosophers, said: "Men are disturbed, not by things, but by the principles and ideas which they form about them."

Marcus Aurelius, another of the world's great teachers, said: "It is not men's acts which disturb us, but our own opinion of them. Our own anger hurts us more than the acts themselves."

The poet then suggests the solution to this great problem: "*Know thine own point*"—(Self). Such is the advice urged upon all.

The ancient Greeks, who enriched the world with philosophy, emphasized the necessity of this self-study, and over the portico of the historical Delphic Temple inscribed their text: "*Man, know thyself.*"

The time-defying Shakespeare has urged the same teaching upon us, and has given us the sequence in the following beautiful and oft-quoted sentence: "To thine own self be true, and then it follows, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

(To be continued).

With the revival of the "puzzles" appears to have sprung up a renewed interest in this page, for on Sunday morning, Jan. 7th, the day when most Lyceumists who secure the *Banner*, would be opening the New Year number, there, snug in my letter-box, lay a correct solution of the puzzle appearing in the January *Banner*. This was quick work. In rapid succession quite a number of solutions followed each other through the trap in the door, until, within forty-eight hours more than a dozen attempts were received.

Altogether 25 solutions have been attempted, and 22 of these are correct. The failures are from Hunslet, Leicester, and Nottingham. The following places are represented by winners of the Merit Card:—Bolton, 1; Brighouse, 2; Burnley, 1; Crewe, 1; Chadderton, 1; Dearnley, 1; Derby, 1; Glasgow, 1; Horwich, 1; Hull, 1; Longton, 2; Littleborough, 2; Liverpool, 1; London, 1; Manchester, 1; Newcastle, 1; Oldham, 1; Royton, 1; Westhoughton, 1. A Merit Card has been forwarded to each of the successful competitors.

Look out for another puzzle in the March issue of the *Banner*.

312, Hornby Street,

Bury.

[We much regret District Visitors' Quarterly Reports and other important items are crowded out.—Ed. L.B.]

The Crucible.

A prominent worker who wrote to me some months ago embodied in his letter a suggestion "that Lyceums over a certain distance shall have the power to elect delegates from some of our home Lyceums, and that such delegates shall vote according to instructions received from the Lyceum appointing them." If there be any Lyceums who wish to do this I would point out that there is nothing in the Constitution to prevent them from doing so.

I believe there *are* Lyceums who elect delegates from outside their own number.

A correspondent from the North-east draws my attention to the difficulty experienced in getting Lyceums and Societies working together on a more or less uniform basis. This is a fact which has long been recognised by those who take a close interest in our movement. It cannot, however, be overcome by rules and regulations, the only remedy lying in the exercise of reason on *both* sides, together with the practice of the second principle of Spiritualism.

In venturing to offer some criticism on the proposed Constitution for the United District Council, I do so with the conviction that but few will agree.

In the first place, it is already on record in a previous article that I do not favour the Constitutional establishment of the U.D.C. That there are not many of a similar opinion is evidenced by the fact that the matter has proceeded as far as it has. However, until it is an accomplished fact it is not too late to press for the rejection of the proposition.

Perhaps I should here affirm my belief in the utility of such meetings as those now held by the U.D.C. I suggested in an earlier article that much good can be done by D.C. delegates meeting together occasionally and discussing matters of interest to the movement and of importance to its welfare, but if the present suggestion is carried out I cannot see how the position of the U.D.C. is going to be benefited, whilst it is surely obvious that its usefulness will be reduced.

In the first place, here we have District Councils proposing the formation of another body, more compact, more representative and yet more exclusive than they are themselves, the objects of which are, in the main, the same as their own. The inference to be drawn from this is that the D.C.'s find themselves unable or unwilling to do the work for which they are formed. If this is not so—and I do not think it is—surely it is both undesirable and superfluous to form another body. I venture to think that the object of the U.D.C. should be the exchange of opinions and unrestricted free discussion of such matters as are of interest to the work in hand, with a view to obtaining more uniform methods and greater sympathy between the Districts represented, and I think it will be admitted that such results can be best obtained where there is least officialdom.

The proposed Constitution provides for dual representation at Conferences. I wonder if D.C.'s ever give a thought to those Lyceums which are situated where no Council exists, or where, owing to isolation (geographically) no Council is possible. These have to be satisfied with their own representation, whilst those within a Council area have the advantage (no mean one) of more or less expert representation in addition. Why this should be further added to passes my comprehension, meagre though that may be, and seems to me to be unfair and unjust. Not only have

(Continued on page 25).

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ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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FEBRUARY, 1912.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1912.

"THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER."

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

The Executive Council's visit to Hull was a decided success. Holborn Hall is lofty and well lighted, capable of seating 500 people. The sessions were thoroughly representative of the district, and were characterised by order, harmony and enthusiasm.

We are now looking forward to April, when the Executive Council will visit Sheffield (Attercliff). We are anticipating a thoroughly representative gathering, and a record mass meeting.

"The Messenger," the official organ of the Yorkshire County Union of Spiritualists for January, has been increased to double its former size and price, and has also been given a cover. The number before us contains, among other interesting matter, an article on "Some needs of the Spiritual Movement," by Mr J Kay, in which he promises to consider the movement's attitude towards the Lyceum work. We wait further issues with interest. The number also contains a supplement bearing a good impression of the Editor, Mr. Robert H. Yates.

Will the friend who wrote to the secretary of the Kingston-on-Thames Lyceum last September, asking for a photograph of the Lyceum, please forward his address to the secretary, as his letter was accidentally lost, when a group photo will be forwarded with pleasure.

Mr. A. O. Thomas, 20, King Street, Darlaston, Staffs., has been appointed District Visitor for the Birmingham District, in the place of Mr. Morgan, resigned. We beg to bespeak for him a most cordial welcome by the Lyceums and Societies in his district. Foleshill and Wolverhampton need his special attention.

We learn with pleasure that a Lyceum is being started by the Gresley and Swadlucote Spiritual Evidence Society. No doubt the friends at Burton-on-Trent will lend them a helping hand in the formation and management of the new Lyceum.

A Lyceum Study Class, for the study of the *Lyceum*

Manual, has been in operation a long time at the China Street (Accrington) Lyceum, doing good educational work under the able management of Mr. W: l Edwards.

We are in receipt of well-executed prints of Mr. A. J. Davis and Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, the able Editors of the *Progressive Thinker*, along with a copy of *Heart Echoes*, a choice collection of songs compiled by Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader. The music and words are clearly and well printed, and will be a good collection for the American Lyceums.

A word of advice to Lyceum secretaries: Be sure to pay prompt attention to the Statistical Form, which should be filled up and signed by the secretary, and countersigned by the conductor, and sent to the Lyceum Union's General Secretary, along with the contributions, as no more goods can be supplied to Lyceums at the special low prices whose contributions are unpaid. Attend to this matter now, and save delay and disappointment.

SPIRITUALISTS' WEDDING.

An interesting wedding took place at the Parish Church, Mansfield, on January 20th, when the nuptials were solemnised of Mr C. Watkinson and Miss Lilian May Cannon, the daughter of the well-known medium, both of Mansfield. The Walsall, Sutton and Mansfield Spiritualists' Societies were well represented, and at the close of the ceremony the party drove to the hall in Quaker Lane, where 70 assembled. Later in the day the bridal pair left for Walsall, where they are spending their honeymoon.

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.

GLASGOW, KINGSTON.—Mr. and Mrs. McConnell return thanks to friends for the many tokens of love and sympathy sent in memory of Wee Willie, who passed on to Higher Life, 17th November, 1911.

Forget him! No, we never will.

We loved him here, we love him still,

Not love him less because he's gone

From this to his Eternal Home.

154, Park Street, Plantation, Glasgow.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Under this heading Lyceums, whose reports exceeds 120 words may have them inserted in full by enclosing 6d. for every extra nine words.

MANCHESTER, SOUTH (Princess Road).—On Sunday, December 31st, we had the election of officers. Conductor, Miss Harrison; Assistant, Miss Robinson; Treasurer, Miss Harrison; Financial Secretary, Mr. Hardcastle; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. E. Hart; Musical Director, Miss V. Henley; Assistant, Mr. Lister; Guardians, E. Cliffe and C. Potter; Leader of Calisthenics, Miss Hardcastle; Absentee Visitor, Mr. Crompton; Sick Visitor, Miss Parker; Card Markers, M. Crompton and Miss Hardcastle; Auditors, Mr. Henley and Mrs. Cridland; Delegates, Messrs. Lister and Lloyd; Convener, Miss Robinson; Trustees, Mr. Bentley and Miss Robinson; Marching Conductor, Mr. Ernest Hart; Benevolent Fund Secretary, Miss Roberts. On New Year's Day we had our Annual Party, and our good friend, Mr. Henley, was the soul of the evening, distributing the prizes and taking part in all that helped to make the people happy. Recitations, games, etc., and the well-known artistes, the Macharr Bros., gave their new sketch of hand balancing and bar balancing. The affair was a success financially and socially, and we heartily thank Mr. Henley.—E. Hart, Secretary.

Crucible continued.

Council areas extra votes, but their representatives are usually experienced men or women, who, by their work in the district are probably more capable, and therefore more competent in argument, which means that, be they right or wrong in their views, their capacity to influence a Conference is many times that of an ordinary Lyceum delegate, who is so very frequently more or less a novice.

And now it is proposed to increase this already enormous advantage. No, no, I cannot believe that the D.C.'s really mean it. Organization is very good, but there is such a thing as intemperance even in that direction.

I am not without hope that a largemindedness will enter into the D.C.'s, and that they will decide not to proceed further with their present suggestions.

In concluding these articles I cannot refrain from expressing my disappointment that more workers have not joined in discussing their subject matter, especially when I see in the *Banner* a suggestion to hold an interim conference to discuss the Constitution. It makes me feel that the work so cheerfully commenced some twelve months ago, and now ended, is probably a wasted effort. I hope not, but if such be the case I return to the obscurity of my tub from whence I came, contented with the thought that I have fulfilled my part to the best of my ability, and that the impertinence which my namesake raised to a fine art has been more or less adequately sustained.

DIOPNES.

Our Book Table.

LIFE, DEATH AND IMMORTALITY. By Wm. Hanna Thomson, M.D., LL.D. Published by Funk and Wagnall's Co., New York and London. Price 4/- net.

As the title indicates, the work before us is a thoughtful treatise from a Christian standpoint. In the treatment of his subject the author makes a strong plea for facts, and remarks that "a pure theorist can altogether part company with facts." The reader will naturally expect that the author will stick to facts and follow wheresoever they lead in the broad domain of science. But when discussing the revelations of the telescope as to the probability of Mars being an inhabitable globe like our earth, he denies the astronomer Lowell, who naturally infers that the strong markings of lines on the face of Mars indicate that they are canals wrought by its inhabitants, and therefore are unmistakable evidences of it being inhabited.

The author says of this inference, "But we must protest about astronomers having anything to say about life, for their only instrument is the telescope, while the instrument of the biologist, or student of life, is the microscope." How the biologist is to determine with his microscope whether there is life on the planets does not appear in the book before us.

To the average Christian who looks upon the Mosaic cosmogony as being based on Divine Revelation, which gives the age of the earth as being less than six thousand years old, the statement that the cave dwellers had their funeral rites more than twenty thousand years ago, will be of a startling nature, verging on a shock. But it will do them good to learn that the world moves in more ways than one.

While the author fully recognises the "Chinese and Japanese general belief in the immortality of their ancestors, whose names they reverence," he adds, "It should be noted that this doctrine of immortality gives rise directly to sheer atheism, since their ancestors are all-sufficient for the guidance of their descendants on earth. So there is no need for a God," page 63. We do not think the author is warranted in drawing this conclusion; for if the guidance by spirit leads to "sheer atheism," it is a strong argument against spirit guidance which runs through the Old and New Testaments. It is just this evidence of the immortality of the soul, or continuity of life after the change called death, which the Chinese and Japanese enjoy so fully which the author is in search of, and tries to find it in the resurrection of Jesus, concerning the importance of which event he asks us to "put ourselves in the place of the Apostles, and after seeing a dear friend of ours unmistakably die and be buried in his grave before our own eyes, what would the effect then be upon us if after three days he appeared to us as unquestionably alive again? Our whole lives would thereafter be wholly changed. We would then know that death does not end all, but that beyond death there is the world of Life. All the concerns of this short life would shrink into insignificance," page 92.

The author quotes the resurrection of Jesus as recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke, and seeks to combat the idea that it was a resurrection of the physical body by opposing it with the statement "that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor death and corruption inherit incorruption. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." In ending the chapter he makes the following triumphant declaration: "The glorious truth is, that in Heaven our living bodies will be more real, and our own selves more personal and recognisable than ever in this present clouded and imperfect being!" Page 100.

After this confident declaration as to what we shall be in Heaven we naturally turn with high anticipation to the chapter on "Heaven as described in the Bible" to find the climax, we confidently are led to expect, of strong Biblical evidence of a Heaven, and where it is located, but we are sorely disappointed, as we are told that the New Jerusalem described in the book of Revelations is metaphor, and instead of being a city it is a great society of perfected persons." In fact, the author candidly admits that, "In the Old Testament we first meet with that reticence about the scenes of the next world which is still more characteristic of the New Testament. So strikingly is this the case, that some writers have maintained that the old Hebrews were like the Sadducees in altogether denying the existence of another world, or at best in believing in a dark Sheol as the abode of the dead, quite in keeping with Homer's conception." Page 107.

The author's abilities as a biologist are splendidly displayed in Chapter VII., in which he discusses the ductless glands of the pancreas, thyroid gland, the pituitary gland (once thought to be the seat of the soul), and the adrenals, on whose secretions and discharge of their fluids direct into the blood life appears to depend. This chapter is valuable to our young men and women who are studying physiology.

The author summarizes his researches on life coming into existence by chance in the following sentence:—"There is nothing in the laws of physics

or chemistry which in the least approaches or explains what life is."

The book is well printed in clear type on thick paper, and bound in full cloth.

HOURS WITH FAMOUS AMERICANS, a series of LITTLE BOOKS ABOUT BIG MEN. The subject of this *brochure* is D. J. M. Peebles. The life and labours of the good doctor are told in a bright, terse, and racy style by John H. Gensel, who has cleverly managed to condense the doctor's eventful career of 60 years into the compass of the little book before us. Price 15c., or 7½d.

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Botany for the Young.

By J. KNIGHT.

DEAR BANNERITES,—

Our good friend, Mr. V. Lucas, of Sheffield, has sent on his promised article on Holly, which is, from first to the finish of his postscript, very interesting. As regards the Pollination of the Holly flower I want you to keep an *open mind* until our studies bring us to that branch of our subject, and keep by you this month's BANNER for reference.

The cure of Chilblains brings back to memory, as fresh as though it were yesterday, yet it took place more than 50 years ago. A noted fisherman's son had found a wasp's nest and his father desired the son, myself and another boy to take it. Our instructions were to dig it out with a small spade. I was to arm myself with a bunch of nettles to beat off the wasps, and, if one or other was stung, I was to whip the place right hard. Well, no sooner had the spade been driven into the soft soil than out came the enraged tenants and simply covered the fisherman's son. He dropped the spade and, yelling ten thousand murders, ran faster than he had ever done in his life before. Away I dashed after him with my bunch of nettles, slashing away for all I was worth. Never shall I forget what his face looked like for many, many days; it, for all the world, looked like a great big Christmas pudding. And for years after, if any of us boys happened to use the word "nettles" or "wasps," or "pudding," there was hair flying in a minute.

I am sure we are all much obliged to Mr. Lucas for his kindness.

HOLLIES AND OTHER EVERGREENS.

In all the various forms of tree life there is none so full of interest as the subject before us. The word evergreen is applied to all trees, shrubs and plants of all kinds whose leaves seem to be constantly or perpetually green all the year round. As there is so much to be told about the holly, and also so much of the utmost importance about forest trees, I wish to devote all this article to hollies, and beg another space in future to explain more fully the falling of the leaf from both forest and evergreen species. It is impossible for everyone to be a forester or a gardener, but it is possible, through the medium of your LYCEUM BANNER, by the publishing of these articles, to give you something interesting to think of, and serve you as thoughts for reflection in your

journeyings about the country when amongst trees.

Hollies are so very variable in type of leaf that to divide them into separate forms of variety we should have to deal with over 100 types, so to make the subject more interesting, I want you to just imagine that we have simply, as our subject, the holly as you know it so well.

The word holly is supposed to be derived from the word Holy, or Holy-tree, because of its association with the great Christmas festival. In Germany it is called Christdorn, because it is believed that holly leaves composed the crown of thorns for the brow of Jesus.

It is also known by the name of Holy, Hulver, and Holm, and many places are named after the Holly, such as Hollywood, Holly Fort, Holly Mount, &c. Its Latin or botanical name is Aquifolium, which means that the leaves are aquil, sharp, acute, prickly; also folium, a leaf. The Greeks gave it the name Holly-Agria, meaning wild of the fields, and the Romans formed this Greek description into Aquifolium, or, Ilex Aquifolium.

The holly is common all over the United Kingdom, and extends right over the Continent of Europe into Central China and North Africa. Its age as a known species is unknown, but it is a tree which will live for hundreds of years. Some of the finest living Hollies are to be found in the United Kingdom. The origin of the Holly as a decorative emblem dates back to the birth of Jesus, but in our own country from the time of Henry VI.

(To be Continued.)

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Executive's visit to Hull, Holborn Hall, on January 13th and 14th, was a memorable event in several respects. Although five members were absent, viz., Messrs. Kersey, Johnson, Raw, and Councillor Venables, and Mrs. Bentley—the last two on account of illness—the local friends extended a warm welcome to the members of the Executive as they arrived at the hall.

After a most appetising tea, lavishly served, the Executive began business in good time, and disposed of the various reports, matters arising therefrom, and a good amount of new business.

It was decided to adopt a better limp cloth binding of the *Lyceum Manual* and a more serviceable cloth of the full cloth binding of the *Lyceum Manual*, but to make no alteration of the prices.

The resignation of Mr. R. H. Morgan, D.V. for the Birmingham District, was accepted with regret, and thanks for past services; Mr. A. O. Thomas, of Darlaston, being appointed to the post, on the recommendation of the Walsall Lyceum.

A very pathetic letter from Mr. W. Marklew, late D.V. for Sheffield District, was read. Much sympathy was expressed on his behalf, and the Gen. Secretary was instructed to write him accordingly.

It was decided to print another edition of the service of song, "*Rest at Last*," which will be on sale by February 16th. It was also decided to print another edition of the book containing 50 four-fold pledges, with their counterfoil, as the other is sold out.

The General Secretary was instructed to curtail the D.V.'s reports as their contents seem to warrant it.

It was decided to invite the S.N.U. to send two representatives to all future Lyceum Conferences.

The question of joining the National Peace Council was deferred for fuller particulars.

Other important business was considered and disposed of.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The friends gathered in good numbers for the morning session, there being a strong contingent from the newly opened Lyceum meeting in Day Street, and Miss Scott, Mrs. Wrightam and daughters Ivy and Doris, from Grimsby. A breezy cheerfulness pervaded the Lyceum.

After the opening exercises Mrs. Leng, the able and devoted conductor, briefly extended a hearty welcome to the Executive to Hull, and concluded by inviting Mr. R. A. Owen, the esteemed President, to conduct the two sessions. A number of children seated in front of the rostrum, each bearing a letter, were arranged as to spell G-O-D is L-O-V-E, and it had a very pretty effect on all present.

"Welcome to all," was sung very heartily and between each verse a little one stepped forward and recited, very clearly, the lines of WELCOME composed by Mrs. Hogg.

Later in the programme fifteen children, under the tuition of Mrs. Leng, rendered an action song entitled "Pull together." Followed by another one called "Feed my lambs," both of which won hearty applause.

Time being brief the marching had to be curtailed, and the calisthenics dispensed with. The chain recitations were led by members of the Executive and ably commented on. Miss Lena Smith read an essay on "Friendship," and was highly complimented for the excellency of her effort by the President.

AFTERNOON.

A combined Open Session was held in which Day Street Lyceum and friends from Grimsby took part, in the entire programme, each one winning applause. Mary White, Ina Hogg, Victoria Wilson, Donald Atkinson, and Olga Mansfield were among the entertainers.

The members of the Executive responded to the call for short speeches. At the close of the session many of the friends availed themselves of the privilege of staying to tea, to be in readiness for the evening's mass meeting:

EVENING MEETING.

The hall was quite filled, a number of the local friends having to sit on the rostrum to make room.

After the opening exercises, the "WELCOME" was again well rendered as in the morning. Mrs. Nurse delivered a spirited speech on the "Claims of Modern Spiritualism," in which was clearly set forth what Spiritualism claimed, and what it did not claim.

Mr. James Tinker gave a very lucid exposition of the teachings of the *Lyceum Manual* quoting freely from that excellent compendium.

Mrs. Greenwood, under the influence of her spirit guide "Earnest," spoke very feelingly on the responsibility of parents. A deep "hush" seemed to pervade the meetings as point after point was raised and applied to the reformation and regeneration of mankind; self-sacrifice being the stepping stone to all future achievements.

After Mr. Kitson had spoken, the services were brought to a close, befitting such a splendid day's efforts.

Questions and Answers.

Under this heading Lyceumists may ask questions bearing on the teachings of the LYCEUM MANUAL, and matters appertaining to the Lyceum Movement in general. All correspondents must give their full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith with the Editor. Letters should be addressed to the Question and Answer Department, the Office of the Lyceum Banner, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

Bradford, Holmes Street.

Dear Mr. Kitson,

In the above Lyceum, the silver chain recitation No 1 in our *Manual* has been discussed many times, but there is such a diverse opinion as to the last line, where it says "That whatever is, is right," that I should be pleased, for the sake of all conductors, that you should give through the BANNER the line of argument you would take to justify this teaching. I have only heard one Spiritualist who seems to have a knowledge of things and laws of life sufficient to justify him in endorsing this teaching, and I can accept this theory. But there is so many in our Lyceum that cannot, and I have never heard it discussed in any other Lyceum, that I think a little discussion in the BANNER would be very interesting. It is the wish, of our Lyceum at least, that our BANNER should be used for, and in support of, Lyceum teachings, and this is one that even mediums in our school do not seem to accept, only that it is right that things are as they are, but not right that they should be as they are, or in other words, "they are so, right enough." But is it right? Are there any phenomena ever been witnessed in our movement, and on which our movement is based that justifies this teaching "that whatever is, is right?"

J. LIGHTOWLER, Conductor.

[While we are ever willing to help as far as possible, we think, in this instance, it would not be fair to our friend and contributor, Mr. F. Hepworth, who has this particular recitation under consideration. We beg to refer all interested to his articles on the "Divine Order."—Ed L.B.]

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 appearing in previous BANNERS :—

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged.....	95	7	5
Longsight Lyceum, Chell Street, Manchester.....	0	5	0
Ramsden Street Lyceum, Huddersfield.....	0	5	0
Collected by Miss L. Smith and Mrs. Brotherton			
Macclesfield	0	16	0
	£96	13	5

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF MR. R. LATHAM.

The following is a statement of the Funds on behalf of the above appeal :—

	£	s.	d.
Amount received by Mr. Geo. C. Higham, Secretary			
to the Fund.....	96	13	5
Amount received through THE LYCEUM BANNER	22	16	4
Amount received by Mr. Button, on behalf of the			
S.N.U.	25	18	5
Amount received through "The Two Worlds".....	3	2	9
	148	10	11
Less amount for Printing, Stamps and Stationery.....	1	15	0

£146 15 11

The amounts have been gone through and certified by
TOM HOLLAND,
J. NIGHTINGALE.

Geo. C. Higham, 107 Burnley Road, Padiham.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PRESENTATION TO MR. R. LATHAM.

The annual Tea Party and Prize Distribution in connection with North Street Lyceum, Burnley, was made the occasion for the presentation to Mr. Reuben Latham of the amounts that had been subscribed on his behalf. The event took place on Saturday, January 20th, and owing, no doubt, to the lock-out in the cotton trade, the attendance was not as good as would otherwise have been the case. The chair was occupied by Mrs. Pickles, and on the platform were Mr. Morse, Editor of *Two Worlds*; Mr. Tom Holland, President of N.E.L.L.D.C.; Mr. Geo. C. Higham, Secretary; and Mr. R. Latham. After the opening ceremonies had been disposed of, Mr. Higham, Secretary to the Fund, on behalf of the subscribers, presented to Mr. Latham the amount of £96 13s. 5d., which had been so generously subscribed, and spoke of the sympathy that had been expressed by the subscribers, when forwarding their various subscriptions.

Mr. J. J. Morse, in a neat little speech, spoke of the work done by Mr. Latham, and on behalf of S.N.U. Fund £25 18s. 5d.; LYCEUM BANNER Fund, £22 16s. 4d.; *Two Worlds* Fund, £3 2s. 0d., presented Mr. Latham with the amounts subscribed.

Mr. Latham, in a very feeling and touching speech, thanked all who had so readily responded to the call. He also expressed his thanks to the N.E.L.L.D.C., the S.N.U., THE LYCEUM BANNER, and *The Two Worlds*.

The prizes to the scholars for regular attendance were presented by Mr. Holland. The rest of the evening was taken up by the performance of an Operetta, entitled "Princess Snow-white and the Seven Dwarfs," which was ably performed by the members of Hammerton Street Lyceum, and much appreciated by the audience. Various Lyceums in the district were represented, including Nelson, Hammerton Street, Burnley; China Street, Accrington; and St. Peter Street, Blackburn, along with Mr. J. T. Ward, of Blackburn.

GEO. C. HIGHAM, Secretary.

BOLTON DISTRICT LYCEUM COUNCIL.

We held our first quarterly meeting on Saturday, January 13th, when about 25 delegates and Lyceumists were present, the following business being dealt with:—Minutes and correspondence passed as read, D.V. and Secretary's reports were accepted.

Resolved: That on the visit of the N.D.C. to Bolton, Commission Street, March 2nd and 3rd, that all Lyceums in the district rally round and support the tea party on the Saturday, at 4-30, social at 7, and Sunday Open Session, 2-30. Mass Meeting 6-30. I hope that each Lyceum will try and help. We also adopted our bye-laws regarding the voting of Associates and their fee for membership to the D.C.

The invitation from Platt Bridge was accepted for next meeting, March 16th and 17th.

A social was held during the evening, when songs, recitations, duet, and a mouth-organ solo were well received. Dancing and games were much enjoyed. On Sunday, though the day was damp, friends were not prevented from attending the Open Session. The evening meeting, a good attendance, ably presided over by Mr. Batten, President. Invocation was earnestly offered by Mr. Rudd, D.V. Speeches were made by the members of the Council, Messrs. Knight, Walsh, Rudd and Batten. All the speeches were full of helpful and inspiring words, which awakened thought on the important theme of training the children in the truths and principles of Spiritualism.—Ed. Walsh, Secretary.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting was held at Hebden Bridge Lyceum on Sunday, January 7th, 1912, Mr. W. Burrows, President, presiding over a good attendance of delegates, all Lyceums except Elland being represented. Mrs. Greenwood, of the B.S.L.U.E.C., was also present. The Treasurer, D.V. and U.D.C. reports were accepted. It was resolved: "That we do not hold a demonstration this year, 1912." It was also resolved: "That we do not support holding an united demonstration." Nominations for office must be in the Secretary's hands not later than March 15th, 1912. It was left with Alma Street, Halifax, to arrange for the Annual D.C. Meeting, to be held in their rooms. In the afternoon a splendid Open Session was held, ably conducted by Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, and supported by the delegates. Much discussion ensued, and no doubt much good was derived therefrom. In the evening the service was conducted by the delegates, Mr. Burrows presiding.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PRESENTATION OF SILVER SHIELD.

An event of a most interesting character took place on

Sunday, January 7th, at Hammerton Street Lyceum, Burnley. After a most keen competition in Lyceum Routine, Hammerton Street Lyceum came out the winners of the Silver Shield, and the presentation of the same took place on the above-named date. In the afternoon an Open Session was held, conducted by Messrs Higham and Latham, when an exhibition of Lyceum work was ably gone through, in which over 80 members of the Lyceum took part.

The presentation of the Shield was made by Mr. Tom Holland, President of the District Council, who congratulated the Lyceumists on being in such an efficient state as to be the winners of the Shield. Mr. Richards, the Conductor of the Lyceum, in accepting the Shield on behalf of the Lyceum, said he hoped it would be an incentive for still greater efforts in the future, and hoped it would be the means of bringing more harmony and cementing the forces closer together. Mr. Higham, Secretary of the District Council, presented the Certificate, and Mrs. Riley, Secretary of the Lyceum, accepted it on behalf of the Lyceum. There was a good attendance of Lyceumists and friends, including Mr. Musgrove, of Blackpool; Mr. H. Hargreaves, of Nelson, and other visitors from Nelson, Accrington and other Lyceums in the district. The evening meeting was presided over by Mr. Holland, President, and addresses were given by Messrs. Hargreaves, Higham and Latham, and clairvoyance by Mrs. Pickles, Miss Baldwin and Mr. Ashworth. The choir also rendered "Daybreak."

GEO. H. HIGHAM, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT LYCEUM COUNCIL.

Quarterly meeting held at Attercliffe, at 10-30 a.m. Mr. Nelson, of Attercliffe, presided. Mr. Vickers, D.V., gave reports of U.D.C. meetings and district report. U.D.C. business referred back to Lyceum, to be brought again to the Special Council Meeting. Carried unanimously: "That we centralise at Attercliffe to welcome the E.C. of the B.S.L.U. in April. After a lengthy discussion on the demonstration, the following places were suggested: High Hazels Park, Vickers' Sports Ground, Meersbrook Park, Attercliffe Field, Rotherham Football Ground. The same to be balloted on at the next meeting. Afternoon special Open Session, conducted by Mr. R. A. Owen, President B.S.L.U. A very enjoyable session, the children responding heartily with pearls and readings. Evening meeting conducted by Mr. R. A. Owen, subject, "The past, present and future of Spiritualism." Concluding a very happy Council Day in the company of our worthy President. Special Council to be held at Rotherham, February 11th, at 10-30 a.m. Business important.

S. D. SPITTLEHOUSE, Secretary.

THE TYNESIDE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

On the invitation of our Rutherford Street friends, our quarterly meeting was held at their rooms on Saturday, January 13th, eight Lyceums being represented. Business commenced at 3 p.m. The President welcomed all present and a further welcome was extended to our Ashington friends, this Lyceum being recently organised and united with us. On the adoption of the previous minutes, the Secretary's, Treasurer's and D.V.'s reports, which showed good general progress and increase of associate members, were accepted. The agenda motions were considered and an amount of good work was got through. The motion for holding a Demonstration of Lyceums was supported, the arrangements to be decided at our next meeting. The invitation to Rectory Hall, Gateshead, for our next D.C. meeting was accepted for March 10th, at 10 a.m. Following the business meeting, the D.C. were entertained to a well-catered tea. A grand social took up the evening, which proved most enjoyable to all present, Messrs. J. and H. Rodgers' individual entertainment being highly appreciated. On the conclusion of a most successful day, Mr. Brinklow, of Rutherford Street, heartily responded in acceptance of the vote of thanks, moved by the President of the D.C., for the whole-hearted manner in which they had carried out their work in preparation for the day.

D. R. DAVIES, Secretary.

UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICTS COUNCIL.

The above Council will hold its meeting at Commission Street, Bolton, on March 2nd and 3rd. Tea will be provided at 4-30. Business meeting 5-30. Delegates staying overnight will visit various Lyceums in the district on the Sunday morning. Afternoon all delegates will take part in Open Session at Commission Street. Evening, at 6-30, Mass Meeting will be held. Business meeting agenda:—1. Elect chairman. 2. Minutes. 3. Business arising from minutes. 4. Correspondence. 5. Motions: (a) That we recommend to the B.S.L.U. the advisability of holding an United Demonstration at some convenient centre (N.E. Lancashire D.C.); (b) That we recommend to B.S.L.U. having an interim conference solely for the constitution consideration (H. & H.D.C.); (c) The amended U.D.C. constitution; (d) Notices of motions. 6. Place and

date of next meeting. 7. Votes of thanks. 8. Miscellaneous business. On the Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock, a social evening will be spent, and I earnestly appeal to all interested in the children's cause and for the future upliftment of humanity to come and bring friends to all our meetings on the Sunday and make our visit to Bolton a successful one.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Secretary.

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 January 26th.

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, February 21st, to ensure insertion in the March issue.

ASHINGTON.—As conductor of this Lyceum, and wishing to give the Lyceum children a treat, I organised a party for carol singing and raised £1 5s. We gave the children a good Christmas treat. After tea we had a concert, presided over by Mr. W. Robinson, when the following items were rendered: Songs: Mamie Robinson, Florence Eastlake, Lizzie Douglas, and H. Barton. Recitations: Beatrice Dunn, Willie Douglas, and Bro. W. Robinson. The evening's gathering ended with suitable games for the children.—H. Barton, Conductor.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—On Sunday, January 7th, the above Lyceum held a very enjoyable open session. At the afternoon session there was a good muster of scholars to commence the New Year, which I sincerely hope will continue. The following Lyceumists took part in the programme: Recitations by May Allen, Elinor Proctor, and Fred Nock. Songs by Mr. J. Kellest, Arthur Taylor, Harry Proctor, Harry Helme, Albert Evans, and James Nock. The above programme was very well rendered and was a great improvement on past sessions.—Mrs. C. Wallace Secretary.

BLACKBURN (Northgate).—On Christmas Day we held our annual tea and social, when nearly 120 persons partook of an excellent tea. The following contributed to the social: Mrs. Walmsley, Mr. E. Walmsley, Misses Hastings, G. Halliwell, Blackburn, G. McHavett, Mrs. Everitt, and Mr. T. Hollinhead. The programme was interspersed with games for the children, and a few dances for the adults, for which our thanks are due to Mr. Piggott, our organist. The day was one of the most successful our Lyceum has ever had.—E. Walmsley, Sec.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—On January 14th we held our open session, Mrs. Pickles, Burnley, being our speaker. We had a good gathering of old and new Lyceumists. Pearls and recitations being given by the following: Misses B. Crowther, Faith Ainsworth, and E. Hopper, Master Arkwright and Mr. Grime. Mrs. Pickles named the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Howarth, Elsie, spirit name "Faith." The evening's address was based on "Ministering Spirits," followed by clairvoyance. The singing was very good. I hope our scholars, old and new, will turn up in such good numbers during the year 1912, then it will be a successful year.—John Ainsworth, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—On the 7th January we held our open session. Mr. Batley conducting. In the morning the usual routine was observed. We opened the afternoon session by singing 330 in the *Manual*. Silver chain 26 and musical reading 212 followed. Songs were given by Misses Fanny Bird, Dora Brown, Masters John and Richard Throupe, and Robert Hulme, also a recitation by Master Herbert Swan, and numerous pearls. Our motto for 1912 is progress. Both the sessions were excellently attended, and if the spirit which prevailed at our first open session is maintained, I have no doubt at the end of the year our motto will not have been belied.—Arthur C. Eaton, Hon. Secretary.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On Saturday, January 6th, we held our annual tea party and concert. Close on 150 persons sat down to tea, after which there was a grand concert, which opened with a Lyceum song, "Welcome, thrice welcome." The children next favoured us with a song, after which the distribution of prizes took place. The young ladies then favoured us with a sketch, entitled, "Jackets," after which some of our friends from Commission Street favoured us with a humorous sketch "Is he Married." Taken on the whole the programme

was gone through splendidly. Dancing and games brought a very pleasant evening to a close.—Joseph Shaw.

BRADFORD (Boynton Street).—We held our open session on Sunday, January 7th. Recitations were given by the Misses Ward, A. Lodge, F. McIntosh, and Mrs. Haley, Masters N. Haley, H. Fernihough, and Harry McIntosh. Miss Garth gave a solo, and the Misses A. and A. Carter gave a duet. After the session in the afternoon Mrs. Garth, late of Walton Street Society, gave us a description of the spirit manifestations she saw whilst the school was in progress. On Saturday, December 30th, we had our Christmas party and Christmas tree, presents from which were given to all Lyceumists, both young and old. Half of our scholars have gained prizes for the past year.—A. E. Carter. [Please observe Rule 3.—Ed.]

BRADFORD, LITTLE HORTON (Holme Street).—On Sunday, January 7th, we held open sessions morning and afternoon, when we had good attendances. The following contributed to the success of the sessions: Master V. Snarey, solo, No. 338 *Manual*; Mr. W. Robinson, "The Maiden's Prayer;" Recitations, Master H. Robinson, "The Worker's Win;" and Miss F. Gush, "Falling Snow." Reading by Mrs. Walmsley. Mr. Gush took the Liberty group and gave a very interesting address on silver chain recitation No. 1, "The Divine Order." Questions were allowed and ably dealt with. Mr. J. Lightowler conducted and Miss K. Ramsden presided at the piano.—W. Robinson, Secretary.

[BURNLEY (Hammerton Street) and (North Street).—Reports included in Mr. Higham's very full report.—Ed.]

BURY (off Paradise Street).—On New Year's Day the Lyceum held a tea party and entertainment, over ninety persons sat down to tea. The entertainment consisted of a musical drama entitled a "Dream of Nursery Rhymes," by children of the Lyceum, which was played by special request, and was well done. Afterwards dancing and games were indulged in. Messrs. Rockliffe and Howarth acted as M.C.'s. Mr. E. Hepworth was the accompanist.—Mrs. Cotterell, Secretary.

CHESTER (Commonhall Street).—We held our annual Christmas tea on December 26th, 1911. The room was prettily decorated with flags, while the presents were arranged on a Christmas tree. A substantial tea was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Mr. W. J. Grindley distributed the prizes and an adult Lyceumist provided oranges for the children. Two of our Lyceum boys, who have since sailed for Australia, were presented with special prizes, while this occasion was taken to bid them good-bye. A large number of adults were present to amuse the children. The evening passed in an enjoyable manner.—Florence Rainford, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—On January 7th we held our annual election of officers, the following members being selected:—Conductor, Miss Hobster; Assistants, Messrs. Cowell and Briggs; Secretary, Mr. Widdowson; Guardian, Mr. Welch; Captain of Guards, Joseph Hobster; Assistants, Albert Philpott and Gertie MacDonald; Class Leaders, Messrs. Welch, Widdowson, Cowell, Mrs. Suddall and Florrie Philpott; Banner Bearers, Florrie Smith, Evelyn Elliott and Annie Wale. On January 14th we held our usual Open Session, when the following took part:—Recitations, Doris MacDonald, Tizzie Hewitt, Ethel Wale, Alice Smith, Edith Herrrott, Hilda Welch, Willie Lathan, John Smith, and Wilfred Fletcher. Violin solo, Annie Wale; violin duet, Mr. Widdowson and Ernest Hobster, accompanied by Joseph Hobster; violin and banjo duet, Annie Wale and Mr. Wale.—E. H. Widdowson, Secretary.

COVENTRY.—The Coventry Lyceum entertained to tea and social evening 80 poor children on Thursday, December 28th, 1911, efforts being made to invite those children which other charitable institutions had not reached. A good substantial tea was placed upon the tables, to which the children did justice. Afterwards games and dancing were joined in and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Nuts, oranges and apples were distributed to the children during the evening. At the close each child received a toy from the fishing pond, which caused much amusement. We desire to express our thanks to all friends who by their assistance or donations made it possible to provide such a pleasant evening for the children.—Correspondent.

CREWE (Mill Street).—Our Lyceum held its usual monthly Open Session on Sunday, January 7th, when there was a fairly good attendance of scholars. The programme was a good one, but though the items were few, they were much appreciated. Recitations were rendered by Mr. P. Gawthorne, Florrie Wood and Walter Chadwick; a duet by Misses A. Buxton and G. Ragenley; also a song by Mrs. Harrison. On the whole we had a good and enjoyable time.—F. Homer.

CROMPTON.—On Sunday, January 7th, the election of officers took place:—Conductor, Mr. Hornbuckle; Assistant, Mr. Clegg; Secretary, Mr. Clegg; Leader (Males), Mr. Harrison; Leader (Females), Miss Fielding; Guardians, Mr. Bardsley and Miss Shepherd. On Saturday, January 13th, we had a

also a solo by Dolly Steel.—Harvey Stroud, Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—On Sunday, December 31st, friends interested in our Lyceum scholars gave some prizes for best individual efforts, and the efforts made were very keen. The scholars still continue to show a good interest in the sessions and fairly good attendances are made. We have been very fortunate in adding to our roll an old

NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—Sunday, January 7th, Open Session and Prize Distribution. The prizes were presented to the girls by Mrs. Simpson and to the boys by Nurse Stretchley (Leicester). Both ladies gave appropriate addresses, Nurse also giving us a motto, "Hope on, hope ever." Mr. T. Masters spoke briefly on "Temperance," and also offered a prize for the best essay on "Why I should not be cruel to

grand tea party, given by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hamer, to commemorate the eighth anniversary. Over 100 were present. After tea we went through our marching and calisthenics, to the delight of parents and friends. Short addresses by members and friends. Songs were given by F. Shaw, J. Clegg, G. Wood, J. Bardsley, H. Harrison, E. Hornbuckle and W. Dronsfield. A recitation by Mrs. Wood. Altogether a happy time.—John Thomas Clegg, Secretary.

DARLINGTON.—The scholars gave a grand entertainment in the Bondgate Spiritual Hall, entitled "The Gipsy Encampment," before a large audience. The scholars, who were trained by the Misses Lena Park, Winnie Airy and Mr. G. Park, rendered a very good account of themselves, the solos, etc., being rendered in good style. Misses Dolly Wintersgill, "Little Miss Importance"; Florrie Lumley, "Good-bye, Norreen" and "A little child shall lead them"; Enid Alderson and William Simpson, duet, "The Angel of my dreams"; Evelyn Hunter and others. And also a sketch, entitled "The Christmas Post." The proceeds of the concert were in aid of the Lyceum Christmas Treat.—George Park, Secretary.

[Please post your reports to this Office; not to the printers.—Ed.]

DERBY (Charnwood Street).—On December 27th Mrs. Pinder our Conductor, kindly gave a tea to the Lyceum children and officers. We all did ample justice to the many good things she had so kindly provided. On January 1st we had our Annual Tea and Prize Distribution, and spent a most enjoyable evening with games, etc. On January 7th, we had our usual Open Session. Several Lyceumists said recitations, etc. On the above date we enrolled several new members, and I hope we shall still increase as the year goes on.—G. H. Wade, Sec.

EARBY.—On Saturday, January 5th, the Earby Spiritualists' Lyceum held their first Annual Tea and Entertainment, in their room in Aspen Lane. After tea, an excellent programme was gone through, including songs, recitations, and a sketch by Misses H. Bradley and E. Maunder. Mr. C. Riding provided the comic element and gave a few laughable songs. The children gave a splendid exhibition of Morris Dancing, to the accompaniment of Messrs. Hodgson and Bradley. Miss S. A. Jackson, of Barnoldswick, and Miss Farrar, of Colne, also contributed to the concert with songs. The entertainment was presided over by the Lyceum Secretary, Mr. J. W. Clark, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.—Correspondent.

ELLAND.—On January 13th, a Tea and Entertainment was held. Tea provided by church members, entertainment by Lyceumists. Splendid performance of Operetta, "Life in the Gipsy Camp," written, and music artly composed, by Mr. L. J. Coleman, Sowerby Bridge, who trained the troupe and was accompanist. The scenery, "Woodland, Derwentwater," painted by Mr. Coleman, was greatly admired. The following took part:—Misses M. A. Marsden, L. Smith, R. A. Marsden, M. J. Sadler, A. Carter, H. Yewdale, L. Shardlow, G. Shaw and C. Adams; Messrs. L. Marsden, G. Sadler, V. Hartley, L. Carter, F. Oldfield, F. Smith. The performance went through without a hitch. Pretty dresses and scenery made a grand ensemble. Crowded audience and roars of laughter. Upwards of £6 was taken.—Miss M. A. Marsden, Secretary.

GLASGOW (26, Elmbank Crescent).—Our Annual Business Meeting was held here, Mr. J. Stewart presiding. The election of office bearers for 1912 resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. J. M. Stewart; Assistants, Mr. Burnett and Mrs. Gentleman; Secretary, Mr. Wm. Guild, Jr.; Treasurer, Miss K. Sclater; Librarians, Mr. F. Rothead and Miss J. Fletcher; Marching Conductor, Mr. A. Russell; Assistant, Mr. D. Sclater; Organist, Mr. T. Rothead; Musical Conductor, Mr. Hamilton; Captain of Guards, Mr. J. Gentleman; Guards, Miss A. Rainy, Miss M. Reid and Mr. R. Bell; Guardian, Mr. H. Kerr; Liberty Group Leader, Mr. J. Stewart; Assistant, Miss B. Rainy; Fountain Group Leader, Mrs. McGibbon; Peace Brigade Leader, Mr. Stewart; Assistant, Mr. C. Rothead.—Wm. Guild, Jr., Secretary.

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GRANTHAM.—I have great pleasure in sending this, my first report, on our Lyceum work at Grantham. I find we are making progress and we hope for brighter results in the coming year. On Sunday, 21st, we had our second distribution of prizes to the children, when suitable presents were given to 18 children, with a few encouraging remarks from the President, who presented the books. Our scholars are looking forward to another visit from Mr. Ashworth, when it can be arranged. Our worst trouble seems to be to get workers; they are very scarce, though we have one or two very good and earnest workers at present. This Lyceum sends greetings to all sister and brother Lyceumists for a prosperous New Year.—W. H. Harvey.

GREAT HARWOOD (off Westwell Street).—We held our monthly Open Session on Sunday, January 7th. The silver chain recitation was led by Mr. Baxter. The musical reading by M. A. Holt, Patience Bertwistle and Amy Bullen. The golden chain by M. A. Holt. We also had a recitation by

Master A. Holt. Solos were given by Mr. Baxter, Mary Alice Holt, Amy Bullen and Alice Anderton. We had with us a district visitor from Accrington. She spoke a few words of counsel to the Lyceum. The marching and rod exercises were gone through and much enjoyed.—Miss A. Anderton, Sec.

HADFIELD.—On December 24th we held our annual election. The officers elected were:—Conductor, Miss M. H. Beeley; Guardian, Mr. P. Beeley; Guard, W. Beaumont; Musical Conductor, Miss E. Harris; Secretary, W. Chorley; Treasurer, Miss A. Booth. Assistants were also elected for the necessary offices. On Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day, we held a Coffee Party. We had coffee, buns, sweets and oranges, all given. All the Lyceumists were free, and those under fourteen were allowed twopence each for the party at night. Also I might mention that the church has got a new organ, which was opened on December 24th.—W. Chorley, Sec.

HIRST, NORTHUMBERLAND.—On December 31st, Anniversary services were held in Co-op. Hall, Hirst. Open Session in afternoon. Recitations by Misses Elliott, Johnson, Adamson, and Master Johnson. On Sunday evening service of song, "Angels in Disguise," was splendidly rendered by the children. Mr. J. Rodgers ably conducted and read. Solos by Ettie Coupland and J. Rodgers. Miss Beatrice Richardson recited "Make home pleasant." Councillor D. Robinson (Bellington), presided. Mrs. D. Davies, Newcastle, gave the invocation. On Sunday, January 7th, the following officers were elected:—J. Rodgers, Conductor; Harry Rodgers, Assistant; Sarah Ehe, Secretary; Mrs. Lewis, Treasurer; Arthur Crooks, Guardian; Winnie Lewis, Musical Conductor; George W. Johnson, Calisthenic Conductor; Beatrice Richardson, Captain of Guards; Misses Johnson, Patterson, Masters Johnson, Fotheringham, Guards.—Sarah Ehe, Secretary.

HULL (Holborn Street).—On New Year's day we held our second Annual Tea Party. We were very pleased to have the presence of the Day Street Lyceumists, making a grand total of 120 in all. After tea, we had a very enjoyable social evening, being favoured with a few songs from Miss Carr and friends, which were very much appreciated.—C. Headley, Sec.

KETTERING.—A Lyceum was opened here on January 21st, by Mr. Wooten Harvey. Parents and children to the number of 40 were present. Silver and golden chain recitations, and musical reading were gone through. Mr. Harvey read the words of Jesus, "Suffer little children to come unto me." He then presented a best *Lyceum Manual* to Mrs. Johnson for her faithful care of the children since his last visit to Kettering. Mrs. Johnson promised to faithfully keep her trust as long as she could. Other friends came forward and volunteered their services. Badges were presented to Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Flavell, the President. The marching and calisthenics were gone through, and a pleasant time was spent.—Wooten Harvey.

LANCASTER (Phoenix Rooms).—Our Lyceum took for their motto, 1912, "For Better or for Worse," having selected a complete change of officers, who are determined to have strict order and attention. Mr. Dawes, Conductor, assisted by Mr. A. Bleasdale, took their places with this intention, and they have the wish, in this respect, of our late Conductor, Mr. W. Bleasdale. The children's treat was a success, thanks to many friends. Then we had our prize distribution, when Mr. A. Bleasdale (Senior), had the honour of presenting each with their prize, with words of encouragement. Recitations, Lizzie Kirk and Edna Alderson; and a solo from Mr. Clarkson, closed the day's programme to the satisfaction of all present.—Mr. J. Kirk, Secretary.

LEEDS, ARMLEY.—We held our half-yearly meeting on January 4th. There was a good attendance and a harmonious meeting. The following were elected to offices:—Conductor, Mr. Sykes; Assistant, Miss Ruth Marshall; Treasurer, Mrs. Smith; Guardian, Miss Rosa Marshall; Registrar, Mr. Barraclough; Lyceum Visitor, Mr. John Warrington; Group Leaders, Miss Ruth and Rose Marshall, and Emma Whitaker; Librarian, Mrs. Oddy; Captain of Guards, Mr. Barraclough; Guards, Messrs. Herbert Sykes, Clarence and Sidney McCormick and Arthur Conner; Sick Visitors, Mesdames Oddy and Smith; Musical Directors, Miss Rose Marshall and Master Harry Havland.—Miss Emma Whitaker, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL (Romer Road).—This Lyceum held its Annual Party and Prize Distribution on Wednesday, January. There was a fair attendance, and the smiling faces of all present filled the officers with joy and pleasure at having met together. After tea, our Conductor, Mr. Joe Owens, distributed the prizes in a capable and pleasant manner, after which games of all kinds concluded our happy party. On Sunday, January 21st, Mrs. Bentley and Mr. Knight were our speakers. We were delighted to have them with us once again and feel the better for their presence amongst us. We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Mossop, and the ladies and gentlemen who worked and helped to make it a success.—Madge Parker, Sec.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On January 7th the annual election of officers took place, when (with two exceptions) the whole of the retiring officers were re-elected. The two changes were Mr. J. Hurst, Conductor, vice Mr. Ayriss, and Miss Leach, Assistant Conductor, vice Mr. J. Hurst. On January 14th Mr. Walker, Buxton, was the speaker for the day, and he very kindly accepted an invitation to attend and address the Lyceum. He took for his subject, "The aims of Spiritualism." It was a brilliant and instructive one, giving food for thought and reflection. It was much enjoyed by all, and we trust we shall have the pleasure of having Mr. Walker with us again. We regret to announce the illness of Mrs. Jewitt.—J. C. Butler.

LONDON, BRIXTON (8, Mayall Road).—On Friday, Jan. 12th, we held our New Year's Tea and Social. Short speeches were made by Mr. Alex. Brooking and Mr. Manvell. Mrs. Stanton received a warm reception as Conductor. A splendid dialogue was well presented, followed by a long programme of solos, both vocal and instrumental. Songs and recitations. All present heartily enjoyed themselves. The hall was tastefully decorated by Mrs. Maunder.—J. Manvell, Assistant Secretary.

LONDON, BRIXTON (84, Stockwell Park Road).—We have to report a small attendance lately, but sincere and earnest feelings throughout the sessions. One of our devoted leaders, Miss Jessie Jordan, has given two splendid recitations. Another earnest worker, Mrs. Tall, has ably conducted these last two Sundays. Also many of our younger members are ever eager with pearls. We hope to be able to report our carrying out the plan of Mr. Keeling by our fourth anniversary in March, if sincerity and earnestness continue. We can see no reason why not. We extend a hearty welcome to any other Lyceumist who is in the district at any time.—Mrs. Nellie Underwood.

LONDON, HOLLOWAY (Parkhurst Hall).—We have had very good attendances, in spite of rain, during the month. On January 18th the Conductor and friends gave the Lyceumists a tea. During the evening we had songs, recitations, etc., from Misses Ida Kent, Whorlow, Kate and Dorothy Rand, Violet Bunan, Gladys Blackmore, Gladys Forsyth, Mr. J. H. Forsyth, Masters Cecil Forsyth, Charlie Rand, and the Conductor. The evening was made enjoyable to the children by the entrance of Santa Claus, who distributed New Year's presents to each child. On Sunday, January 21st, the London District Council visited us. The pearls were exceptionally good. After the marching and calisthenics we had speeches from Messrs. Brooking, Stebbens, Graham and Clegg, Miss Morris and Mrs. Clegg. The President, Mr. Percy Smythe, congratulated us upon the progress made during our infancy in Lyceum work.—Bert Kent, Secretary.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Wednesday, January 18th, we had our party in the Hampton Wick Assembly Rooms. In spite of the stormy weather, there was a good attendance. We all sat down to an excellent tea at 5 o'clock, and afterwards enjoyed ourselves at different games until 8.30, when the presents were distributed by Mrs. Bance. Cheers and claps were given for all those who had helped in various ways to make the meeting a success, and the party broke up at 9.0, everybody feeling that a very happy evening had been spent. We have taken as our motto for the year 1912, "Unity is Strength."

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—During the past year this Lyceum has progressed satisfactorily, and we have hopes that in the future this pleasing success will be maintained. On January 4th we held our Annual Party and Christmas Tree. Prizes were distributed by Mr. Tilby. Games were played. All returned home pleased and happy, after singing "Auld Lang Syne." On January 21st, election of officers for the ensuing year:—Conductor, Mr. Sarfas; Secretary, Miss Harrison; Treasurer, Miss Trimmer; Guardian and Librarian, Miss G. Harrison; Musical Director, Miss R. Beecham; Captain of Guards, Master L. Harrison; Guards, Ethel Stanboro and Stanley Dixon; Leader of Liberty Group, Mrs. Beecham.—Miss Harrison, Secretary.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—On Sunday, December 31st, we had a very good number of scholars. Pearls were excellent. Recitation by Dolly Steel and a solo by Elsie Barnes. On Sunday, January 7th, we had a fairly good muster. Reading by Dolly Steel and a solo by Elsie Barnes, "Never give up the right way"; and also a solo by Dolly Steel, "The Happy Spirit Land." On Sunday, January 14th, we were very pleased to welcome two Lyceumists from the Middleton Lyceum. Pearls were very good: recitations by Dolly Steel and Grace Darkin, also a solo by Dolly Steel.—Harvey Stroud, Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—On Sunday, December 31st, friends interested in our Lyceum scholars gave some prizes for best individual efforts, and the efforts made were very keen. The scholars still continue to show a good interest in the sessions and fairly good attendances are made. We have been very fortunate in adding to our roll an old

Lyceumist of the old Battersea Lyceum, Mr. C. L. Drieselmann, and we are assured of his help. Will other Spiritualists in this district also come in and help to teach the children. On Sunday, January 14th, the second anniversary of the passing of A. J. Davis. Memorial songs, readings and recitations were used, also short address on "Lyceums."—H. Watthey, Sec.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—January 6th, Annual Tea Party well attended. 30 prizes were distributed by Mrs. Hyde and Mr. W. Poulton. Songs, recitations, games and dancing formed a pleasant evening. The sessions during the month have been well attended. Pearls fairly well responded to. Recitations by Miss A. Cheetwood, Ivy Turner and J. Hearne. On January 21st the discussion class was taken by Mr. Crutchley, who answered a few questions very satisfactorily. We extend our sympathy to the parents and friends of one of our members, Cyril Wood, who passed to spirit life January 20th, 1912.—James M. Jackson, Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Our Lyceum rallied together in full force on Wednesday, January 3rd, this being the occasion of our Annual Treat. After a most enjoyable tea had been partaken of, games and dancing were indulged in. Next came the distribution of prizes, which ceremony was performed by our Conductor, Mr. Roeder. There were some 40 or 50 handsome books awarded to the successful scholars. Marching and calisthenics were then gone through, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a social manner.—Harry S. Linton, Sec.

MOSSLEY (Abbey Road).—We held our New Year's Tea Party on January 6th. After tea we had the distribution of prizes by Mr. Howarth, of Stockport. Songs were nicely rendered by Mr. Law, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Doble; and also by Misses Burns, Weddall and Barker. Recitations by Misses Bradley, Widdall and Schofield. A most enjoyable evening was spent.—Alfred Law, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON and BYKER.—On Sunday, January 7th, we held our monthly Open Session with a good attendance of scholars. Recitations by Cora Gay, Dolly Bernard, Ralph Eke, Fred Eke, and Mr. Tweedy. Solos by Miss Gray, Mr. Gay. Duets, Beatrice Eke and Alice Eke, Harry Forster and Ralph Blair. Our Conductor also spoke a few words on the motto for the year, "The greatest good of the greatest number." On January 1st we held our Lyceum Tea, which was very much enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Hunter also distributed prizes to thirteen Lyceumists for regular attendance.—Mrs. Robt. Hunter, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (Rutherford Street).—On Dec. 31st we were favoured with a visit from Mr. Rushforth, of Shields, who spoke very pleasingly of our Lyceum. On this occasion one of our Lyceumists, Master Curtis, was presented with a beautiful book for his good work during the past year. On January 7th we held our election of officers:—Conductor, Mr. Brinklow; Assistant Conductor, Mr. Archbold; Guardian, Miss Shepherd; Secretary, Miss Taylor; Treasurer, Mr. Curtis; Librarian, Mr. Bainbridge; Captain of Guards, Mr. Donnison; Guards, Miss Curtis and Mr. W. Reed; Auditors, Mrs. Craig and Mr. J. Walton; Leaders of Groups, Messrs. Brinklow and Finlay, Mrs. Hayles, Misses Eves and Tweedy; Musical Conductor, Mr. J. Walton; Assistant Musical Conductor, Master F. Finlay.—Nellie Taylor, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, WALLSEND.—We had our Open Session on Sunday, January 14th, which was well attended by Lyceumists and friends. The following contributed to the programme:—Solos by Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Shyfler, Misses Lawrence, Blair, Master Dixon. Recitations by Patricia Lynch, Eveline Lynch, Clara Dixon, Annie Dixon, Jennie Bell, Eva Bell, Florrie Inness, Agnes Inness, M. Carlin, A. Jackson, Master E. Finlay. The Secretary took the platform, in the absence of the Conductor, who was not able to attend through illness.—Hugh Campbell, Secretary.

NORTH SHIELDS (Saville Street).—On Monday, January 1st, the members of our Lyceum gave an Operetta, entitled "Christmas in Dreamland," to a crowded audience, when all who took part did remarkably well, both in singing and actions. So much so that by special request they had to give it over again on Thursday, January 10th. Every credit must be given to our Conductor and teachers for the way in which they have trained the children. Afterwards we had our annual prize distribution, for the best attendance and recitations, which was ably done by our sister, Mrs. Mitchell, who gave a few words of encouragement to each one as she presented them with their prize.—John Leak, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—Sunday, January 7th, Open Session and Prize Distribution. The prizes were presented to the girls by Mrs. Simpson and to the boys by Nurse Stretchley (Leicester). Both ladies gave appropriate addresses, Nurse also giving us a motto, "Hope on, hope ever." Mr. T. Masters spoke briefly on "Temperance," and also offered a prize for the best essay on "Why I should not be cruel to

animals," and Nurse Stretchley kindly offered 2nd and 3rd prizes. We were delighted by a surprise visit by Mr. Hanson Hey, who, in a short address, said he hoped the children would make themselves worthy of the sacrifice the Leaders have to make on their behalf, and giving us the motto, "Do good, and be good."—A. Shipley, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Hawarden Terrace).—On January 7th we held our election of officers for the ensuing year, as follows:—Conductor, Miss E. Swadden; Assistant, Mrs. C. Sharp; Secretary, Mr. A. H. Coles; Musical Conductor, Mr. E. Sharp; Assistant, Miss Eggleshaw; Guardian, Miss Dorris Capps; Guards, Mary Stokes, Hilda Smith, Cyril Pawley, Harry Stowe; Leaders, Liberty Group, Mr. A. H. Coles; Rose Group, Mr. E. Sharp; Snowdrop Group, Miss E. Swadden; Pansy Group, Miss Eggleshaw; Marching and Calisthenics Conductor, Mr. A. H. Coles. On January 13th we had a most enjoyable session, marching and calisthenics being done in splendid style. Also recitations, solos and a duet by the scholars. Six new scholars were enrolled.—A. H. Coles, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—On Sunday, January 21st, we held our Open Session, under the conductorship of Mr. Platt, which was very well attended. Recitations were given by the Lyceumists: Misses E. Taylor, H. Thorpe, E. Thorpe, Mr. Hinchcliffe, S. Clayton, J. Slater, R. Slater and A. Lawson, and W. Wainwright. Also a solo by Miss Benson. Marching and calisthenics were gone through excellently. Our pianist, Mr. Waterhouse, gave us some grand marches. Mr. Driver, of Hollinwood, distributed prizes to three of our Lyceumists for regular attendance during the last year, which were left over from the New Year's party, making in all 14 prizes. At the evening service our Conductor, Mr. Platt, presided. Speakers, Mr. Lester and Mr. Driver. Also a solo by Miss L. Benson.—J. Clayton, Assistant Secretary.

PRESTON (Clarke's Yard).—We held our Open Session on January 7th. There were about 56 scholars present. Recitations by Nellie Spencer, Alice Spencer, Mabel Cartmell, Annie Collis, Rena Collis, M. A. Magrison, Annie Beetham, Martha Spencer, Esther Cartmell, Maggie Hornby, Beatrice Pask, Maggie Wilkinson, Miss Savage, Willie Holt, Will Beetham and John Cartmell. Songs by Mrs. Margison and Miss F. Moorby. On the whole we had a very good session. Our new officers have been elected and we hope all will work hand in hand for the welfare of the children. We trust at the end of this year to have a much larger Lyceum than at the present time. Wishing all Lyceumists a Happy and Prosperous New Year.—C. Fisher, Secretary.

PRESTON (Lancaster Road).—On January 7th we held our first Open Session for this year. Interest was mostly taken in calisthenics and marching. Recitations were given by Misses Ivy and May Pullan, Nelly Culling and Joe Cusack. Songs were sung by Misses Kitty Cusack, Ethel and Martha Hood, and Annie Pullan. Duet was given by Misses Leah Hood and Maggie Culling. Wishing all Lyceumists a Happy New Year.—Albert Hodgson, Secretary.

REDDISH.—We held our election of officers on January 14th, when all the old officers were re-elected for the ensuing six months. On January 21st we had a very pleasant afternoon (which, by the way, is now our Lyceum instead of the morning). Our Conductor explained the meaning of the colours, as given by Mr. A. J. Davis. We also had recitations, given by Misses Schofield, Horabin and Coxon, and Masters Todkill and Richardson. We held our first Open Session on March 3rd, when we would be glad of any assistance.—S. Smith, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—On Sunday, January 7th, we held our Lyceum Open Session, when we had a record attendance of Lyceumists, so taking part in the marching and calisthenics, and also a good attendance of friends. Credit is due to our marching conductor for the manner in which so large a number was managed in the space allowed. Mrs. Nurse was our speaker for the day, and conducted the session. She also took the memorial service in the evening, of Mrs. Eleanor Knott, wife of one of our Lyceumists, and President of the Society, again having a good attendance.—J. Nurse, Secretary.

ROTHERHAM (Percy Street).—On December 30th the officers were elected for the year:—Conductor, Mr. Papworth; Assistant, Mr. Ellis; Musical Conductor, Mr. Kendal; Assistant, Miss E. Kendal; Secretary, Mrs. Metcalfe; Assistant, Miss Parks; Conductor of Marches, Mr. C. Dalton; Assistant, Mr. Smith. January 7th, Open Session. In the absence of Mr. Papworth, through an accident to his knee, Mr. Ellis conducted, when we had a good muster of scholars and friends. Recitations by Olive Metcalfe, Harriet and Lida Jackson, and Mrs. Jaans, and Arthur Bruce. We had some very encouraging remarks from several friends who were present. We were also pleased to see some old scholars, and trust that we shall be able to make good progress throughout the year.—Mrs. Metcalfe, Secretary.

SEACOMBE.—Our annual election of officers took place on January 7th, with the following results:—Conductor, Mr. Thompson; Assistant, Miss Fishwick; Secretary, Miss Brown; Assistant, Norman Davies; Treasurer, Mr. Loch; Guardian, Mrs. Thompson; Conductors of Marching and Calisthenics, A. Loch and M. Brown; Captain of Guards, James Loch; Guards, Nellie Wilson and Elsie Creig; Leaders, Mrs. Rees, Miss Fishwick, Miss Rees and Mr. Thompson. Miss Siddley, of Runcorn, named a baby, John Victor, giving him the spirit name of "Peacemaker." The prizes were distributed at our Social, on January 10th, by Mr. Robb (D.V.). A very pleasing feature was the presentation to our worthy Conductor, which was received with great pleasure and surprise.—Miss Brown, Secretary.

SHAW (Lyon Street).—On Christmas Day we held our Lyceum Annual Tea Party and Concert, which was a good success, and great praise is due to the Lyceumists for the way in which they went through their dialogues, action songs, &c. On Sunday, January 7th, we held our election of officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, John Wm. Wormald; Assistant Conductors, Misses Plant and Wright; Leaders, Richard Wormald and Miss Nancy Rowlinson; Assistant Leaders, W. Chorlton and Miss A. Wright; Guardians, Samuel Worrall and S. Wigglesworth; Assistant Guardians, Miss B. Turner and W. M. Wormald; Secretary, Mr. Richard James Savory.—J. W. Wormald, late Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Thursday, January 4th, we held our Christmas Tea, 80 Lyceumists sitting down. After tea, games, etc., were indulged in, the evening being brought to a close by the distribution of the toys from the Christmas Tree, every one having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. January 21st was Lyceum day. In the afternoon we held an Open Session. In the evening the platform was occupied by officers. Mr. Stevenson gave a reading out of the *Manual*. Mr. Bains and Mr. Vickers gave short addresses, urging parents to send their children to the Lyceum. A very enjoyable day was spent.—George Magness, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—The salient feature during the past month have been the marked and undivided attention paid both to election and marching by Messrs. E. Beardsworth and C. Houldcroft, respectively. The degree of excellence achieved by the former would meet with the approbation of a University Professor, and the high state of discipline attained through the exertions of the latter would excite the admiration of a military commander. The following budding orators have addressed and conducted the Lyceum within the period already indicated, viz.:—Messrs. C. Houldcroft, T. Berry, T. Devereux, E. Beardsworth and Miss Maud Riding.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On the first night of the New Year we held a Pie Supper and Dance. It was a big success. 150 were present. Songs by Miss Butterworth and Messrs. Wright and Wilcock were much appreciated. Miss Tasker was the pianist. On Sunday, January 7th, we held our Open Session. All the children who took part were from 3 to 10 years of age. Recitations by the following:—Misses Bessie, Clarice and Elsie Shepley, Susannah Bottomley, Laura Robinson, Elsie Weir and Lewis Steel. Songs by Agnes Wright, Alice Wild, Laura Tillotson. Duet, Elsie Thorpe and Marion Wright. Miss C. Thorpe was conductor, and Miss E. Wright the accompanist. The children were excellent. 'Twas a good tuning for the New Year.—Joe Steel, Secretary.

STOCKPORT, CENTRAL.—On Sunday, January 7th, we held our 23rd Anniversary, and had a very successful beginning for the new year. We had a large number in the afternoon, which was well attended, and Mr. Walker for the day, Mr. Walker, of Buxton, who was with us all day, gave very interesting and instructive addresses in the morning, afternoon and evening, dealing with the golden chain recitation, "The Unity and Equality of Labour." Our very best thanks are due to the many friends who all helped to make the day a successful one in every way. On Sunday, the 14th inst., we had our Annual Meeting, at which the election of officers for the ensuing year took place, when almost the whole of our officers were re-elected.—J. Bell, Secretary.

TODMORDEN, RIVERSIDE.—On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 7th, we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists took part, viz.:—Reading, "A pint of ale," Miss Uttley; reading, "A drunkard's child," Master Harold Firth; short address by Mr. Fawcett; song, "No night there," Mr. Fawcett; song, "Home, sweet home," Miss Crossley; recitation, "Blind boy," Miss Annie Lee; song, *Manual* 374, "Floral Sunday," Mr. George Johnson; duet, "Scatter seeds of kindness," Misses Uttley and Fielden; song, "Spirit sailor boy," Mr. George Johnson. Also I am pleased to report a steady increase in attendance. Wishing also that all Lyceums may have a prosperous year.—Thomas Wild, Hon. Secretary.