

# 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 IV.

Just then the door bell rang. It was Mr. Mackenzie, called to ascertain if Hope left her gloves. I am half inclined to think it was an excuse to see my little friend, Cutty. He shook hands cordially with her, and learning of what we were studying, rubbed his hands, exclaiming—"What a lucky dog I am. Please proceed, Mrs. Blake. What is the next question?"

Cutty handed the book to him, and glancing at its pages, he asked, "What of the flood, Miss Cutty?"

With quick precision she repeated the description. Mr. Mackenzie was pleased.

"Did this flood drown the whole world, Miss Cutty?"

"Yes, sir," was her ready reply.

"I do not believe there was water enough in, on, or above the earth to drown it. I think it was a local affair, dear."

"But it rained," faltered Cutty.

"And rain, you know, is evaporation of water on the earth. Do you think it seems natural that so much more vapour rose from the earth at that time than has risen since?"

"I don't know," murmured Cutty.

"Every country has its own peculiar tradition of the flood," I interposed.

"Yes, yes, true, so they have. But I have been thinking lately about that ark Noah is said to have built. How much room do you think the family could have had after all the thousands upon thousands of birds, reptiles, beasts, etc., were put in? Could they have existed there, Mrs. Blake? To be sure the ark was large, something like five hundred and forty-five feet long, I believe, not one hundred feet broad, and about half of that in height. Now fill it with the almost illimitable sevens, and food for them all. Who did the work? Who took care of all those creatures? Did you ever think of it, Mrs. Blake?"

Another ring of the bell. It was Mrs. Holt and Lizzie. Lizzie was one of Mr. Mackenzie's favourites.

He repeated his questions to Mrs. Holt, and added he had just asked me and Cutty.

"How many people were there?" queried Lizzie.

"Eight," my dear.

"Oh! what a time they must have had," she exclaimed, "with all those kicking, jumping, climbing, and crawling things. I should have thought Mrs. Noah would have been awfully scared."

"Hush, child, hush!" said her mother.

"And only one window to that large floating

menagerie," added Mr. Mackenzie, "and that closed after a while."

"Oh, dear me! I think Mr. Noah was a funny man, to shut up his wife and family with those terrible things in the dark, and—"

"Hush, Lizzie. Mr. Mackenzie," said Mrs. Holt, seriously, "I am sorry to hear a gentleman of your high moral character speak as you do. I believe in the Bible. The religion that my mother and father lived and died by, will do for me."

"But gran'ma was awful 'fraid to die," interposed Lizzie. "I remember how she said she wished she knew for sure whether she should live after she was dead; and once she cried awful hard and said she couldn't help being 'fraid, cause everything was uncertain. I ain't as scared as that, and I don't know nothing 'bout religion; but somehow I feel just as though God would tell the angels to take care of little Lizzie Holt, and that I should talk and laugh and look just as I do here. Somehow, Mr. Mackenzie, I never worry much. I feel awfully bad when I am real naughty—but I don't think God cares how much fun we make, if it is the right kind. Why, he laughs Himself, of course; who could think of a God that didn't?"

"Hush, Lizzie," exclaimed her mother. "Mr. Mackenzie, what shall I do with that child? Isn't it dreadful—such ideas of death and God?"

"Beautiful, marvellous, Mrs. Holt; you ought to thank God for her confidence in God's goodness."

"Mrs. Holt," replied Mr. Mackenzie, "I would never try to persuade you to any sinful belief, but I would awaken you to reason. I would give you a doctrine of proofs. I would make the Bible your guide in all things wherein it appeals unto and is answered by reason. I would hold up that blessed man Jesus and have you humble and benevolent and charitable, as he was. I would have you so live that when the door opens through which we all must pass you would go, lying securely in the strong arms that bear you."

"By the 'door' you mean dying. Don't you, Mr. Mackenzie?"

"That is so," he replied.

Then Lizzie said, "Oh, for a good while I haven't been a bit 'fraid to go through." Then looking questioningly at her mother, she said, "Why can't I believe God loves me so He won't never let me get any harm any way? Why can't I feel as though if I am a good girl 'taint much to die?"

"Oh, Lizzie!" sighed her mother; but I saw tears in Mr. Mackenzie's eyes, and thought, "Would Mr. Wilberforce call him an infidel now?"

### CHAPTER V.

The next morning Cutty knocked at my bed-room door, and being invited to come in, greeted me with a kiss. How fresh she looked—and so neat. I have never seen her untidy since she came to me.

"Please, I have made a fire, Mrs. Blake, and the tea-kettle is almost boiling."

I was delighted, and ventured to suggest that she should call me Aunty.

Giving me one of those shy looks, she said, "I do not feel that I am good enough to call you Aunt; I am nothing but a poor-house girl."

While we were at breakfast Cutty said, very timidly, "Mrs. Blake, I did not expect to sit at the same table with you when I came here. Do you really want me to?"

"Of course I do; why not? Remember you are not my servant, but my little friend, companion, and my niece."

"You thought to have me for a servant?"

Yes, dear, I did not expect to find you such a smart, intelligent girl. You are far above the girls of your age, my dear." Emotion got the mastery over her, she set down her cup, and begging to be excused, left the table. I could not eat without her, so I followed.

"Cutty, dear," I said, placing my hand on her head.

"Oh! Mrs. Blake," she sobbed, "your love is killing me—I cannot bear it."

I soothed her, telling her that I knew it all—just how she felt, and pitied her.

Through the day we studied and sewed. I ventured to open the piano. I had never sung a note since my dear Cecil died. I thought I could never sing again. The chair in which he used to sit and listen to me is vacant, the blue eyes and sweet face are in the grave—no, not there now, but here. He sits there. I feel it; I can truly say, I know it; and so I sang one of his favourite songs. I heard footsteps, I felt sure it was Cutty stealing softly near to listen. She was afraid to intrude. I felt glad, happy at having her, along with my darling Cecil for my audience. When I was singing the last verse I turned and saw her lips move. I thought she was joining in the chorus. After I had closed the piano, and gone to her side, I asked her if she could sing. She very timidly answered, "A little, Mrs. Blake." After much persuasion, I induced her to sing. She softly sang a song her mother had taught her; it was "The melodies of many lands." I was delighted to find she possessed a rich, sweet voice, and I decided to engage an instructor for her when the autumn arrived, but did not tell her.

In the evening Cutty brought her catechism for us to consider its contents. I turned the pages until I saw the question, "What is hell?"

She answered, "The place of punishment assigned the wicked; the place where the sinful dwell in fire and brimstone for ever; where there shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth."

To this answer I shook my head, and Cutty's whole intensity of nature beamed forth from her eyes. I knew this was the particular point on which she was held crucified.

Ministers failed to explain away this terror of children and stumbling-block of sinners. I remembered how Dr. Edwards and his brother had stood up before their congregations to picture the writhings and sufferings of a wife in hell while her husband, in heaven, was singing "Glory hallelujah; Praise the Lord." And, on the other hand, portraying a mother in heaven clothed in white, with a crown upon her head and a palm branch in her hand, singing praises to the glory of God, though conscious all the while that her innocent babies were burning in hell. But Cutty was waiting.

"Well, dear," I said, "I will tell you what I think about hell. I have studied hard to satisfy the

unrest of soul I once had. I am at peace now, thank kind heaven. Now, pay attention, dear, and I will tell you what I have learned." She placed herself in an attitude of strict attention, and I proceeded:—

"In the Old and New Testaments we find four words translated hell. *Sheol* is Hebrew, *Hades* is Greek, and are considered to be alike in meaning. The other two are *Tartarus* and *Gehenna*. Homer, in his *Illiad* describes *Tartarus* as a place far below *Hades*. *Gehenna* is a compound of two Hebrew words—*ge hinnom*, or the valley of Hinnom, a place near to Jerusalem where the refuse of that city was burned. Now the word *Sheol* is found in the Old Testament sixty-four times, it is translated sometimes grave, others pit, and twice hell. You understand me, dear?"

"Yes'm. What is the English meaning, please?"

"Hell is a Saxon word, signifying a place of concealment."

"Well, Mrs. Blake, what is the meaning of the hell we must bear for our sins?"

"My child, we are told heaven or hell is within us, as we do right or wrong. We are given love, will, and understanding to use or abuse. Life is a chain of many links, each act we do is a link, and each link affects our lives both in this world and the next one."

"Yes, Mrs. Blake; and that is what causes me such terrible misery. Mother, father and Johnny are—"

I interrupted her piteous story by remarking, "Are better than when they went away, or died. The uplifting law of progress is there a fixed principle, as it is here. I have not doubted but their first weeks, months, or even years were dark and hard to bear, for the law of compensation never forgets itself. But, my darling child, gradual unfoldment and improvement is a glorious work."

"Oh! Mrs. Blake, do you really believe they are better? Can they grow better there? It seems so strange when I have always believed that dreadful story of everlasting torment."

"Cutty, dear, remember, we never remain in one state here, and I cannot think we shall over there. We are continually altering for better or worse; and it must be that we go into the next world carrying our experiences with us. The bad and foolish to be outgrown, and the good to be perfected. When your mother stepped out into the 'land beyond the river,' she would be the same woman she was here, and her spiritual eyes would be opened to her condition. We are told that Jesus, before his ascension into heaven, went to preach to the spirits in prison. The law of progress is a divine law. I believe it is the work of those angels who were once despairing mortals to help poor humanity to progress both here and over there."

"I have wondered," remarked Cutty, "how God could have but one hell for all, because there are so many degrees of wickedness; of course He would not punish me as much as He would a murderer. But I see now, all people must suffer according to their deeds of wrong. Oh! Mrs. Blake, if there is hope; if mother, father, and Johnny really can grow better, oh! I shall love God so dearly for giving us the chance."

Her eyes filled with tears and her lips quivered with such appealing pathos, that I could not help asking the angels to make her their special care.

(To be continued).

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

BY THE EDITOR.

Then Perseus looked down the high cliff and shuddered, but was instantly ashamed to show any dread. Then he thought of his task and the renown it would bring him, and leapt over the cliff. And wonderful to relate, instead of falling he found himself floating through the air. He looked back, but the Goddess and Mercury had vanished; and the sandals, true to their divine power, bore him northward, turning neither to the right nor left till he came to the Unshapen Land, and the place which has no name.

Seven days he travelled through it, till he came to the edge of the everlasting night, where the air was full of icy feathers, and the soil was frozen hard; and there he found the three Gray Sisters, by the shore of the freezing sea, nodding upon a white log of drift-wood, beneath the cold winter moon; and they chanted a low song together about, "Why the old times were better than the new."

There was no living thing to be seen near them, not a bit of moss upon the rocks. Neither bear, seal, nor seagull dare come near them for fear of being clutched in the fierce grip of the Ice King. The surge broke up in foam, but it fell again in flakes of snow; and it frosted the hair of the three Gray Sisters. They passed their one eye from one to the other as desired, but they could not see; and they passed the tooth from one to the other, but they could not eat; and they sat in the moonlight, but they were none the warmer for her beams. And as Perseus looked at them he pitied them, but they did not pity themselves.

So he said, "Oh! miserable mothers, wisdom is the daughter of old age, tell me the path to the Gorgon."

One of them cried, "Who is this that reproaches us with old age? It is the voice of one of the children of men."

"I do not reproach you, but honour your old age. The rulers of Olympus have sent me to you to ask the way to the Gorgon."

Another one of them said, "There are new rulers in Olympus, and all new things are bad. We hate your rulers, and the heroes, and all the children of men. We are the kindred of the Titans, and the Giants, and the Gorgons, and the ancient monsters of the seas." The other one said, "Who is this rash and insolent man who comes unbidden into our world? There never was such a world as ours, nor will be; if we let him see it, he will spoil it all. Give me the eye that I may see him, and the tooth, that I may bite him."

So Perseus left off pitying them, and decided to act quickly, for to stay arguing with them meant starvation. He stepped close to them, and watched till they passed the eye from hand to hand, and held his hand in readiness, and one of them put the eye into it, thinking it was the hand of her sister. Then he sprang back and cried:—

"Cruel and proud old women, I have your one eye, and unless you tell me truly the path to the Gorgon, I will throw it into the sea."

Then they wept, and pleaded and threatened Perseus, but in vain. They were forced to tell him the way.

"You must go," they said, "foolish boy, to the southward, into the ugly glare of the sun, till you

come to Atlas the Giant, who holds the heavens on his shoulders. And you must ask his daughters, the Hesperides [Hes-për-i-dez], who are young and foolish like yourself. And now give us back our eye, for we have forgotten all the rest."

So Perseus gave them back their eye; but instead of using it, they fell fast asleep, and were turned into blocks of ice, till the tide came up and washed them all away. And now they float up and down like the icebergs for ever weeping when the warm sunshine falls on them.

But Perseus leaped joyously away southward in search of the Giant Atlas and his daughters. He skimmed over the billows and waves, his limbs never weary, till he saw far away a mighty mountain. Forests grew at its feet, and its head was high up among the clouds; and Perseus knew that it was old Atlas, who holds the heavens and the earth apart.

He came to the mountain and wandered upward, looking for a hut, or other signs of life, but found none. At last he heard sweet voices singing; and he guessed he had come to the garden of the Nymphs, the daughters of the Evening Star.

They sang like nightingales among the thickets, and Perseus stopped to listen, but he could not understand the words. So he stepped forward and saw them dancing, hand in hand around the charmed tree, which bent over them with its load of golden fruit; and round the tree trunk was coiled the old dragon, Ladon, the sleepless snake, that guards the golden apples.

Perseus stopped, not because he feared the old dragon, but because he felt bashful before those beautiful maidens, who chanced to see him, and called to him with trembling voices.

"Who are you? Are you Hercules [Hër-ku-lëz] the mighty, who will come to rob our garden, and carry off our golden fruit?"

"I am no Hercules," he answered, "and I want none of your golden fruit. Tell me, fair maidens, the way to the Gorgon, that I may go on my way and slay her."

"Not yet, not yet, fair youth," they exclaimed; "come dance with us round the tree in the garden which knows no winter, the home of the south wind and the sun. Come and play with us awhile; we have danced alone for a thousand years, and our hearts are weary with longing for a playfellow. So come, come, come."

"I cannot stay to dance with you, fair maidens, for I must do the errand of the Immortals. So tell me the way to the Gorgon, lest I wander and perish."

"The Gorgon will freeze you into stone," they cried, with tears of pity in their eyes.

"It is better to die like a hero than live like an ox in a stall. The Immortals have lent me weapons, and they will give me strength to use them."

Then they answered, "Fair youth, if you are bent on your own ruin, be it so. We know not the way to the Gorgon; but we will ask the Giant Atlas above, upon the mountain peak. The brother of our father, the silver Evening Star. He sits aloft and sees across the ocean, and far away into the Unshapen Lane."

So they went up the mountain to Atlas, their uncle, and Perseus went up with them. And they found Atlas, the giant, kneeling, as he held the heavens and the earth apart.

The maidens asked him, and he answered mildly, pointing the way, "I can see the Gorgons lying on an island far away, but this youth cannot get near them unless he has the 'hat of darkness,' and who-soever wears it cannot be seen."

"And pray, O mighty Atlas, where is that hat, that I may find it?" asked Perseus.

"No living mortal," replied Atlas, "can find that hat, for it lies in the depths of Hades, in the regions of the dead. But my nieces, the Hesperides, are immortal, and they shall fetch it for you, if you will promise me one thing and keep your faith."

Then Perseus asked what the promise was, and the giant said, "When you come back with the head of Medusa, you shall show me the beautiful Horror, that I may lose my feelings, and become a stone for ever; for it is weary labour for me to hold the heavens and earth apart."

Then Perseus promised, and the eldest of the Hesperides went down into a dark cavern among the cliffs, out of which came smoke and thunder, for it was the mouth of Hades.

And Perseus and the Nymphs waited seven days for her return. And when she returned her face was pale and pained with the sights she had seen in the abode of the dead, but in her hand she held the magic hat.

Then all the Nymphs kissed Perseus and wished him success in his dangerous mission. They put the hat upon his head, and he instantly vanished out of their sight.

Perseus went boldly on his way, past many ugly sights, far away into the heart of the Unshapen Land, where is neither night nor day, where nothing is in its right place, and nothing has a name; till he heard the rustle of the Gorgons' wings and saw the glitter of their brazen talons; and then he knew that it was time to halt, lest Medusa should turn him into stone, as she had turned so many.

Then he remembered the instructions of the Goddess Athene, and rose into the air, and held the mirror of the shield above his head, and looked up into it so that he might see all that was below him. And he saw the three Gorgons sleeping, and although he knew they would be unable to see him, should they awake, on account of his hat of darkness, yet he trembled as he lowered himself near them, so terrible was their appearance.

Two of the Gorgons were as foul as swine, and lay sleeping heavily, as swine sleep; but Medusa tossed to and fro in restless sleep, and Perseus pitied her, she looked so fair and sad, her eyebrows were knit, and her lips were clenched as with continual care and pain, and Perseus said, 'Ah, that it had been either of her sisters!'

But as he looked with pitying eye, he saw that her tresses of vipers awoke, and peeped up with their bright eyes, and hissed and showed their fangs; and Medusa, as she tossed, threw back her wings and showed her brazen claws; and Perseus saw that she was as foul and venomous as her sisters. Then he hesitated no longer, but stepped to her boldly, and looking steadfastly on his mirror, struck at her neck with Herpe, and the deed was done.

Then he wrapped the head in the goatskin, turning away his eyes, and sprang into the air, and sped on his way faster than he had ever done before, for the commotion had wakened her two evil sisters.

Into the air they sprang, yelling and trying to find him who had done the deed. At last they caught the scent of their sister's blood, and they rushed forward with a fearful howl of rage. Perseus' blood ran cold as he heard the rattle of their wings on his track, and he cried, 'Bear me well now, brave sandals, for the hounds of Death are at my heels.'

And well did the brave sandals of Mercury bear

him, and the roar of the Gorgons' wings became fainter and fainter, and the howl of their voices died away, for the sandals were too swift, even for the Gorgons, and by nightfall they were left far behind and had given up the chase.

(To be continued).

## Correspondence.

To the Editor LYCEUM BANNER.

Sir,—During my presidency of the Tyneside D.C. I have had the following question put to me so often that I thought I would appeal to the "*Bannerites*" for a solution to the problem: "What is the best method for a Lyceum to work in conjunction with its parent society?" I find that; here in the north of England, Lyceums are not as well organized as some of them are in the Lancashire and Yorkshire districts. I have been asked to go to Lyceums and endeavour to settle this difficulty. My method in the past has been to advise the adoption of the Daulby Hall (Liverpool) method as being the best I know. They work on the following plan: The Lyceum elects its own officers (those over 12 years of age being allowed to vote). The election of its Conductor, Secretary and Treasurer is subject to confirmation by the Society members and are *ex-officio* members of the Society committee. We, at Daulby, found this to work admirably and to be a most efficient method. The Lyceums to whom I have introduced the above plan have added the following:— "That the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society be *ex-officio* members of the Lyceum Committee.

I find in Tyneside that a great percentage of Lyceums work entirely on their own, *i.e.*, they have no representation on the Societies' committees. Neither are the Societies represented on their committees.

I know there are some people in the cause who think that they should be kept apart. But I am of the opinion that the best method, and one from which the best results come, is where they work together.

I should be obliged if any of your numerous readers would forward to me their methods of working and the results. Or would it not be of great benefit to the movement to discuss the matter through the BANNER columns?

J. RODGERS,

52, Roslyn Terrace, Hirst, Northumberland.

### Why I should not be cruel to Animals.

An Essay, First Prize, written by A. W. Shipley, age 14 years, a member of the Nottingham, Gladstone Hall, Lyceum.

Animals are God's creatures. They were made by Him to adorn the earth, not to be ill treated or tormented unnecessarily.

Animals have feeling exactly the same as human beings; but they cannot speak to make themselves understood, so we should be kind to them on that account. We should not be cruel to animals because they help man a great deal in various ways, and it is thoughtless and wooden to pay back evil for good services rendered. Kindness should be shewn to animals because it is right and just that we should do so. They need care and affection at times the same as human beings do. If we shew kindness,

love, sympathy, and affection to them, they, in return, will shew strong affection to their master. A dog never deceives his master, but the master often deceives the dog. A little illustration here will not be out of place. The caretaker at the Boulevard Public Reading Room recently lost his granddaughter. This girl had a black collie dog which was a great favourite, but after the girl's death it refused to eat anything, and it died nine days after the girl, clammed and heart-broken. The late King's dog followed his body, by itself, at the funeral.

I think vivisection is a most cruel practice, as many useless experiments are performed on living animals that have never proved of any use in healing a sick person, as a dog's anatomy is different to that of the human body, and subject to different conditions when in health or disease. A vivisectionist would tell you it was done for "Research," and this invariably signifies experiments on living animals. This method of investigation into the origin of disease has proved a failure, because the answers that have been given, and the results obtained, have been proved inconclusive, inaccurate, contradictory, and misleading in many instances. I think this should be stopped, because it is most cruel to use animals in this way when very little ultimate good can result.

(Nom de plume) "HELPFUL."

## THE PEACE BRIGADE.

CONDUCTED BY C.W.M.

To our comrades and friends once more we give greeting. Have you ever heard the little story about the acorn and the fairy? If not, then here we give the substance of it, and our elder members and sympathisers will be able to "read between the lines."

A young acorn, growing on the parent tree, felt itself to be so tiny and so insignificant, and the world to be so wide, that despair of ever being of any real use seized it, and it became despondent, and almost ceased trying to grow. A fairy, attracted by its sighs and laments, sympathetically enquired the cause of its grief; and on hearing the same bade the acorn be of good cheer, perform its duties well, each as it came first and nearest, and then its wish of doing something of worth would be granted. Buoyed up by renewed hope, the acorn put forth its best efforts, and though all it could then do was to grow, it did so with good will and became a large and well-developed acorn. When mature, a wind blew it from its home, and soon it became embedded in the soil. But, still trusting in the fairy's promise, it did not despair, though all around was so dark. It felt within itself new powers awaken, and soon a passer-by might see a tender shoot springing up. The acorn grew into a full and noble oak tree; for faithfully and earnestly it did its work in its own humble sphere and way, undaunted by buffetings of winds and tempests. And what did it do of use? Times without number it shielded and sheltered from scorching heat or piercing winds travellers along the way and animals of the pasture, and their gratitude was great. Hundreds benefited by it; and then, too, it produced and shed acorns, which in their turn became oaks, and benefited others. And, though at length the oak was

felled, it did not cease to be useful, for of its wood were made many things useful to man.

This story is simple, we admit, but it was forcibly brought to our mind a while ago, when hearing a discussion among some Lyceum workers. They unanimously agreed that the aim of our Peace Brigade was a worthy one, and that what was done at its branch meetings was good, giving to all its members a knowledge of much that was practically useful in real life, and beneficial too, and by discussion and debate broadening their ideas and outlook on life.

So far, so good, *but*—and here remember the acorn—they expressed the opinion that it was no good *their* Lyceum starting a Branch. Why? Because they had but few members; and moreover, they could only do the work with difficulty, and it did not seem worth while.

O friends, what new movement ever began but in a very humble way! Better by far slow advance from lowly beginnings to higher powers to do and act, than begin with a great show of splendour and effect and soon drop into insignificance. And—even if nothing else were done—is it of so little worth to train even a *few* of our children to be more humane, more kindly; to have higher ideals in life than selfish acquisition through the power of might over right? Will not they grow up and influence others; and they, in turn, yet others?

Brothers and sisters in the Lyceum Cause, since that cares for the children; in the Spiritualist Cause, since that brings light and hope to adults; we beg of you to turn your minds to what is going on in the world; and even if you can but do a little, yet *do it*, for we know that nought is done in vain.

"True effort never vainly dies,  
The workers win."

There has to be fought and crushed (1) the great tendency to regard war as right and glorious, if for our country's gain or her maintenance of prestige and "honour," and (2) the disregard of the fact that all life is sacred and possesses equal rights to ours. And only slowly will men's minds come to loathe and hate the very name of war and murder, and of those causes and persons advocating it, from whatever motive.

Do we believe in "The Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man," even after well-nigh two thousand years of Christianity? Let us *prove* it. Perhaps we cannot do much, but Lyceum workers all, let us do our little and do it faithfully and well, and then, like the acorn, we shall find, to our surprise, in future years, that our little has been not in vain and has led to greater results than we anticipated.

"Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
*Learn to labour, and to wait.*"

And, if only Lyceum leaders will write us about their difficulties, we can perhaps advise and suggest how to overcome them. This page is intended for that, and for suggestions and opinions, so that all may benefit and good be done.

We have three new members this month, to whom we give a hearty welcome.

*Glasgow* (Elmbank Crescent) Branch No. 4 (Scotch Thistle). 163, Mr. W. Proudfoot; 164, Mrs. Proudfoot.

*Batley Carr*, Branch No. 1 (Daisy). 165, Mr. J. Hirst.

## Our Groups' Special.

BY FRANK HEPWORTH.

Then Pope, realising our human imperfections, proceeds to sympathise with us. Says he: "This kind,—this due degree of blindness, weakness, Heaven bestows on thee!" Here he evidently alludes to our comparative ignorance of Nature's perfect harmonies, and also implies that in our egotism we may find some degree of comfort, or satisfaction in our ideas of SUPERIORITY, which often prompts us to attempt to set right the apparent wrongs in our environment by the application of our human energies and ingenuity.

Gradually we are learning that when we succeed in our task, it is because we have learned to HARMONISE *our lives* WITH THE TRUE ORDER OF NATURE. This is seen in all aspects of our conscious life, whether applied to physical health, moral order, or religious effort in the highest spiritual sense.

In this state of partial development the poet advises us heroically to—

"Submit, in this or any other sphere;  
Secure to be as blessed as thou canst bear.  
Safe in the hand of One disposing Power,  
If in the natal or the mortal hour."

To the casual reader this statement seems to imply the doctrine of Fatalism, or Predestination, and though it is reasonable to suppose that the poet had vaguely imbibed some such idea from teachings prevalent at that period of his life, still some of the preceding lines counteract the thought and encourage research and application towards an intelligent interpretation of the will of God, and the harmonies of the Divine Order.

In the closing lines of this beautiful poem statements are made which are likely to incite enquiry into Nature's vast secrets, and it is in these concluding lines that we are best prepared to appreciate the statement at the grand climax. Let us quote them:

"All Nature is but Art, unknown to thee,  
All chance, direction which thou canst not see,  
All discord, harmony not understood,  
All partial evil, universal good."

All the richest expressions of Art in Nature may not be comprehended by one soul, limited as it is by physical environment and mental capacity.

The painter will perceive beauties in a pastoral scene, which will escape the notice of the average farm labourer, be he ever so familiar with the scene.

The botanist will be excited to rhapsody by the wonderful exhibitions of Art in Nature, when the rare beauties of a tiny flower or herb will be passed unnoticed by the average town or even country dweller.

Many things, in atmospheric or more densely material phenomena the average mind will attribute to chance, or miracle, but the mind that is trained to enquire into CAUSES will discover a natural cause for, and direction of, the occurrences, and to all such minds the mysterious phenomena serves to excite greater interest in discovering causes.

We have already learned that what we call DISCORD is the inharmonious jumble of legitimate sounds or conditions, and when we observe these, it becomes our duty to re-organize the conditions and eliminate the offending causes by diminishing or destroying their influence.

A very common example of this may be given by way of illustration. The common dandelion, or dock-root, are useful herbs, but if an horticulturalist were to perceive one or other of these herbs growing in a carpet bed of specially harmonised specimens of horticulture, the herbs would there be counted as weeds, and injurious to the design and harmony of the picture, so the gardener would remove them.

To come now to the last line quoted. The spiritual philosophy is teaching us the truth of this, *namely*, "All partial evil universal good."

We are taught by our philosophy, by the history of our race, by the examples of change around us, and by our spirit friends who visit us, that GOOD ONLY is eternal; that evil is ever in that transitory state which is amenable to the influence of good, and that with the growth of goodness and spirituality amongst us, evil will be, by comparison, eliminated.

This brings us to the grand climax of the poem:

"And spite of pride, in erring reason's spite  
One truth is clear, *Whatever is, is right.*"

It is true that pride has frequently blinded the human race to the best interests of a spiritual, moral, and social development. The arrogance of religious fanatics in all ages gives proof of this.

Our present social system affords ample evidence of this. The immoralities which we so often deplore amongst us, are due to blind pride and selfish ignorance.

This is not disputed by the general reader and student of Sociology.

It is also a fact that our reason often errs in judgment because we fail to take into our view ALL the surrounding circumstances of a case. Recognising this, see how we are continually striving to improve our laws, civil and criminal, which are, after all, but the reflex of our aggregate sense of Justice and Right.

As we grow in knowledge, our administration of law marks our increasing wisdom. So that after all, our laws of government, and their administration, are only tentative in character, and mark the degree of light and wisdom to which the age has attained.

In conclusion, then, when we have analysed the poem before us, the last line proves to be a fitting climax to the lesson.

But we must not confuse the Divine Order with the imperfections manifest in the *human order*.

This latter is obviously ever in the evolutionary stages, and only in proportion to our individual powers of perception and the energy displayed by each will the hope of harmonious expression of Divine law be known amongst us.

When we have perceived the presence of discordant notes in the "score" of our life efforts, notes that are detrimental to the harmonies of life, we should seek to overcome them by a re-organisation of the "score."

This is not only legitimate, but necessary, and instead of interfering with the Divine Order, we shall be helping to bring about a more definite revelation of that Divine Order which determines that

*Whatever is, is right.*

312, Hornby Street, Bury.

[We much regret that several items are again crowded out. This is the fifth time we have given an extra page in order to meet the demand on our space. Ed. L. B.]

## Botany for the Young.

By J. KNIGHT.

### THE HOLLY (*Continued*).

To give only a very little of the history of the Holly would fill several pages, so I want to make the most of it and just give you as brief facts as I can. Hollies are known as "He and She Hollies"; that is there are male and female, and when Hollies are in bloom they are a pretty sight. It is not every year that there is a good crop of Holly berries. A season like the last just suited Hollies, when they were in bloom, May and June, and the result of the suitable conditions provided a record crop of berries. A very wet time during the blooming period would have caused a failure. Holly berries contain four seeds. You can grow or raise Hollies from seed, which takes from two to three years to germinate. They are also propagated by cuttings, layering and grafting. The fleshy part of the berries should be destroyed before sowing the seeds.

The question why some Hollies are very prickly, while others are smooth, is a question which will never be finally solved, because you may often gather from one Holly tree as many as 20 different types of leaves. For instance, Mr. Knight has observed this phenomena himself while camping out in the Ribble Valley. You may sow seed selected from a prickly-leaved type or a smooth-leaved type, and all the young seedlings may be the reverse of the parent on the male side, or the reverse on the female side. It is a question which since 1657 has puzzled botanists, and always will.

To the Sheffield readers of the LYCEUM BANNER there is in their own city the finest collection of the many types of Hollies in the Kingdom.

There are all sorts of legends and stories of great interest attached to Holly. For instance, in Derbyshire it is believed that according as to whether the smooth or prickly-leaved Holly is taken into the house at Christmas, so will the wife or husband be master for the year. One more, in Northumberland is a thick Holly bush, consisting of several trees together. These are said to have served as a post office for the passage of letters between the rebels and their friends in the troubled times of 1715 and 1745. In Scotland the Holly is held in the highest esteem, and several clans have adopted it as their badge.

Hollies are credited with many healing virtues. The best bird lime is made from Holly bark and leaves. In many Cheshire villages it is believed that there is no better cure for chilblains than having the toes whipped with fresh-gathered leaves of the prickly kind. I have not tried it, but I give it you from *Science Gossip*. In an Herbal published in 1633, it was stated that 12 seeds of Holly taken for constipation was a certain cure. In Sowerby's English Botany, it is recommended that a dose of Holly bark is a cure for coughs; also an extract from the leaves and bark, called Ilicine, is equal, and sometimes better, than quinine.

Thus one could go on, but space is now scarce, so we must see what the poet has to say about Holly. The Poet Southey says:—

"O, reader, hast thou ever stood to see

The Holly Tree?

The eye that contemplates it well perceives

Its glossy leaves,

Ordered by an Intelligence so wise

As might confound the atheist's sophistries."

Shakespeare, in "As You Like It":—

"Heigh ho! sing heigh ho! unto the green Holly,  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere  
folly;

Then, heigh ho, the Holly,

This life is most jolly."

John Keegan, the Irish peasant poet, who, like Burns, composed his poems during the intervals of his peasant labour, wrote:—

"Come buy my nice fresh Ivy and Holly sprigs so  
green,

I have the finest bunches that ever yet were seen,

Come buy from me, good Christians, and let me  
home, I pray,

And I'll wish you 'Merry Christmas Time' and a  
'Happy New Year's Day.'"

I trust that my young readers will read all that is ever written about trees, plants and flowers, and I promise them that my services will always be at their call, and I am sure that they have in Mr. Knight a real good friend.

V. H. LUCAS.

P.S.—Perhaps some reader or readers of the LYCEUM BANNER may feel that he or she may desire a little more enlightenment upon the question of sex in plants or trees. So far as it applies to Hollies, they are distinct male and female trees, each one flowering at the same time and in close proximity to each other. The female tree, which bears the berries, often fails to bear any berries at all, simply because the weather has been wet during the time when the male tree was in bloom, and the pollen has not been blown about, so that contact with pollen and stigma has not taken place. Thus the flower could not set its fruit, and no berries is the result. Now take the apple, pear, plum, peach, &c. Here we have each individual flower containing within itself both male and female parts, and in many cases insects bring about impregnation. But in my experience as a fruit grower, artificial assistance in fertilizing the flowers is an excellent idea in ensuring crops. Insects are invaluable in fertilization, but they play an infinitesimal part in regard to the Hollies.

### 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.

GATESHEAD (Rectory Hall).—It is with deep regret that we have to announce the transition to a higher life of one of our little brother Lyceumists, George Francis, the dearly beloved son of Francis and Maggie Groombridge. He departed to enter into the companionship of spirit friends. A Little Flower transplanted.—W. Hall, Junior, Hon. Sec.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—On February 7th our sister, Mrs. Grundy, passed to the higher life. Her mortal body was interred on February 10th.—J. Hurdus, Secretary.

### Birth.

WALKER.—On the 25th January, at 26, Stamford Avenue, Crewe, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker, a son—William Shelley.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890, BY J. J. MORSE.  
 Adopted as the Official Organ of the British Spiritualists'  
 Lyceum Union, May, 1891.  
 Transferred to the above Union, as a Free Gift by the Founder,  
 May, 1902.

## THE LYCEUM BANNER :

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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Office—Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

MARCH, 1912.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1912.

“THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER.”

## Lyceum Notes and Comments.

The Lyceum Conference is drawing nigh. Forms are being sent to Lyceums who have complied with the Lyceum Union's Constitution by making the Statistical Returns, and promptly paying their contributions. In this issue we print a full list of those Lyceums whose Statistical Returns and contributions are not to hand. All of the Lyceums named are urgently requested to put themselves in order.

We are requested to ask Lyceum Secretaries to forward a postcard containing the names of their Delegates to the Lyceum Conference to Mr. Herbert Buller, 188, Railway Street, Nelson.

We learn that the Labour Hall, which is situated close to the Spiritual Church, Vernon Street, Nelson, has been secured for teas and dinner. Both the Labour Hall and the Spiritual Church are new and well appointed structures, and will give pleasure to all who have the privilege of visiting them.

Mrs. F. Stables, the indefatigable Lyceum Secretary, kindly sends me the following note of direction to delegates who are unacquainted with the town of Nelson: “As the Delegates leave the station they should turn to the right, pass under the railway bridge, up Railway Street, till they come to Vernon Street, on the right; in short, keep to the right all the way to the Church!”

On February 4th the Brighthouse Commercial Street Lyceum held an open session in honour of the 40th anniversary of the Children's Progressive Lyceum. There was a good gathering of interested adults, besides Lyceumists. The session was varied and bright.

This reminds us that next year will be the Jubilee of the Children's Progressive Lyceum. We trust the event will be suitably celebrated. More concerning the matter later on.

The Open Session and Prize distribution at Burnley, Hammerton St., on Feb. 11th, was a decided success. The Lyceum is strong and vigorous. The marching was the poetry of motion. No wonder they won the Silver Shield!

The Bradford, Boynton St., tea, concert, and prize distribution on Feb. 17th, was a memorable occasion. During the evening marching and calisthenics were freely executed in *very* limited space. They are in need of a larger hall. The Lyceum is well supported by the adult members of the church, who have happily forgotten to be old!

It may be of interest to some of our readers to learn that the Diploma of the Indian Academy of Science has been conferred on the Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER, as a token of sympathy with his laudable work for the promotion of Spiritual and Occult Sciences, which is also the object of the Academy.

It is encouraging to learn that in far away India, one's efforts to promote the intellectual, moral and spiritual welfare of rising generations is noted and marked in such a manner.

A copy of the *Animals' Friend* for January has reached us. The contents are varied and interesting to all lovers of animals and birds. The story of a tame gander, answering to the name of “John Willie,” belonging to a Mr. John Wilson of Bridlington, Yorks., is of exceptional interest as it reminds us of the story of “Solomon,” a tame gander, that appeared in the LYCEUM BANNER fourteen or fifteen years ago.

### THE LYCEUM CONFERENCE.

The date of the Lyceum Conference is May 11th and 12th. Forms for the nomination of officers and members of the Executive Council along with Forms for Delegates, are being sent to all Lyceums whose subscriptions for 1912 are paid. I shall be pleased if the following Lyceums will send in their Statistical Returns, along with contributions based on the same:—

Accrington (Carter St.); Ashington; Barrow-in-Furness (Dalkeith St.); Birkenhead; Birmingham (Crawford St.); Blackburn (Mount St.); Bradford (Bradford Lane, and Shirley Road); Brownhills; Chadderton; Cleckheaton (Old Robin St.); Coventry; Crompton (Rochdale Road); Doncaster (Wood St.); Dundee (Barrack St.); Foleshill, Fordsburg; Glasgow (Elmbank Crescent); Hanley; Hebden Bridge; Heckmondwike; Higher Broughton; Hirst; Hollinwood (Hudson St.); Horwich; Hucknall; Johannesburg; Liverpool (Romer Road); London (Battersea, Brixton, Manor Park, and Tottenham); Manchester (Ardwick and Openshaw); Middleton (Burton St.); Newcastle (Royal Arcade); Oldham (Elliott St.); Perth; Radcliffe; Royton (Union St.); Seacombe; Sheffield (Darnall); Slaithwaite; South Shields (King St.); Stockport (Lr. Hillgate); Sydney; Toronto; Uppermill; Wakefield; Warrington; Winnipeg; Wombwell; York (Cromwell Road, and Ousegate).

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,

17, Bromley Road,  
 Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

## Bluebell Guild.

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

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,—

I am so delighted to be able to present you with a pretty descriptive story of "A Holiday in Ireland," by our kind friend, Miss Maud M. Russell, who is a psychic, and was able to receive mental pictures of some of the places she would see in Ireland, which makes her visit much more interesting.

I am also pleased to have several nice letters accompanied with lists of members for our Guild. They are too good to keep to myself, so I am going to ask our Editor to try and find room for them.

The first is from Leicester, Silver Street Lyceum, and reads as follows:—

"Dear Flora Belle,—

"I am sending on more names for members of your Guild. Sorry I could not send them in time to go with the others. The last name on the list is only a baby, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jewitt, whose names I sent before. She is not quite three months old. I suppose you will not mind accepting her, will you?"

"Yours sincerely, MISS LEACH."

I think it nice to have baby's name along with those of its father and mother.

The next letter is from Stockport, the writer being an old member of our Guild, who writes as follows:

"Dear Flora Belle,—

"It is with much pleasure I, as Guardian of our Lyceum, send you the following names of Lyceumists to be enrolled as members of the Bluebell Guild.

"I have been a member for several years and always enjoy reading the Bluebell Page in the BANNER. Unfortunately, owing to removals, my certificate has disappeared and I am unable to state the number of it. If I could have another certificate I should be very pleased.

"Hoping the Guild and the excellent work it is intended to do will have every success.

"Yours sincerely, LILY PICKTHALL."

Thank you, Lily. I am pleased to be able to supply you with a duplicate certificate, No. 1175, February, 1903.

The next letter is from Ulverston and reads as follows:—

"Dear Flora Belle,—

"It gives me great pleasure to enclose you herewith, a list of names for the Bluebell Guild, from our Lyceum. This is the first list, but I hope it will not be the last.

"I think Mr. R. A. Owen's letter has given us a desire to join the Guild. His idea to form a "Bluebell Band" in the Lyceum, for visiting the sick, is a very good one. We have been talking about forming one in our Lyceum, and hope to do so soon.

"Yours fraternally,  
"WINFRED MATHER, Conductor."

I am glad to learn our President's letter has stirred the good friends at Ulverston. I hope more evidence of its good effects will be forthcoming.

My next and last letter is from Blackburn, St.

Peter Street, and comes from an old member of our Guild, Miss Eddleston, who says:—

"Dear Flora Belle,—

"It is with pleasure I enclose a list of names desirous of becoming members of the Guild. It is the first time I have written you, although I have been a member a long time, and I must admit it is the children's enthusiasm that has awakened me to my sense of duty. They are quite interested in your page, and most anxious to become members. Hence the result. I promised to send you their names. I have explained to them the objects of the Guild, and I think they will prove themselves to be worthy members.

"Yours sincerely, SUSIE EDDLESTON."

I am pleased to learn the children are deeply interested. I feel sure they will prove to be worthy members.

Hoping to be similarly favoured next month, I remain,

Your loving sister,  
FLORA BELLE.

### A HOLIDAY IN IRELAND.

Last August I joined two friends for a fortnight's tour in Ireland, so possibly you may like to hear of some of our adventures. Before the start, something strange happened, and yet it is not strange. The first adventure took place before ever I got to Ireland at all. What do you think of that? I had long wished to see the beautiful Lakes of Killarney, but never could find the opportunity until this year. Two or three weeks before the date of departure, I began to see pretty scenery every night in my own room. The scenes began in my mind, took shape by degrees, and appeared on the closed eyeballs, generally as I prepared to go to sleep. They always changed and moved slowly, one into another, but not at all like the dazzling pictures in the cinematograph. I often saw a picturesque opening or arch, or rather two arches, part of a little bridge at a meeting place of waters. When visiting afterwards the celebrated "Meeting of the Waters," at the Old Weir Bridge, where the Middle and Lower Lakes meet, I knew it again at once. We viewed it twice—from the shore side, and again when we rowed the three lakes through, Upper, Middle, and Lower. I also recognised Bickeen Pridge, the lovely Isle of Innisfallen, also two rock tunnels on the coach drive from Glengarriff to Kenmare,—another part of the district, for all these had already been shown me in the London rooms. I love Middle Killarney Lake the most: it always seemed a vision of Paradise, the heavens above like a pearl, the sunlight so gentle on the sweet transparent waters. On the day previously mentioned, when Lower Lake was reached by boat, the transition was startling, for the sky gloomed, and little rough waves heaved round our tiny craft.

Of all the isles, Innisfallen is the most curious and interesting, and one day we were able to go ashore there, having hired another boat from Ross Castle. Centuries ago, two old saints lived on this island—lived and worked and prayed. The tomb of St. Finian is very remarkable, for it is partly shut up within the trunk of a very old tree, which has grown over and around it. If you stoop low enough you can see the old black stone. When we shot the rapids at the Old Weir Bridge, another flood of recollection swept over me; all here was familiar, for I had seen already the quite waters begin to swell and foam about the mossy stones.

One night, while still staying at the town of Killarney, it was very hot, and sleep was far from tired eyes. At last, I stood up in the middle of the floor, quite wide awake, and looked round the tiny room. Then I saw a wondrous sight. Listen, the walls seemed to vanish away, and beautiful lakes, mountains, and bays appeared. The pearly beauty of spirit worlds rested upon them all. "Why is it all here?" I asked. A voice whispered low within my heart, "You have seen it all while out of the sleeping body, you have seen it awake with closed eyes, you have visited the earthly scenes; now you see it all again with open eyes in your room here so that you may possess it always. Let the memory of all this help you to think well and nobly every-day."

Let us all study every day to think wisely and well, let us strive to send out into the thought-atmosphere which surrounds us, beautiful and helpful thoughts to others. Then we shall always have good help from the invisible worlds.

Our little tour took in altogether one week end at Bantry Bay, one whole week at Killarney, four pleasant days at Cork, and five unexpected days at Waterford. In my next I hope to tell you about the Bells of Shandon; also how I was held up at Waterford through the great Railway Strike.

MAUD MARY RUSSELL.

LEICESTER (Silver Street). 2nd List.

3188	Mr. Arthur Butler.	3200	Jack Welbourne.
3189	James Butler.	3201	Harold Bromley.
3190	Herbert Birrell.	3202	Nellie Barker.
3191	Albert Gregory.	3203	Annie Smith.
3192	Herbert Yorke.	3204	Annie Matthews.
3193	Roland Hill.	3205	Nellie Whitmore.
3194	Arthur Lucas.	3206	Maggie Yorke.
3195	Ernest Parsons.	3207	Minnie Wayne.
3196	Albert Veary.	3208	Annie Smith.
3197	Sidney Harvey.	3209	Gwendolen Parsons.
3198	Reuben Harvey.	3210	Grace Hunter.
3199	Jack Goddard.	3211	(Baby) Alice Irene Jewitt.

STOCKPORT (Central Lyceum).

3212	Florence Hall.	3217	George Garnett.
3213	Tessie Trainer.	3218	Charles Hall.
3214	Addie Trainer.	3219	John Bell.
3215	Maggie Johnson.	3220	Joseph Trainer.
3216	Harold Garnett.	3221	Martha Lee.

ULVERSTON.

3222	Mr. J. E. Coward.	3235	Mary Miller.
3223	Mr. J. J. Taylor.	3236	Harry Taylor.
3224	Mrs. Coward.	3237	Doris Taylor.
3225	May Pennington.	3238	Edith Martindale.
3226	Bert Pennington.	3239	Walker Martindale.
3227	Poppy Tyer.	3240	Nora Griffiths.
3228	Beatrice Tyer.	3241	Doris Coward.
3229	Gladys Hoggett.	3242	May Coward.
3230	Emily Clark.	3243	Roy Coward.
3231	Winnie Clark.	3244	Eric Coward.
3232	Selina Miller.	3245	Florrie Hitchin.
3233	Annie Miller.	3246	Elsie Brown.
3234	May Miller.	3247	Lizzie Watson.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).

3248	Connie Pimberton.	3255	Faith Ainsworth.
3249	Elsie Crowther.	3256	Edith Hopper.
3250	Bertha Crowther.	3257	Edith Penny.
3251	Lizzie Duckworth.	3258	Polly Penny.
3252	Evelyn Awkwright.	3259	Nellie Walkden.
3253	Jessie Awkwright.	3260	Mary Ellen Holden.
3254	Florrie Ainsworth.	3261	Sarah Entwistle.

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 insinging 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: *Resolved*:-

"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.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Trustees to the John Ainsworth bequest of £500 for a Lyceum Home will be elected at the Lyceum Conference to be held at Nelson on May 11th and 12th, 1912. Any Lyceum desirous of nominating a fit and proper person to act as one of the Trustees must send notice of the same to the General Secretary, as below, not later than April 26th, or the nomination cannot be voted upon.

By Order of the Executive Council,

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,

17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

All notices of motion to come before the Lyceum Conference, to be held at Nelson, must reach the Union's General Secretary not later than March 23rd, the same to be published in the LYCEUM BANNER for April, as per Article x, page 5, of the Union's Constitution.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,

17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

P.S.—Copies of the Union's Constitution may be had at the above address, 2d. each, post free, or 1/- per dozen.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

We are just in receipt of a new catalogue of books containing reviews of the works of the noted author, lecturer, traveller, J. M. Peebles, M.D. About thirty books and pamphlets are listed, covering a wide range of subjects as Spiritualism, Occultism, Health, Anti-vaccination, History, Travels, Religion and Philosophy. We would recommend our readers in general, and Lyceums about to form a Library, to write to the Peebles Publishing Company, at 519, Fayette Street, Los Angeles, California, for a free descriptive catalogue.

The magnificent life-sized portrait of the venerable pilgrim, taken at the ripe age of ninety years, is now ready, and should be possessed by all who have been privileged to meet him or read his numerous writings. The price, mailed to any address, post free, is 25 cents, or one shilling.

District Visitors' Quarterly Report, ending December, 1911.

BOLTON DISTRICT.—There are 11 Societies in this district, four of them having no Lyceum. Two inter-views have been sought, and one of them held with Platt Bridge, with promising results. Bolton (Bradford Street)—Programme full, the items well rendered; discipline good, and group lessons interesting. Expenses 1/-.

Hindley—I was sorry to see a decrease of scholars. I advised them to visit the old Lyceumists and invite them to renew their membership. The chain

recitations fairly good. Expenses *nil*. Correspondence 4½d.—J. RUDD, D.V.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—There are 14 societies in this district, four of them having no Lyceum. *Bradford* (Holmes Street.)—The session was very nice. Discussion in Liberty Group good. *Shipley*—A very enjoyable session. The Lyceumists put their impressions of the chain recitation on paper, and read to the Lyceum the Sunday following. A good plan. Expenses 5½d. *Dudley Hill*.—This has been a very good Lyceum, and I hope to see it so again. Expenses 2d. Postage 4½d.—W. BARNES, D.V.

Huddersfield District.—There are 12 Societies in this district, two of them have no Lyceum. Two interviews have been sought and one held, result not yet to hand. *Brighouse* (Martin Street).—The attention and order good. The chain recitations were ably explained. Liberty group had an interesting study. Expenses 6d. *Brighouse* (Commercial Street).—The order good, much enthusiasm manifest. Liberty group crowded, subject "Personal responsibility." Expenses 2d. *Huddersfield* (St. Peter Street).—Glad to say this has been successfully reopened. Its numbers continue to increase. They have a good Conductor, and I wish them success. *Halifax* (Raven Street).—This is an excellent Lyceum, well-officered, and ably conducted. *Huddersfield* (Ramsden Street).—An improved attendance. Enjoyable session. Fountain group were forming "pearls" with coloured letters made of sweets. Splendid idea. Postages 4d.—SETH ACKROYD, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—There are 19 Societies in this district, the number without a Lyceum is not known. *Dewsbury*.—Chain recitations good. I was glad to see groups formed. I hope they will continue with them. Expenses 1/2. *Hunslet*.—The conductor being unable to attend a youth officiated and did very well. Short address by Miss Hesp, Mr. Colbeck and self. *Liversedge*.—Miss Hirst, the Secretary, and Master Grove, the Conductor, are worthy of being well supported by the adults. Expenses 1/9. *Leeds* (Bethel Street).—An ordinary session. No recitations were asked for. Marching and singing good. *Leeds* (Joseph Street). I found they had started earlier with the intention of having groups. A good decision. A good session. In the afternoon the children did well when called upon to take the Conductor's part in the chain recitations, etc. *Farsley*.—This Lyceum struggles bravely on, and is sure to see the results in time. "The workers win!"—SAM LEE, D.V.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.—There are 29 Societies in this district, 17 of them have no Lyceum. One interview has been sought. *Runcorn*.—I would like to see more enthusiasm, it would do much good. Expenses, 1/5. *Widnes*.—An interesting session was held, I would like to hear the children invited to ask questions on the chain recitations. Expenses, 1/5. *Southport*.—The singing, responses, questions and answers good. I would like to see more present to enjoy the good things. Expenses, 3/4.

GEORGE ROBB, D.V.

LONDON DISTRICT.—There are 26 Societies in this district, 15 of them have no Lyceum. Three interviews have been held. *Little Ilford*.—This Lyceum is improving very nicely. *Fulham*.—Owing to removals the members here have decreased. Pearls and answers to questions very readily given. A harmonious session. Expenses, 1/-. *Plumstead*.—Good attendance and great interest manifested in the

session, fares 8d. *Battersea*.—This Lyceum does not make the progress I should like to see. More workers are required. *Manor Park*.—This Lyceum is improving. There are some good active workers here. Fare, 2d. *Plaistow*.—A very good time was spent with the children. A visitor from South Africa lent interest to the occasion. Fares, 4d. *Seven Kings*.—I was requested to instruct them in the Lyceum work. I devoted the evening to the subject, and spent a good time. *Tottenham*.—Marching and calisthenics, and pearls very good. A harmonious session. Fares, 10d. *Brixton* (84, Stockwell Park Road).—This Lyceum has made good progress since my last visit. Singing and explanation of the chain recitations good. *Holloway*.—They have a fine hall in which to meet. The officers are doing their best to make their Lyceum a credit to themselves and the cause. Fares, 10d Postages, 1/5.—M. CLEGG, D.V.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT (Maskell Street).—The occasion of my visit was an In Memoriam session of the first scholar placed on the Lyceum's register when meeting in Downing Street. An impressive session. (Chill Street).—A good session throughout. *Pendleton*.—Afternoon visit. They maintain their usual standard of excellence. Fares 5d. (Princess Road).—The afternoon was devoted to music and recitals. There did not appear to be anything for the little ones, though a rather pleasant time. *Hollinwood* (Hudson Street).—I would like to see more enthusiasm here among the workers. Fares 7d. Postages 6d.—MRS. A. E. BENTLEY, D.V.

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.—There are 9 Societies in this district, all but one have a Lyceum. I am waiting the decision of Sutton-in-Ashfield. *Leicester* (Queen Street)—A pleasant hour was spent, though the weather was bad. Sorry to find Mr. Wright absent on account of illness. *Silver Street*.—I was pleased to find Bro. Hurst conducting the sessions once more. The session was a bright and happy one, and excellent order was maintained. Fares 4/4. *Nottingham* (Hyson Green). I hope the clouds hanging over the Society will soon clear, as they effect the tone of the Lyceum sessions. *Parliament Street*.—The cheery presence of Mrs. Lester, jun., in the chair bespeaks good times for this Lyceum. Her "chat" was most appropriate to the season. Fares 3d., postages 7d.

J. J. ASHWORTH, D.V.

NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE.—There are 19 Lyceums in this district. *Rishton*.—Fairly well attended, and intelligent gathering, good harmony prevailing. Fares 1/5½d. *Darwen*.—The session was well conducted, and a good feeling prevailed. I would like to see its membership brought up to its old standard. Fares 2/6. *Blackpool*.—Over 70 present. The session was bright, full of life and harmony. There is a good time in store for this Lyceum if the present conditions can be maintained. Fares 4/-.—R. LATHAM, D.V.

NORTH LANCASHIRE AND CUMBERLAND DISTRICT.—There are five Societies with a Lyceum in this district, and one without—*Morecambe*. They have promised to bring the matter before their next committee meeting. *Lancaster*. The owner of the hall has prohibited marching, which I think is militating against their progress. They naturally throw much energy into their calisthenics. It was open session, and they had an excellent programme. Fares 2/6. *Barrow* (Dalkeith Street). They were at a disadvantage owing to their being no pianist. Afternoon session much better. Groups were formed. (Abbey

Road).—Lyceum was practising for anniversary. *Millom*. Their number have been depleted owing to removals from town. Their task is hard. Fares 2/-—MISS W. MATHER, D.V.

ROCHDALE AND OLDHAM DISTRICT.—There are 31 Societies in this district, 5 of them having no Lyceum. *Middleton* (Gilmour Street). Attendance and singing good. Chain recitations rather too quick. Marching moderate, calisthenics fine. Liberty group lesson very good. Fares 9d. *Royton* (Union Street). Singing rather slow, chain recitations, marching, calisthenics, and liberty group good. Fares 10d. *Bury*. Glad to see so many young men present. Singing moderate. Chain recitations, marching and calisthenics good. Fares 6d. *Heywood*. Singing splendid. Chain recitations and exercises good. Liberty group doing good work by inviting teachers from other schools to give essays. *Rochdale*. Singing a treat to hear. Chain recitations and exercises good. Fares 5d. *Chadderton*. Small gathering, singing good, chain recitations and exercises moderate. There is a lack of workers here. Fares 1/-. I have paid a second visit to them in order to render what assistance I could. Fares 1/-.—ABRAHAM TAYLOR, D.V.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT.—There are nine Societies in this district, four of them have no Lyceum. Three interviews have been sought and two interviews held. Those who have no Lyceum give as the reason lack of efficient officials to carry on the work. *Glasgow* (Elmbank Crescent). This Lyceum has suffered on account of having to change halls, the one they now occupy being unsuitable for marching. Considering these matters the other work is being carried on with wonderful enthusiasm. *Kingston* is still forging ahead. They have a good number of young members and a loyal band of officers. *Motherwell* shows a high standard of efficiency in all departments of Lyceum work. Expenses nil. DAVID HAMILTON, D.V.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 18 Societies in this district, four of them have no Lyceum. One interview has been sought. *Rotherham*. In the absence of Mr. Marklew on account of sickness I accepted the invitation to conduct. The chain recitations and marching were rendered fairly well. Fares 8d. *Heeley*. The chain recitations and marching were rendered very well. Three members read essays on "Gratitude," which was an excellent feature of the session. Liberty group had under consideration "Capital punishment." The time was too short for full discussion. *Parkgate*. I accepted the invitation to conduct the session. The chain recitations and answer to questions were good. This Lyceum should make rapid progress as they have a beautiful hall in which to meet. Fares 1/1, postages 3d.—ERNEST VICKERS, D.V.

STOCKPORT DISTRICT.—There are 13 Societies in this district, 3 of them have no Lyceum. One interview has been sought and held. Result nil. *Macclesfield*. A good session, ably conducted. Chain recitations and exercises good. A large liberty group, and good discussion. A marked improvement since my first visit. Fares 1/11. *Stalybridge*. (Bennett Street). Chain recitations fairly good. Session well conducted, but no marching or calisthenics. Fares 1/3. *Mossley* (Abbey Road). This Lyceum is doing remarkably well. It has only been in existence ten months and has over 90 names on the register. A nice well ordered session. No expenses.—JOHN MARSTON, D.V.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.—There are seven Societies in this district, all but one has a Lyceum. An interview has been sought and held. I hope to open a Lyceum soon. *Darlington*. This Lyceum is in a flourishing condition. 70 present. Mr. F. Hynes gave a paper in Liberty group which was very interesting and provoked discussion. Fares 1/8. *Hartlepool*. I hope to have good news of this Lyceum to record in my next report. Also I hope to report a Lyceum started at Gurney Villa.—RICHELIEU BROWN, D.V.

TYNESIDE DISTRICT.—There are 16 Societies in this district, four of them have no Lyceum. *Heaton and Byker*. Good order throughout the session. Recitations and solos well rendered. A power for good. Fares 6d. *Jarrow*. A good gathering, the hall too small for them. They do not seem to have quite recovered from the loss of their late conductor who passed to the higher life a few months ago. Fares 1/-. *South Shields* (King Street). There is a sad lack of interest on the part of adults here, only two present. I tried to infuse new life into good work which is languishing. Fares 1/-. *Gateshead*. A good day with Mrs. Bentley. Wish we had more like her. *North Shields*. Good order and conduct throughout. This is a good Lyceum. Fares 1/1. *Wallsend*. This is a good Lyceum, and more workers are needed to help those already doing their best. The friends here are noted for their enthusiasm. Fares 1/-.—W. J. TAYLOR, D.V.

#### BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council will be held in Gas Street Progressive Society, Platt Bridge, on Saturday, March 16th, to commence at 3 p.m. Business: Minutes of last meeting; Secretary's and D.V. and Delegate U.D.C. meeting reports; election of officers; open council. Lyceums having further business for agenda kindly forward at once to the Secretary. A good attendance of delegates and associates requested. Tea 4-30, social 7, tickets 6d. each.

The meetings on Sunday, March 17th. In the morning at 10 a.m. the E.C. will meet at Hindley Lyceum, and in the afternoon at 2-30 our friends at Gas Street, Platt Bridge, are opening their Lyceum. At 6-30 p.m. the services will be conducted by the Council. I trust that Lyceums in the district will come along and help us in training the children in the truths and principles of Spiritualism.—Ed. Walsh, Secretary.

#### LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held at Easy Road Lyceum, Leeds, on Saturday, March 30th, at 3-30 p.m. Business is of the utmost importance; it is hoped that all Lyceums will be represented.

All associate members have a cordial invitation to be present.

Motions to be brought before the meeting:—

I. That no member of the L.D.C. be elected to office unless they have attended 20 Sundays per year at their own Lyceum, and that they must continue to do so while they are in office.

*Batley Carr Lyceum.*

II. That we dispense with plan of visiting at present in use, and that two assistant District Visitors be appointed, whose duty will be to visit each Lyceum in the D.C. at least twice during the year,

and that a levy of 5/- per year be made upon each Lyceum to meet the expenses.

*Dewsbury Lyceum.*

Further arrangements with regard to the Field Day to be held at York will be made. Lyceumists please rally round and help us to make our Annual Meeting a success.

MISS A. HESP, Sec.

LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above will be held at Wigan, Miners' Hall, Millgate, on Saturday, 9th March, at 3 p.m.

Election of officers and other important business.

Notices of motion received *re* Amendments to Constitution, Session Competition, Calisthenics, Visitation Scheme and Pooling of Expenses of Delegates to District Council Meetings.

On Sunday, 10th March, the services will be conducted by members of the Council, 10 a.m., 1-45, 3-0 and 6-30 p.m.

H. WALKER.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

We are having a big Demonstration on March 17th, 1912, in Shearn's Restaurant Hall, 231 and 234, Tottenham Court Road, on the occasion of the 3rd Anniversary of the London District Council.

The Lyceum session starts at 3 p.m. Tea 5-30 p.m. Election of officers directly after the session. The evening meeting starts at 6-30 p.m.

We earnestly ask all those who are interested in Lyceum work to join us as associate members and help us in our efforts to further the cause of the children.

ALEX. BROOKING.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next quarterly meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at the Dearnley Lyceum, when a good attendance of delegates is desired. Business important. Trusting we shall have a good response.

E. DEAN, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT LYCEUM COUNCIL.

Special meeting held in the Rotherham Rooms, Percy Street, February 11th, at 10-30 a.m. Mr. Nelson, of Attercliffe Lyceum, ably presided. Correspondence being accepted as read, Mr. E. Vickers, D.V., and Mr. S. D. Spittlehouse, Secretary, were elected Delegates to the U.D.C. at Bolton.

This special meeting was convened for the discussion of the U.D.C. report, and Constitution, and the Demonstration, these having been referred back to Lyceums from the quarterly meeting. After a lengthy and interesting discussion on the report and constitution, it was unanimously decided:—

(1) That we support N.E. Lancashire resolution.

(2) That we support the U.D.C. on the necessity of an Interim Conference for the revision of the B.S.L.U. Constitution.

(3) That we support the U.D.C. constitution.

Demonstration: Decided that we defer nomination of Marshalls, etc., until the annual meeting.

No ballot being taken on the places suggested, it was unanimously decided that we, the Council, suggest Cleethorpes for the Demonstration.

Regret was expressed at the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. E. Winpenny, who has met with an accident at the colliery.

Afternoon Open Session, conducted by Mr. Spittlehouse. Messrs. Vickers, Widdowson, Welch,

and Lockwood addressed the Lyceum. Numerous recitations and pearls were given. Mr. Vickers presented two Lyceumists with Badges for giving the most pearls and recitations.

Evening meeting also conducted by the Council. Chairman, Mr. Spittlehouse. Speakers Messrs. Vickers and Welch, of Chesterfield. Lyceums in the district take notice of the following Council open dates, which must be filled by the annual meeting:— June 9th, Sept. 8th, Dec. 8th, 1912.

S. D. SPITTLEHOUSE, Secretary.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, March 16th, 1912, at Northgate, Blackburn, to commence at 3-15 p.m. prompt. The items of business will include annual reports, election of officers, silver shield competition, demonstration, U.D.C. report, &c. As there is a great amount of business to be gone through, it is expected there will be a good attendance of delegates and associates.

GEO. G. HIGHAM, 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 February 23rd.

**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, March 27th, to ensure insertion in the April issue.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—On Sunday, February 4th, we held our usual open session, when the following Lyceumists took part in the programme: Duet, A. Taylor and H. Procter; Recitation, Belle Walker; Duet, Mr. Kellett and Mrs. Wallace; Song, Miss I. Hopson. Mr. Z. Hopson then spoke a few encouraging words to the children, especially the boys. He then gave us a treat in reciting. Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon was spent. But, dear Lyceumists, you must wake up. Do not let the old friends do all the work.—Mrs. Wallace, Secretary.

BLACKBURN (Northgate).—On Sunday, January 28th, we held our open session. By the kind permission of the Society we were allowed to have all afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock. We had over 100 Lyceumists and friends present, amongst them being Mr. Squire Spencer, Conductor of North Street, Burnley, who addressed the Lyceum on "Relation to God," which was enjoyed by all. Our Lyceum is growing more week by week. Truly "the workers win."—E. Walmsley, Secretary.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—On Sunday, February 11th, we held an open session, when we had the pleasure of distributing prizes to our scholars for the previous year's attendance. Afterwards a recitation and solo were given by May Lester and Lily Errington. Mr. Moorey had the pleasure of entering into our Lyceum, Amy (Ivy) Newell, which was very ably gone through. I must say that our Liberty Group is increasing very rapidly, and I hope this will continue for the benefit of the Lyceum.—J. Ainsworth, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—On the 18th and 19th of February the Society services were conducted by the Lyceum. On the Sunday afternoon an open session was held. After the singing, reading, marching and calisthenics, which were very well done, several pearls were given, and Miss Ruby Galloway and Master Robert Hulme gave solos. Mr. Hargreaves (District Visitor), gave a few appropriate and encouraging remarks. Mr. Batley conducted, supported by Messrs. Swan and Musgrove. In the evening the choir (Lyceum scholars) gave a service of song entitled: "An angel in disguise," and an anthem. Mr. Meadows was the reader for the service of song. On the Monday evening Mr. Batley gave an address,

and Mr. Hobbs gave clairvoyance.—A. C. Eaton, Hon. Secretary.

**BOLTON** (Bradford Street).—On Sunday, January 28th, we held the first Open Session of the year, a large number of scholars and friends being present. After taking the silver, golden and musical readings, recitations and pearls were responded to, after which Mr. Dowling favoured us with a solo. The marching and calisthenics were gone through splendidly, after which Mrs. Nurse gave two short addresses, one to the adults and one to the children. On Saturday, February 3rd, a potatoe pie social was held in aid of the piano fund. Monro Waddilove gave a song, after which we were favoured with a violin and piano duet. A good programme was gone through. Dancing and games brought a pleasant evening to a close.—Joseph Shaw, Secretary.

**BRADFORD** (Boynnton Street).—We held our open session on February 4th. The morning session was devoted to recitations, etc., by Miss A. Ward, Masters V. Haley and H. Fernihough. Miss Gath gave a select reading. Miss Lickie sang No. 364, and Mr. Dracup 336 out of the *Manual*. In the afternoon Misses A. Ward, Florrie Winder, and F. McIntosh recited. Misses M. Tempest and M. Fernihough rendered solos out of the *Manual*, and Miss Elsie Bairstow a pianoforte solo, "The Dreamland Redowa." During the session Mrs. Ramsden named the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, giving it as its spirit name, "Peace." The ceremony proved interesting.—A. E. Carter.

**BRADFORD, LITTLE HORTON** (Holme Street).—On February 3rd we held a reception in honour of Miss E. Chamber's 21st birthday. A very interesting time was spent. Singing, games, etc., were indulged in. After the supper a suitable presentation was made by the President, and a little later in the evening a presentation was made to Mrs. Snarey by the members of the Society for her strenuous work kindly given to the cause. On February 4th we held our open session, when a good number of recitations were given. In the Liberty Group Mr. Gush ably dealt with the golden chain recitation No. 135. Questions were dealt with. Miss K. Ramsden presided at the piano.—W. Robinson, Secretary.

**BRADFORD** (Odey Road).—We held our anniversary services on Sunday, February 11th, 1912. The morning session was one of the best held for several months. Mr. Horn conducted. Recitations were given by Misses Jones and Gladys Cuthbert, and a reading by Miss Flatt. Solos were rendered by Mr. Hale and Lily Horn; and duets by Mr. H. Hale and Miss E. Flatt, and Walter Hale and J. W. Hale. The afternoon and evening services were conducted by the B.L.D.C. E.C. Mr. Arnold (President), presented the prizes to the scholars in the afternoon. The evening service was well attended and a very good meeting was held.—W. Hale, Secretary.

**BURY** (off Paradise Street).—On Sunday, February 4th, we held our open session. In the morning we had a concertina selection for marching. During the day songs were given by Misses Ellis, Rostron, Annie Wood, and Messrs. Duckworth and Metcalfe. A reading from the *Manual* was given by Miss Florrie and Master Willie Kaye. We had Mr. F. Knott with us in the afternoon and evening, who gave a short address at each session. On February 16th the Excelsior Group held a social in aid of the renovation of the piano. It proved a great success, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.—Mrs. Cotterell, Secretary.

**CHESTERFIELD**.—Sunday, February 11th, we held our usual open session, when the following items were much appreciated. Recitations: Doris McDonald, Mabel Price, Ethel Wale, Doris Briggs, Lena Elliott, Hilda Welch, Florrie Smith, and Evelyn Elliott. Violin Solo, Annie Wale. Pianoforte solos, Hilda Welch and Horace Cartledge. Sunday, February 18th, we had with us Mr. Vickers, of Heeley, and Mr. Spittlehouse, of Wombwell, whose encouraging remarks to the Lyceum were much appreciated.—Edwin H. Widdowson, Secretary.

**COVENTRY**.—Sunday, January 28th, an open session was held, Mr. Grute conducting, at which 37 children and 18 adults attended. Keen competition took place for two prizes which were to be given for the best recitations. After the marching and calisthenics, ably led by Mr. Key, Mr. Bramley President of the Society, presented prizes for attendance. The President also gave a special prize to Master J. Rice who had made a perfect attendance.—W. Rice, Hon. Secretary.

**CREWE** (Mill Street).—On February 4th we held our usual monthly open session, and the attendance on this occasion was very good. The following Lyceumists gave their best, viz: Song, "Open the door for the children," Kate Owen; recitation, "We are seven," Albert Reay; song (unaccompanied),

Leslie Harrison; recitations, "The Christmas Bells," Mr. P. Gawthorne, and "Speak Gently," Ethel Reay. On January 27th we held a social evening. A very pleasant time was spent, about forty being present. Songs and recitations were very ably rendered by the Lyceumists. Refreshments were provided for the children.—Fred Homer, Secretary.

**CROMPTON**.—On Saturday, February 3rd, we held our Gentlemen's Tea Party, which was well attended. After tea a grand concert was given by the young men, which included a long list of songs by Messrs Shaw, Wood, E. Dransfield, Harrison, Hornbuckle, Bardsley, and Clegg. A dialogue entitled "Love in a Collar Box," proved a great success. A friend of ours from Littleborough, Mr. Wallace, proved success in his recitals. Mr. Frank Shaw gave a comic recitation, which brought our pleasant evening to a close. On Sunday, February 11th, Mr. Isaac Dronsfield gave his paper on consumption, which was very interesting.—John Thomas Clegg, Secretary.

**DERBY** (Charnwood Street).—On February 4th we held our usual open session, several children recited, etc. Miss Blood favoured us with a sola entitled, "Give God the Best," which was very much appreciated. Master H. Blood favoured us with a recitation. Mr. Flatt was our speaker, and gave a very interesting address to the Lyceum scholars. We are very pleased to say that our Lyceum is increasing, and we hope it will continue.—H. Wade, Secretary.

**EARBY**.—On Sunday, Feb. 4th, we held our Open Session with a good gathering of young and old. Many readings and recitations were given by Misses E. Maunder, R. Ward, D. Wilkinson, A. Bradley, J. Hancock, E. Foulds and Mr. Hodkinson. Mr. George Edward Bradley conducted the session. On Tuesday, February 13th, the West End Spiritualists' Lyceum gave for our benefit a fairy play entitled "Red Riding Hood and Cynthia." Everybody was greatly pleased to think that we can work together for a grand cause.—J. W. Clark, Secretary.

**GLASGOW, KINGSTON**.—We held our usual monthly "At Home" on Tuesday evening, February 6th. About 50 sat down to tea, after which Mr. J. Stewart, Conductor, gave a few fitting remarks on the way that this draws the Lyceumists together. A large programme had then to be gone through. Songs were given by the following persons in a natural and homely manner:—Messrs. Duncan, Watson, McVicar, McLean, Scott and Kane. Also a duet by Mr. and Miss McLauchlan. Reading by Miss Scott, recitation by Mr. Kane. Games for the young were then indulged in, through the leadership of Mr. Duncan. The most interesting part was the grand old Duke of York, which both young and old heartily enjoyed.—T. Kane, Secretary.

**GREAT HARWOOD** (off Westwell Street).—On Saturday, February 3rd, we had our coffee and bun treat for the Lyceum scholars. The children played games of all kinds during the afternoon. We also had songs and recitations. On Sunday, February 4th, we held our open session. The silver chain was led by Mr. Baxter, the musical reading by H. Waterhouse, Norah Wrigley and Amy Bullen. The golden chain by Mr. Crooks. We also had recitations by Annie Owen and Arthur Holt. Taking it all round we had a good week end.—Miss A. Anderton, Secretary.

**HOLLINWOOD** (Byrom Street).—We held our Annual Lyceum Tea Party and Distribution of Prizes on Saturday, February 10th. There was a large gathering of friends to see the prizes distributed to the Lyceum scholars by their late Conductor, Miss L. Snape. Afterwards the children gave a Fairy Play, entitled "The Sleeping Beauty"; also songs and recitations, followed by games. An enjoyable evening was spent by all.—Mr. W. Anderson, Secretary.

**KETTERING** (Temperance Hall).—A grand concert, organised by Mr. W. Harvey, of Burton-on-Trent, was lately held here. Thirty children, wearing red, white and blue sashes, looked very pretty as they went through the calisthenics. The jingle of the fairy bells worn on their wrists kept time to the music. A recitation by Master Shrivvers; solo by Miss Ireland, and a duet by Mr. Flavell and Miss Kate Fox. Each child was treated to tea and cakes. Miss Gwendie Parish presided at the piano. A happy evening was spent.—Mrs. E. Johnson, Secretary.

**LANCASTER** (Phoenix Rooms).—Through the conditions not being suitable for the children, owing to a cold room, our attendance was small, Miss Fisher and John Kirk sang a duett, Solo, Mr. Clarkson. Recitations by Miss Pennington, E. Kirk and John Thompson. Our Building Fund Committee are using every effort to find subscribers for the much needed home, and hope very soon to have the help of others who are wishful for the progress of humanity. If there are any who wish to

help along our intentions they could not do better than make a little self-denial to our Society and accept our best thanks for every little effort we receive.—Mr. J. Kirk, Secretary.

LEEDS, ARMLEY.—We held our Lyceum Anniversary on February 3rd, 4th and 5th, which was a success. On Saturday we had a conversazione. The first hour was spent in songs, recitations, and action songs by the Lyceumists. Another hour for refreshments, and the rest of the evening was given over to games and dances. On Sunday, February 4th, we had a very good Lyceum, our speaker being Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, who gave a short address to the children, and afterwards distributed the prizes. We were pleased to see so many old friends and new. A good number took part in the marching. On Monday, February 5th, in the afternoon and evening, we had Mr. Abrahams, the coloured medium, for our speaker.—Miss E. Whitaker, Secretary.

LEEDS, HUNSLET (Church Street).—On February 10th and 11th we celebrated our Lyceum Anniversary. On February 10th we held a successful tea and concert in which Lyceum Scholars and friends took part. On Sunday, February 11th, we had Open Sessions, and the President of the Church, Mr. Whitley, presented three prizes to the scholars: Ada Harrison, Florrie White and C. Brown. The children responded with pearls, recitations and solos. Our church was full to watch the children go through their marching and calisthenics, and they enjoyed it. In the evening a Service of Song was given by the Lyceum scholars, entitled "Launch the Lifeboat." Mr. Broom was the reader. The church was full, and they enjoyed it.—Albert Harrison, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On February 11th we held our Open Session, under the conductorship of Mr. Baldwin. Only 26 present. On the whole we had a very good session, the following scholars taking part:—Recitations by Misses M. Wilson, E. Wicks and Master H. Wicks; songs by Misses Smith, Heath, Baldwin, Wilson and Master Veary.—John Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On January 28th Mr. Fletcher (London) visited the Lyceum and gave his experience of his voyage to the various countries. It was listened to with great interest and was appreciated by all present. On Sunday, February 4th, we held our open session, when we had a good attendance. Recitations and pearls were given by the Lyceumists. Also marching and calisthenics were gone through, to the delight of all present. On the whole we had a good session. We are delighted to report good news of Mrs. Jewitt, who is making good progress towards recovery, and hope she will soon be with us again.—J. C. Butler.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—On February 10th we held our annual party and prize distribution. About 200 scholars and friends were present. The prizes, about 40 in number, were awarded for good attendance by Mr. James Knight, of Bolton. This pleasing ceremony was followed by a good entertainment, consisting of songs, solos, recitations, Lancashire readings and a dialogue. The following contributed to the programme:—Misses Baldwin, Estock, Hurdus, Gibson, Guest, Turner, Lea, Roughley, Seddon, Woodward; Masters Seddon and Gill, under the leadership of Mr. J. Gregory. Mr. Blackshaw, our President, presided. On Sunday, March 31st, will be Open Session day, 2-30 p.m. Mr. Hilditch, the medium, Lyceumists attending from other parts of the district will have tea provided free, on reporting to Mr. Woodward or J. Hurdus, Secretary.

LONDON, HOLLOWAY (Parkhurst Hall).—During the month great progress has been made with the calisthenics, this being largely due to having a practice during the week. Pearls, recitations and songs have been good, being contributed by Miss Whorlow, Gladys Blackmore, Irene and Ida Kent, Mr. Hawes, etc. We are looking forward to increased activity, through the Lyceumists' endeavours.—Bert Kent, Secretary.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—On Sunday, February 11th, we had a very good number of scholars. Pearls were good. Recitations by Kathleen Jones and Dorothy Steel, and a solo by Ethel Barnes; also a pianoforte solo by Miss Firth. We were very pleased to have with us a member of the church, Mr. Mosburg, who spoke to us about Lyceum work. We are sorry to say that two of our scholars, Percy and Horace Jeffries, are leaving us owing to removing out of the district. On Sunday, February 18th, we had a very good attendance. Pearls were excellent. Recitations by Dorothy Steel and Kathleen Jones. We were very pleased to have with us a Lyceumist from Oldham, Mr. Thomas Meakin.—A. H. Stroud, Corresponding Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH and PLUMSTEAD.—This Lyceum still sails merrily on, and some most enjoyable sessions are

held. Three new members have been added this month. Pearls, recitations and singing are eagerly given, and a good desire for explanations of the *Manual* is shown. We are still short of officers, but we are still hoping for help.—H. Watthey, Sec.

LUXLEY BROOK.—We held a social, with refreshments, on Saturday, February 3rd, which was well attended. Songs, games and dancing helped to make a most enjoyable evening.—Mary A. Barlow, Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On Sunday, February 4th, we held our usual Open Session, which was very well attended. A solo, entitled "Gates of the West," was rendered in a very able manner by Miss Wastell, as was also a recitation, "Spirit Friends," by Tom Drew; and one, "A rose at last," by Annie Bessant. Laurence Hodgson then gave us a humorous recitation, entitled "Ten little toes," which added in no small manner to the enjoyment of the session. The Adjudicators for the Shield Competition were with us, and we were favoured with a short address from each.—Harry S. Linton, Secretary.

NELSON (Vernon Street).—On Saturday, February 10th, we held our Annual Prize Distribution, when 10 firsts, 9 seconds, and 5 special prizes were distributed by Mr. Hanson G. Hey, Halifax, the worthy Secretary of the S.N.U., Mr. Hey giving words of wise council and advice to each recipient in turn. We had a good number of Lyceumists, parents and friends to the tea. After the prizes had been awarded, a dialogue, entitled "Our Betty," was well rendered by six of our young ladies. Dancing was freely indulged in for the rest of the evening. All spent a happy and pleasant time together.—Mrs. F. Stables, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, BENWELL.—Our Open Session on February 4th, was taken by Mrs. MacDonald, of Benwell, who gave a very instructive address on "Pearls," which was attentively listened to and enjoyed by all. Our Conductor asked questions bearing on the address, on the 18th, and the replies given by the children clearly showed the impression it had made upon them. Our Lyceum is "going strong." During the present month we have enrolled nearly a score of adult associate members.—Mrs. Margretta Salkeld, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (Rutherford Street).—On February 4th we held our Open Session, when there was a good attendance, considering the Lyceum had been closed for a few weeks owing to the epidemic in Newcastle. Solos were rendered by Misses E. Elnor and Annie Chambers, Masters E. Curtis and Mr. V. McFadden. A report was given by one of our delegates of the progress and business carried on at the last Tyne-side District Council Meeting. On February 7th we held a social evening, when a most enjoyable time was spent by all.—Miss N. Taylor, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, WALLSEND (43, North Road).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, February 18th, which was well attended. The following contributed to the programme:—Solos by Master A. Dixon, Mr. West and Miss Lawrence; recitations by Misses A. Dixon, C. Dixon, E. Carlin, P. Lynch, K. Carlin, J. Bell, A. Jackson, Mrs. Dixon. A short address on "Duty" by Mr. Campbell.—H. Campbell, Secretary.

[Your report of January 18th is out of date.—Ed.]

NOTTINGHAM (Parliament Street).—On February 10th, Mrs. Twelvetree gave a farewell tea to the Lyceum, and a grand time we had. Mr. and Mrs. Twelvetree left this country on the 17th to take up their new abode on the Australian shores. We have also another of our Lyceum workers leaving for the same country, Mr. W. Lester. We made them a present of a *Lyceum Manual* each, with a few kind words written on the first page. We hope our Australian friends will offer a warm hand to them, and they may still work for the benefit of our children's movement. All we can say is God speed them forward, and may they prosper in their new undertaking.—C. H. Newham, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—On Saturday, February 17th, we held a Ceb-web Social. Our President, Mr. Clayton, occupied the chair. This was an effort by Mr. O. Waterhouse and family, and proved a grand success in every respect. Songs were rendered by the following artistes:—Mrs. Booth, Miss A. Diggle and Mr. E. K. Waterhouse, who also accompanied them on the piano. Also on Sunday, February 18th, we held our Open Session, under the conductorship of Mr. Platt, when songs and recitations were given by the Lyceumists. Recitations, Miss E. Diggle, H. Thorpe, E. Thorpe, Mr. Hinchcliffe, Masters S. Clayton, J. Slater and R. Slater. Duets by Misses B. Cheetham and Lucy Booth, Claria Diggle and Carrie Benson.—Joe Clayton, Secretary.

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—We held a most enjoyable and harmonious Christmas Treat, which included tea

party, social and Christmas tree, on Friday evening, Dec. 22nd. The tea was delicious and well appreciated, and was followed by round games and vocal items, the programme being specially arranged to interest the children. The Christmas tree was gaily decorated and loaded with more than sufficient presents. Young and old alike received some memento of the occasion. Although the weather was stifling, Father Christmas was in attendance. The Lyceum continues to make good, steady progress. All visitors from "Home" are assured a very hearty welcome. Best New Year greetings to all Lyceums.—George F. Richards, Secretary.

PRESTON (Lancaster Road).—We held our monthly Open Session on February 4th, when we had a very enjoyable time. Marching and calisthenics were gone through. Recitations were given by Misses Annie, Ivy and May Pullan, Nelly Culling, Ethel Hood and Joe Cusack. Songs were sung by Misses Kitty and Sissy Cusack, Martha Hood and Maggie Culling. Duets were sung by Ivy Pullan and Sissy Cusack, Annie Pullan and Ethel Hood, May Pullan and Kitty Cusack. It would be better for this Lyceum if some of the Society had to join and help in the movement.—A. Hodgson, Secretary.

PRESTON (Clarke's Yard).—On Sunday February 18th, we held our Anniversary, which was conducted by Mrs. Fanny Taylor, of Manchester. During the day recitations were given by Nellie Spencer, Annie Collis, Rena Collis, M. A. Margison, Annie Beetham, Mabel Cartmell, Esther Cartmell, Martha Spencer, Maggie Wilkinson, Will Beetham and John Cartmell. Mrs. Wilson, our Conductor, occupied the chair, assisted by Beatrice Pask, our Assistant Conductor. In the evening we had a demonstration, which reflected great credit on all Lyceumists. There was a good audience. We hope it will put new vigour in the officers to work hand in hand for the welfare of the children. We hope that good will be the result of this day's work.—C. Fisher, Secretary.

ROTHERHAM.—Monthly Open Session held February 11th, conducted by Lyceum District Council. Opening hymn, 305. *Manual* responses good. Calisthenics and marching good. Solo by Miss Froggatt. Recitations by Misses Metcalfe and Jackson. Pearls from Lyceumists and delegates. Presentation of two Badges to Miss E. Biddlestone and Master N. Sanders for pearls during quarter ending December, 1911. A few select remarks to each recipient from the D.V., Mr. Vickers, finally brought a most enjoyable session to an end.—Mrs. E. H. Metcalfe, Secretary.

ROYTON (Union Street).—We held our Annual Party and Distribution of Prizes. The prizes were distributed by Mr. Wm. Chisnall, one of our old workers. The following took part in the entertainment:—Songs by Mr. Greaves and Jones, Misses S. E. and A. Haslam, M. Greaves, and M. Roebottom. Recitations, Messrs. Triffent, Greaves, Wainwright and Shaw, and Misses S. Shepherd, Roebottom and M. Haslam. Games and dancing brought a splendid evening to a close.

SCARBOROUGH (North Street).—On February 4th we held our first Anniversary, Mrs. Davison being the speaker for the day. Mr. Gartery, President, presided in the afternoon. Recitations were rendered by the children, and the prizes for attendance were awarded. Mr. Pike, late conductor, presided in the evening, assisted by Mr. John Swales, Misses Lockwood and Cautts. Miss Ida Swales gave a solo. Selections from the *Manual* were sung. And Mrs. Davison gave a nice encouraging address. Mr. Jubb presided at the organ. On the Monday evening a social evening was held for the benefit of the Lyceum. Recitations were given, and a sketch, entitled "Sally Peppermint," in which the elder scholars took part. Games brought a happy week-end to a close.—Ida Coutts, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Sunday, February 4th, we held our Open Session. The following took part in giving recitations:—Jessie Arnold, Harry Truelove, Cyril Truelove, Evelyn Hempstock, Jack Richards, Flo Vernon, Joe Hopkins and Frances Evans. Bringing a very enjoyable session to a close. On February 1st Mr. Hemmingway gave a lantern lecture on "Town Planning," which was well appreciated. On February 8th Mr. E. Vickers gave a lantern lecture to the Lyceumists, entitled "A trip round the Isle of Man." On February 15th Mr. E. W. Oaten gave a paper on "Culture," to a very attentive audience, many questions being asked, which were answered in a very able manner.—G. H. Magness, Secretary.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—On February 4th we had our Open Session. The weather was very wintry and no doubt kept some of the scholars away. There were present 38. Recitations were given by Lily Williams, Elsie Jones, Hilda Jones, Richard Crawford, Arthur Carter. We had also with us on the above date Mr. Sutton, Mr. Smith and Mr. Pugh the judges for the shield competition. We had a most enjoyable morning session.—H. W. Westbrook, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—Within recent date our Lyceum has been both conducted and addressed by Messrs. T. Berry, E. Beardsworth and C. Houldcroft, and the Misses Alice Smart, Maud Riding and Kitty Bolton, and also with our visitors, Messrs. J. Oates and J. K. Jones, of Sheffield and Miss Flatt of Bradford, respectively. Mr. Oates delivered a vigorous address, imparting many useful and practical lessons for the future of his audience, and Mr. Jones gave a resume of the rise and progress of the Attercliffe Society and Lyceum, followed with an instructive and educational address on "Self-sacrifice," which met with unusual approbation. Excelsior like, we are making satisfactory progress.—Maud M. F. Riding, Secretary.

STOCKPORT (High Street).—On Saturday, February 3rd, we held our Annual Prize Distribution, which was a huge success. Over 70 per cent. of the Lyceumists gained prizes for attendance, &c. Upwards of 100 Lyceumists and friends sat down to tea, after which we had a short entertainment, given by the young Lyceumists who had been carefully tutored by our Guardian, Miss L. Pickthall, to whom our very best thanks are due. Our late Secretary, Mr. J. H. Marston, distributed the prizes, and spoke words of encouragement to the children and words of advice to the elders. I regret to say that we do not get the help and support from our parent body here that we ought to do.—J. Bell, Secretary.

TODMORDEN, RIVERSIDE.—On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 4th, we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists took part, viz.:—Silver chain recitation No. 58, "The Golden side" Miss Uttley; readings, "The slave's dream," Mr. Thomas Wild, "The shipwreck," Mr. Wm. Clarke; song, No. 38 *Manual*, Miss Florrie Fielden; two songs, 423 and 374, Mr. George Johnson; musical reading, "The voyage of life," 203 *Manual*, Miss Uttley, who also gave a few remarks on what is the "Barque" we have to guide. She also answered questions about the body and conscience. Reading, "The story of a stowaway," Mr. F. Pratt; quartette, 391 *Manual*, "Strike your harps," by Messrs. Sutcliffe and Johnson, Misses Firth and Fielden. We had a splendid session. Each person gave his sympathy and love for the success of the session.—Thomas Wild, Hon. Secretary.

TORONTO (Armstrong Hall).—I have pleasure to report the opening of a Lyceum in the above hall last November by Mr. John Watson, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Hippey. The Society and Lyceum were started right away and have proved a success. We have 40 on the roll. And we hope to join the Lyceum Union before long. Mr. Watson was formerly a member of the Leeds, Bethal Street Lyceum, and came to Canada about eight years ago. Since his arrival he has started three Lyceums. I arrived here about a year ago. I was a member of the Leeds, Chapel Lane.—Henry Bucton Hippey, Secretary.

TORONTO (Dovercourt Road).—The result of election of officers is as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Brook; Assistant, Mr. Elvin; Treasurer, Mrs. Brook; Secretary, Mrs. Hobson; Assistant, Vinnie Hobson; Guardian, Mr. John Johnson; Librarian, Herbert Brett; Teachers, Mr. Brett, Mrs. Brock and Florrie Streeter; Captain of Guards, Mr. Branny; Guards, Arthur Ingle and Edward Shreeve; Musical Director, Sidney Brown; Marching, Wm. Settle. We have been labouring under difficulties for a few months. Some other church wanted Summerfelt Hall, and we were unable to get one in the same district. We have been sharing the hall of the Central, but on the 5th of February we intend to occupy the hall at the corner of Alcina and Bathurst Streets, and shall be pleased to welcome newcomers.—Miss Vinnie Hobson.

ULVERSTON.—Sunday and Monday, January 28th and 29th, we held Open Sessions, which were very successful, Lyceumists going through the opening exercises and marching and calisthenics in a very smart manner. The following Lyceumists took part:—Solos, Messrs. J. E. Coward and J. J. Taylor, Nora Griffiths, Doris Coward, Gladys Hoggett and Annie Miller. Recitations, Miss Amy Pennington, Mr. Griffiths, Selina and May Miller, Poppy and Patricia Meyer, Harry and Doris Taylor, Fred and Jessie Brown, May and Harry and Doris Taylor, Fred and Jessie Brown, May and Harry. Miss Mather, our Conductor, gave an address on Lyceum teachings, on Sunday evening. Mrs. Coward officiated at the piano.—J. E. Coward, Secretary.

WALSALL.—Miss G. Ware conducted the Open Session on the 4th February, and a capital programme was given by Misses Dolly Mason, R. Morgan, Wains, Taylor and Ware; Messrs. Jenkins and Morgan. Miss G. Ware gave instructive readings and thoroughly explained same to the intelligence of the youngest. Also Mr. Walker, of Buxton, gave an interesting address, which was appreciated by all.—J.A.J.