

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.

Stories from the Classics

JASON AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

And he heard a voice say, "This is because you have slain Cyzicus, your friend. You must offer a sacrifice to appease his soul, or you will never leave this shore."

Jason told his comrades what the magic bough said, and they leapt on shore and sought among the slain giants till they found the dead body of their friend. And they wept over it and laid it on a fair bed, and heaped a huge mound over it and offered black sheep at his tomb, and Orpheus sang a magic song that his spirit might have rest.

But the grief of Cyzicus' wife at her husband's death was so great that she died of a broken heart.

When they had finished sacrificing to the departed Cyzicus they sailed away, and at evening ran Argo into a bay sheltered by high rocks.

When morning dawned Hercules went into the woods to hunt wild deer, and the boy Hylas followed him by stealth, until he lost himself among the glens, and when he grew weary he sat down to rest by the side of a beautiful lake; and the water nymphs who lived in the lake came to look at him and fell in love with him, and carried him down under the lake to live with them, for ever young and happy. And when Hercules returned and learned that Hylas had followed him he went in search of him, shouting his name till the mountains rang, but failed to find him, and while he was searching so long, a fair breeze sprang up, and Hercules being beyond recall, the Argo sailed away and left him behind.

And they sailed up the Bosphorous, till they came to the city of Phineus, the fierce Bithynian king; and Zetes and Calais bade Jason land there, as they had work to do.

And they went up from the shore toward the city, through forests white with snow; and Phineus came out to meet them with a lean and woeful face, and said, "Welcome, gallant heroes, to the land of bitter blasts, of cold and misery; yet I will feast you as best I can." And he led them to his palace and set meat before them; but before they could begin to eat there came two fearful monsters, having the faces and hair of fair maidens, with the wings and claws of hawks; and they snatched the meat from off the table, and flew shrieking away with it.

Then Phineus beat his breast and cried aloud, "These are the Harpies, whose daughters are the Whirlwind and the Swift, and they rob us night and day. They carried off the daughters of Pandareus, whom all the Goddesses had blest; for Aphrodite (Venus) fed them on Olympus with honey and milk and wine; and Hera (Juno) gave them beauty and wisdom, and Athene (Minerva) skill in all the arts; but when they came to their wedding, the Harpies

snatched them both away, and gave them to be slaves to the Erinneses, and live in horror all their days. And now the Harpies haunt me and my people, and the Bosphorous, with fearful storms, and sweep the food from off our tables, so that we starve in spite of all our wealth."

Then up rose Zetes and Calais, the winged sons of the North-wind, and said, "Do you not know us, Phineus, and these wings which grow upon our shoulders?" And the king hid his face in terror, but did not answer.

"Because you have been a traitor, Phineus, the Harpies haunt you day and night. Where is Cleopatra, our sister, your wife, whom you keep in prison? and where are her two children, whom you blinded in your rage, at the bidding of an evil woman, and cast them out upon the rocks? Vow to us that you will right our sister and cast out the wicked woman, and then we will free you from your tormentors, and drive the whirlwind maidens to the south; but if not, we will put out your eyes, as you put out the eyes of your own sons."

Then Phineus made an oath to them to do as they wished, and drove out the wicked woman; and Jason took those two poor children and restored their eyes with magic herbs.

Then Zetes and Calais rose up and said, "Farewell, heroes all, our dear companions, with whom we played and studied on Mount Pelion; for a fate is laid upon us, our day has come at last, in which we must hunt the Harpies over land and sea for ever; if we catch them they die, if we fail, we die ourselves."

Then all the heroes wept at the loss of their fair companions, and took a farewell of them, which was no sooner done than they sprang aloft into the air after the Harpies, and the battle of the winds began.

But the Argonauts continued their voyage eastward, out into the open sea, which we now call the Black Sea, but it was then called the Euxine. No Hellen had ever crossed it, and all feared its rocks, its shoals, and fogs, and bitter freezing storms; and they told strange stories about it, some of them half-true, and some false; how it stretched northwards to the ends of the earth, and the sluggish Putrid Sea, and the everlasting night and the regions of the dead. So the crew trembled for fear of the unknown evils of the Black Sea, which they saw stretching out before them without a shore, as far as the eye could see.

Then Orpheus warned them, saying, "We shall soon come to the wandering blue rocks, my mother, the immortal calliope [Kel-li-ō-pe] warned me of them."

And soon they saw the two blue rocks shining like spires and castles of gray glass, while an icy-cold wind blew from them and seemed to chill their brave hearts, and they rested upon their oars in fear; but Orpheus called to Tiphys, the helmsman, and said, "Between them we must pass; so look ahead for an opening, and be brave, for the Goddess Hera is with us." But Tiphys, the cunning helmsman, stood

silent, clenching his teeth, till he saw an heron come flying mast-high towards the rocks, and hover awhile before them, as if looking for a passage through. Then he cried, "The Goddess Hera has sent us a pilot, let us follow the cunning bird."

Then the heron flew to and fro till it saw an hidden gap, and into it it rushed like an arrow, while the crew watched what would happen.

The blue rocks clashed together as the bird flew swiftly through; they struck but a feather from its tail, and then rebounded apart at the shock.

Then the crew gave a shout as they bent to their oars and rushed between those toppling icebergs and the cold blue lips of death; and ere the rocks could meet again they had passed through and were safe on the other side.

And while they sailed on wearily Idmon and Tiphys died; and then Ancaeos [An-kā-os] took the helm and steered them on past Sinope, and past many a barbarous tribe, and the cities of the Amazons, the war-like women of the East, and all night they could hear the clank of the anvils and the roar of the furnace-blasts, and the forge fires shone like sparks through the darkness in the mountain glens aloft, for they had reached the shores of the Chalybes [Kal-i-bā-oos], the smiths who never tire, but serve Ares (Mars), the cruel War-god, forging weapons day and night.

And at day-dawn they looked eastward, and midway between the sea and the sky they saw snow-white peaks glittering sharp and bright above the clouds. And they knew they were come to Caucasus, at the end of all the earth: Caucasus, the highest of all the mountains, the father of the rivers of the East. On his peak lies chained Prometheus, for stealing fire from heaven with which to bless mankind.

After three more days of weary toil they were able to see shining above the tree-tops the golden roofs of the city in which King Aietes, the child of the Sun, who possessed the Golden Fleece, lived.

Then Ancaios, the helmsman, said "We are come to our goal at last, for there are the roofs of the houses, and the woods where all poisons grow, but who can tell us where among them is hidden the Golden Fleece? Many a toil must we bear ere we find it, and bring it home to Greece."

But Jason cheered his comrades, for his heart was light and bold: and he said, "I will go alone to the King, though he be the child of the Sun, and win him with kind words. Better so than to go altogether and come to blows at once. But his companions would not stay behind, so they rowed boldly up the river."

CHAPTER V.

THE WINNING OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

A dream came to the King of the Colchians [Kol-kians] which filled his heart with fear. He dreamed he saw a shining star fall into the lap of his daughter Medeia [Me-dē-a], who received it with joy, and carried it to the river-side and cast it in, and the whirling waters bore it down, and out into the Euxine Sea.

Then he awoke and leapt up from his couch in fear, and bade his servants bring his chariot, that he might go down to the river-side and appease the nymphs and the spirits of the brave men who haunt the bank. So he went down in his chariot, and his daughters by his side, and a crowd of servants and soldiers, for he was a rich and mighty king.

And as he rode down by the river he saw the ship Argo gliding up beneath the bank, manned with a crew who looked like Immortals for beauty of form

and strength of muscle. But Jason was the noblest looking, for the Goddess Hera, who loved him, gave him beauty of form and tallness of stature.

And when they met, the heroes were awed at the majesty of King Aietes [A-ē-tēz], as he stood in his chariot robed in rich cloth of gold, and the rays of his diadem flashed like sparks of fire, and his jewelled sceptre glittered like stars, as the rays of the morning sun shone on it, and he cried aloud to the crew of Argo—

"Who are you, and what want you here, that you come to the shore of Cutaia [Ku-tā-ā]? Do you take no account of my rule, nor of my people the Colchians who serve me, and who never tired yet in the battle, and know well how to face an invader?"

And Hera, the Goddess, put courage into Jason's heart, and he rose and spoke boldly, "We are no pirates, nor lawless men. We come not to plunder and to ravage, or carry away slaves from your land. My uncle, Pelias, the Minuan King, has sent me on a quest to bring home the Golden Fleece. And these, my brave comrades, are no nameless men, for some are the sons of the Immortals, and far renowned. And we, too, never tire in battle, and know well how to give and take blows! Yet we wish to be guests at your table, it will be better so for both parties."

Then the King's anger was great, but he concealed it in his bosom, and answered cunningly—"If you will fight for the Fleece with my Colchians, then many a man must die. But do you expect to win from me the Fleece in fight? So few you are that I can load your ship with your corpses. But if you will be ruled by me, you will find it better far to choose the best man among you, and let him fulfil the labours which I demand. Then I will give him the Golden Fleece for a prize and a glory to you all."

So saying he drove back in silence to the town. And Jason and his companions sat silent with sorrow, and longed for Hercules and his strength to win the prize, for there was no chance of gaining it by fighting the thousands of Colchian soldiers.

But Chalcioppe [Kāl-ki-ō-pe], Phrixus' widow, with tears in her eyes, whispered to Medeia, her sister, "Why should all these brave men die? Why does not our father give them the Fleece, that my husband's spirit may have rest?"

And Medeia pitied the strangers, and Jason most of all, and said, "Our father is a stern and terrible man, and who can win the Golden Fleece from him?" But her sister said, "These men are not like our men; there is nothing they will not dare to do."

(To be continued).

A HEYWOOD LYCEUMIST IN HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in writing you from Canada, though so far away from home, our Mother Country, yet hoping to be a brother worker in the cause I have worked for so long in England as a Lyceum scholar, late of Heywood, Lancashire, now living in Hamilton, Canada, with my family. Our Lyceum has been closed a few weeks during this summer, it being too hot to attend, but now we have opened again we are expecting to continue. We have elected our officers, and all seem anxious we should succeed, also hoping we shall be able to join your Union before very long, and be one with you. I also hope to be able to send for a few "Lyceum Banners" shortly, as most of our scholars have not seen one, only what I have shown to them. We have not many scholars yet, only about 30, but we are hoping for more, as we are going to open in the English way as there are many English here.

A Brother in the cause,

W. H. FROST.

[D.V. reports and other important matters are unavoidably held over till next month.—Ed.]

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

CHAPTER XIII (Continued).

Cutty has been with me eighteen months. Oh! how she has changed in that brief time. Learning is to her soul a majesty to be reached high for; she strives hard to lift herself that she may grasp the stars of education and hold them to her bosom. This strong, devotional love for gain of good has made her precious to me. As the space widens between her days of bitter memory and the present of bliss, I can see how rapidly the true nature is displaying itself. She flits like a bird through the house, and leaves the perfume of her love in each apartment. In her fifteenth year, she combines all the marvel the bud had promised for the opening blossom.

After a long silence Cutty received the following letter from Lizzie;

"DEAREST CUTTY, it has not turned out *figurative* yet, but something keeps whispering it will. Mother says I am an uncultivated, rude girl, and that a horrid idea of God and religion was born in me, and that I must try and get rid of it. She says I am totally depraved. I know I am a great girl to know so little, and I shall study hard to learn. Tell Belle Orcut I want her to read those notes I wrote her, and she'll be alright. Mother got me a lot of nice things, but I never cared much, you know, for new dresses and the like. I'm afraid I haven't got such a good start in life, Cutty. Aunt Sarah says I'm wholly original, and wants me to get some kind of polish from society. I hope I can keep still about angels and the like, but if I hear anybody say anything about eternal punishment, I shall talk and show how rude I am. I think Mr. James and Miss Sallie will feel better now I'm gone. I shall come home at vacation time and see you, Cutty. And now do you kiss Mrs. Blake twenty times for me, and kiss yourself a thousand!

Lizzie Holt."

When she had read it Cutty exclaimed, "Oh! what a good letter."

For an hour my adopted darling sat at my feet and we talked of the past, the present, and the future; then Cutty ventured to say, "It is a long time since we had our questions and answers; please let us renew them."

I consented; and she asked:

"How can I make plain to Belle Orcut the meaning of repentance? She has finally decided to go with me to my class; (the poor girl comes every day to my home to learn to read, etc.) and she asked what I thought she must do to repent sincerely."

"Repentance is reformation. Be careful that in teaching her, Cutty, you do not give her the impression that if she repents of the past it secures her against all punishment in the future. Effects of past wrong doing linger long after the cause has ceased. 'Go, and sin no more;' this was the love of Jesus for that repentant, sorrowing woman. She went from the Temple, we believe, purified in soul for the future; yet the effect of her sin might follow her for a long time; until it became distanced by space and the light she let shine before the world."

"I will teach her carefully. I pity Belle, for I remember my own shrinking from society. I think Miss Gregory is a good woman, and will receive Belle cordially; but the scholars are proud, and I say, 'Now, Belle, you must not mind them, they will learn better one of these days? She is so sincere, and I tremble every day lest she turn back to her old ways, for she gets not the slightest encouragement. To-day, she seemed very sad, and I asked her what the trouble was. She said, 'Oh, Miss Cutty! every day I have my feelings hurt. It makes no difference to people, though you try ever so hard; if ever you were bad, it will be remembered *always*; if they see you trying *ever* so hard to do well, they don't make any difference with you?' I told her with good people it certainly did make a difference, and the others she must leave in the hands of God. I suppose Belle has been a very bad girl."

"Very, I fear; but Cutty, you and I must try and lead her up to a better and a purer life if possible."

"We will, mother; but oh, how she does worship Lizzie Holt. Did I ever tell you what first started her from her wickedness?"

"No, dear," I answered.

"She told me to-day, and I laughed and cried at one time—so like that little rogue Lizzie. Oh! how I do want to see her! She was down by the mill-brook sailing bits of shingles for boats, when Jimmie Doten and Fisher Cobb came along. Jimmie said, 'Lizzie, do you know of any stream where a fellow can catch something worth while?' Her eyes twinkled, I'll warrant, when she answered, 'Yes, in the stream of life.' 'Oh! darn the stream of life,' responded Jimmie; 'it's too long, and has too many crooks in it?' 'And in those crooks,' retorted Lizzie, 'you catch the best fish!'"

"A speech wise enough for a sage," I remarked. "Cobb was eating a piece of cake, which he threw into the water; whereupon Lizzie said, 'Cast thy bread upon the waters, and after many days it shall come back.' Cobb added quickly, 'But so darnedly soaked that what's the use of its returning? Lizzie, what does that mean?' 'Its *figurative*' she replied, with a merry laugh; but my teacher says it means, to do good, and after a while you get a *reward*." "That reward's the principal thing with those Church people," said Jimmie; "whatever they do, the *item* is the reward, you know."

After a time, Belle, who had been waiting for the boys to pass, for she feared they would call her names, was weary with delay, and passed very near them. As she expected Fisher and Jimmie commenced to taunt her and call her nicknames. She turned upon them, and threw stones. Lizzie said, 'Now the one that is without sin cast the first stone back at her.' They laughed at Lizzie's remark, but did not throw any stones. Lizzie ran after Belle and found her crying. She just put her hand on Belle's arm, and told her it was too bad—they were wicked boys, and that angels would feel dreadfully sorry to see how cruel they were to her. Poor Belle was completely overcome with Lizzie's kindness. She told me it was the first time she ever felt a real desire to be good. She said she hated people who called themselves pious, and when they passed her, drew up their clothes as though if they touched her they would be contaminated. But Lizzie's kindness so impressed her, that she said if she could be like her she would gladly suffer much for her past sins. It was at that time Lizzie suggested taking her to

the Sabbath School, and Mrs. Holt forbade it. You remember we tried to win her again, but failed, until we offered to instruct her here in our home. Though I strive so hard to lead her, she thinks more of two little notes she got from Lizzie, than all else in the world."

"Well, mother, can we have just one more question to-night?" "Yes, darling, what is it?"

"Do you think we shall eat in the spirit-world?"

"Elijah passed forty days without material food, and Moses on the mount, and Jesus, in the wilderness of Bethsaide, were sustained on spiritual nourishment."

"How was it done, dear mother?"

"The spiritual world contains, I believe, invisible essences of material things; in fact materiality is only the ultimate expression of the spiritual life. If this be so we shall get the most delicious foods there."

"You know Jesus turned water into wine. How did he do it?"

"My dear, I think those acts called miracles were but the harmony of natural law, not understood sufficiently for most persons to avail themselves of them. A mind of great mesmeric power has been known to impart to water the specific qualities of a medicine. This we have had proof of; why, then, could not Jesus impart to water the properties of wine? The whole realm of nature is subjective to spirit, and all things in the material world are the effect of spirit. Let us remember this and it will help us much."

"In my Bible lesson this week, there is a question I cannot answer. It is to tell Jesus' meaning when he said, 'All mine are thine, and thine are mine.' What should I say in answer?"

"I think those words of Jesus will be realised when we, at the expense of selfish aims and ends, follow abnegation, and accept the thorn and give the rose, rather than keep the rose and give the thorn. Shall we be happy in the society of angels unless we can accept the beauties of their lives? Let us crystallize into sparkling gems the tear-drops of the weary-hearted; let us sing songs of mercy to earth's stricken ones; let us be practical reformers in every sense, not for praise of man, but for the satisfaction of our own hearts, and the peace of heaven."

Cutty thanked me with one of her sweetest kisses—a thousand times more eloquent than all the words of gratitude she could have offered.

CHAPTER XIV.

The sabbath bells are pealing. The children of the Sunday school are taking their respective places. Cutty, holding Belle Orcut by the hand, walks towards the Superintendent and says:

"Please, sir, may I take this young lady into my class? I think there is a vacancy, and I feel quite sure Miss Gregory will not object."

The superintendent scanned the girl from head to foot, then scanned her over again, while Belle blushed and gazed at the floor, and then turned to Cutty with a pleading look for protection. "I hardly know," he replied slowly (for he had recognised Belle): I think perhaps she had better go into Miss Crane's class."

"But they are all so small," objected Cutty, and she well knew they were the picked poor of the village.

"She will require elementary teaching," remarked the superintendent.

"No, sir, I have given her her elementary instruction," added Cutty.

"Very well, then, she can go into your class for to-day," came the reluctant permission.

Belle, breathing a sigh of relief, at once accompanied Cutty to the class-room, where Miss Gregory received them with a sweet smile. Ellen Cragie and Anna Wilkes drew their dresses about them, and Fanny Phillips spoke sharply as the clean calico dress of Belle rubbed against her elegant silk one. "Please, I would like to move my seat."

Poor Belle could endure their slights no longer, and burst into tears. She whispered to Cutty, "I'll go home. I never want to come where Christians are again. I would rather have my poverty than such make-believe religion."

Belle motioned to rise and go, but Cutty pulled her back, saying aloud, "Please do wait for me, Miss Orcut," at the same time giving her a glance of earnest pleading, and whispered, "Do not care for them. I wish Lizzie Holt was here." Belle smiled and nodded.

(To be continued).

Bluebell Guild.

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

My Dear Bluebells,

The following press cutting is such a touching incident that I was moved to place it before the members of our Guild, feeling sure they, too, would appreciate the doctor's kindly act to the little girl who sought his aid and skill:

LITTLE GIRL AND "POORLY" DOLL.

A few days ago the door bell of the North Derbyshire Hospital, at Chesterfield, was rung. It was a diffident little tinkle, as if in the composition of the ringer at that moment there was less of confidence than timidity. On answering the summons, the attendant found a very little maid on the steps, who plaintively inquired for the doctor. In her arms was a much dilapidated doll, with loosely-swinging limbs, dishevelled hair, and features in an inferior state of preservation.

KINDLY HOSPITAL SURGEON.

She was shown into the waiting-room, and, when the house surgeon appeared, asked wistfully that she might have "dolly made better." The doctor led the little girl to a ward, told her to put dolly to bed in one of the cots, and told her to return on the following Friday. She was there, faithful to the appointment, with an anxious and eager expression on her face.

HEALTHY, SHINING COUNTENANCE.

But the doctor had called in the aid of the matron, and the little one found, instead of the invalid she had left there, an exact replica, dressed in the clothes of its predecessor, but of a healthy and shining countenance and sound in every limb, which she bore away with perfect satisfaction and delight.

It does not often happen that "grown ups," who in their childhood days have dearly loved a toy animal have the great satisfaction of possessing a real "live

one" bearing a strong resemblance to their toy pet. In the following story such is the case :

TOM,

OR HOW THE TOY HORSE CAME TO LIFE.

In the first place, from my earliest years I have always adored horses. I never would have a doll, but always toy horses. I used to make stables for them, and groom and feed them every day. I even used to make nosebags and fill them with canary seed for corn! My father made me sets of harness, and every buckle was complete and beautifully finished. So I soon learnt how to harness a real horse.

I owned two nice "fur" horses, or those covered with hair, and have them still, and shall never part with them; one was a brown and the other a piebald. But I never thought I should one day own a real horse, so you can imagine how delighted I am now I have a real piebald—in fact, it is like the toy one come to life, and marked very much the same. I also had a real brown one lent me for six months, so I have had two toy horses come to life.



"Tom" is very handsome. He has a black head, and on one side he has a proper saddle of black, and on the other he has a mark very like the "boot" of Italy. Whether he has ever been in a circus I can't say, but before he came to his last master he was very thin and miserable. Now he is a fine, fat, sleek fellow, with a splendid neck and shoulders, and beautifully shaped. He has a trick of shaking his head for his corn, and also pawing the ground and holding one leg high in the air. That makes me think he may once have been in a circus. He is also very intelligent. I have heard that piebalds are more so than other horses. He knows every shop and house I go to, and will stop at them, though he may have only been once before. When I clean his hoofs out, he holds them up one after the other, and sometimes unties my apron strings when I bend down!

He is an ideal horse in the stable, so very quiet, and yet outside he can go very fast, and has plenty of spirit. He loves to be talked to, and has one ear back listening all the time. I have had him seven months now, and he is getting such a pet and companion and quite one of the family. I look after him all myself, and he has never had a cold or ailed anything, and I'm certain no horse need ever get ill if he is properly looked after. My method is: plenty of fresh air; a light, roomy stable; plenty of fresh water always near; and small feeds at a time, and plenty of them. Tom has four or five feeds of corn, chaff, and bran a day,

besides unlimited hay and fresh grass. He is bedded in a thick bed of clean sawdust every night, and has the window open all day and night. I find sawdust much cleaner than straw, and very soft.

He goes on the lawn for the grass very often, and he is very good, and never touches the rose-trees or flowers. He generally rolls the first thing.

He loves a band, and when we put our gramophone on he careers about and prances, and tries to dance. That's another reason why he may have been in a circus. But he has had his tail docked, poor fellow! and they generally have long tails in circuses. I am trying to get the hair to grow long, but it takes a long time; it is snow-white and wavy. He is really a harness horse, and has a smart yellow-wheeled dog-cart, but I ride him a good deal as well, and he is getting into a good saddle horse. The coach-house leads out of the stable, and when I have harnessed him he follows me out and stands by the dogcart ready to be put in. He really enjoys going out.

"Ponto," the big retriever, simply loves him, and screams with delight when he goes out with him, and tries to lick his nose; and Tom is very fond of him, and tries to play with him on the way. I also have two kittens, and our old cat, Peter, and four pigeons, so have plenty of mouths to feed.

I cannot think how anyone *can* ill-treat a horse. When you have one of your own, you realise more and more how intelligent they are if they are allowed to be, and not, as is often the case, simply treated as machines. I do think men are very rough in the stable, and groom horses too hard. Tom hates his head touched; he has a very tender skin, so I always clean his face and head with a very soft brush, and he is quite all right, and likes it. Some grooms seem to brush a horse as if he was a carpet! Horses have much more tender skins than we think, as they can feel the moment a fly touches them, so I'm sure a hard, stiff brush must be very disagreeable. I was asked lately if I would sell Tom as an Army drum-horse, as in one regiment they use piebalds, but I could not think of selling him, and if even I do have to part with him, I'd really rather shoot him, I think, as he is certain to eventually get into a circus or something, owing to his colour, and then what a miserable life he would have! That is the worst of having pets, never knowing what their end will be, and they have such short lives really. Of course, I believe in a future for animals, so I shall always hope to meet my pets again sometime. Fancy, two years since dear old Gelert died, and I shall never forget him.

Ponto is getting into our ways just the same, and a regular petted dog, and so gentle. One day I must tell you about his ways, and how he plays hide-and-seek and jumps out at us to frighten us, with his great paws outstretched, and loves to hear us scream, and then he pretends to bite us, and really only licks us all the time. In fact, he's just like a romping, teasing schoolboy.

GWENYTH M. O. WILLIAMS.

[We beg to acknowledge our indebtedness to G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., York House, Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, for their kind permission to reprint, with block, the above story from *The Little Animals' Friend*, the supplement to the *The Animals' Friend*, illustrated, price 2d. monthly, which we heartily recommend to our readers.—ED. L.B.]

The Peace Brigade.

Conducted by C.W.M.

My dear comrades,

Have any of us ever seriously tried to grasp what an enormous waste of life and money there is in connection with war? Even if so, yet I think the following extract from a reliable source will help to bring it home to each of us more forcibly; and will, I hope, cause others to reflect upon the matter seriously and deeply. By keeping our eyes open, by using well our ears, and then by employing thought and reason upon what is thus obtained, is the best way to keep ourselves from being duped and gulled into a false feeling of security, and "that all is well." The extract to which I refer above reads: "Illuminating facts concerning the cost of war in blood and treasure are contained in a publication of the American Peace Society. It states that

One big cannon shot costs £340 (including deterioration of weapon). Three and two-thirds years of a working man's wages.

Five and one-third years of a female school teacher's salary.

As much as a working man's house .

As much as a college education at £85 per year.

One Dreadnought:

First cost: £2,400,000, or a sum equal to the cost of six locomotives at £4,000 each. Costs £200,000 per year to maintain. Its life, 10 to 14 years, then the scrap-pile.

Human Sacrifice.

Probably 15,000,000,000 lives sacrificed in wars since the beginning of authentic history, or as many as all the people who have lived on earth during the last 600 years. More than 14,000,000 slain in war during the 19th century. These were able-bodied.

The armed peace of Europe for the last 37 years has cost at least £22,200,000,000.

I would ask all readers to consider these statements and figures carefully. Does it not make us ask if we are really "civilised," and, if so, if our boasted civilization is worth the having? Surely the world's people have much yet to learn and do; to unlearn and undo; before true brotherhood reigns in all nations and in all hearts.

THE ADVENTURES OF PRIVATE WILLIAMS.

It was seven o'clock in the morning, and the sun had been out long enough for us to wish for the cool of the evening. I believe it was ninety-five degrees in the sun, and . . . but it does not matter what it was in the shade. We had just come back from a long route march—having set off at 3 a.m.—and now everybody was feeling hot, tired, and thirsty. In fact, some of the "soakers" were already waiting for the canteen opening, and Paddy Bass, who was noted for his beer-holding capacity, said he had got a thirst which he would not sell for a month's pay. A few of us had gone on to the roof (which was flat like most buildings there), to while away the time before breakfast; listening to the bleating of the goats, the cries of the herdsman, and the tinkling of bells; and expecting our own bugle to sound cook-house call. Whilst sitting thus, all at once we heard the scream of a ship's siren, which sounded like the moaning of some great monster that had received a mortal wound. We heard that it was the Dilward troop-

ship, taking unfits and "time-expired" back to England, and this caused me to muse somewhat. Do you know what becomes of these men after they are discharged? They are thrown into the labour market (which is always over-crowded), there to compete with the already under-paid, unskilled labourer. Some have lost their manhood to that extent that they refuse to go home—shrinking from showing their friends and relations what they have come to—and eventually they drift into a common lodging house where the environment is hellish, if you will pardon the expression.

Quite recently, while visiting Leeds, I came across one of my own old comrades carrying sandwich boards, and his plight was pitiable indeed.

But, to return to my story of the incidents of that day. We went down to breakfast, after which we were warned for our duties for the day. I, along with two others, had four hundred strokes to do at the pump which was situated in a yard at the rear of our room. There was also an old disused well in the yard, about forty feet deep, and while Tom Mappin was taking the first turn at the pump, and Kellet and I were waiting for our turn, we heard strange noises issuing from the mouth of the well, so we went over to see if we could find out what it was. Our opinions were so varied that, to end the matter, I was lowered down with the rope to find out the cause. I saw something moving on the surface of the water and made a grab at it, and then gave the signal to haul up. On my reaching the top we found it was a mongrel pup, about three months old, that had been thrown down the well by the Maltese children. We kept it in the barrack-room for a few weeks, and then the Sergeant of the Regimental Police asked us to give it to him. We did so on the condition that he gave it back to us again if he grew tired of it. However, this he did not do, and the pup grew up to be quite a useful fellow. But I will tell you more of him and his chum next month, for I have taken enough of your time already.

MATERIAL WEALTH.

He who is enslaved with the sole desire for material possessions here will continue to be enslaved even after he can no longer retain his body. Then, moreover, he will have not even the means of gratifying his desires. Dominated by this habit, he will be unable to set his affections, for a time at least, upon other things, and the desire, without the means of gratifying it will be doubly torturing to him. Perchance this torture may be increased by his seeing the accumulations he thought were his now being scattered and wasted, by spendthrifts. He wills his property, as we say, to others, but he can have no word as to its use. "It is as hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven," said the Master—he who having nothing had everything—"as it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle." In other words, if a man give all his time to the accumulation, the hoarding of outward material possessions, far beyond what he can possibly ever use, what time has he for finding of that wonderful kingdom, which when found brings all else with it. There is no wiser use that those who have great accumulations can make of them than wisely to put them into life, into character, day by day while they live.

Lady's Companion.

Girls' Own Corner.

By Mrs. JESSY GREENWOOD



SESSION PROGRAMME.

NOVEMBER, 1912.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
NOV. 3	345	11	223	141	378
„ 10	344	24	242	139	383
„ 17	346	12	*233	118	391
„ 24	351	26	207	115	392

*Tune "Salvation," 573 Bristol Tune Book.

PEARLS.

- NOV. 3rd.—The essence of lying is in deception, not in words.—*Ruskin.*
- NOV. 10th.—Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders, than from the arguments of its opposers.—*William Penn.*
- NOV. 17th.—Judge not without knowledge, nor without necessity, and never without charity.—*Dr. Alex. Whyte.*
- NOV. 24th.—"Thine unspoken word is thy slave, thy spoken one thy master."—*Arabic Proverb.*

Mother's Duties.

I fancy I hear a mother saying "Aye! women's work is never done," "Women's duties are too numerous to mention," and so on, both very true in their essence and influence, showing that the mother care is the mainspring of the home. Sometimes one finds young mothers who do not exhibit much care and thought for their homes, their husband's welfare, or even their babies. One need not travel far to see a slovenly, dirty, rough-haired young woman with a baby as unkempt as herself, and perhaps one or two more playing in the dirt, the whole lot looking as if a good tubbing would do them all good. We do not forget that the same girl used to dress up smartly, and like a spider spread her net for the nice looking lad who was attracted by the bonny winsome lass who smiled at him as no other girl could. If the curtain could be lifted, and the future condition of both be seen, I think many a lad would think twice before he entered on his matrimonial quest. Such a mother as I have described may be seen a constant visitor at our picturedromes almost nightly. The other day I overheard three or four women talking together about a neighbour. One said, "It's no use doing ought for her, she's had stuff given and been made out for

endless o' times till I'm tired. She neither bakes nor cooks, nor mends either socks or garments." "Yes," said the other, "she sent the children to the Sunday School and the folks were so ashamed of 'em they took up a collection and rigged 'em out, but they weren't long before they were mucked up." Another remarked, "Well, I took her a loaf of bread and some butter the other day just before her husband came home to dinner. She had now't for him, and then be-blowed I heard she was at the picture palace with all the lot—five of 'em—and they come regularly three times a week. I shall do no more for her, my brass doesn't come that way." This little incident, told in all its Yorkshire dialect, and vivid reality, made me think what a sorry mother the story had revealed. Pleasure, pleasure, pleasure, and no desire for true homely life. Fancy a girl mother taking a baby to the last house from 9-15 to 11 o'clock! What about the vitiated air it had to breathe, the unnatural sleep in its day clothes, instead of being cosily sleeping in a nice clean cot in the quiet room, as distinct from the noises and loud laughter of the pleasure houses.

What are the mothers to do? Stop in the house always and never have a bit of fun or recreation? No right-minded person would suggest such a thing. and I don't believe the smart lad who had eyes for no other girl but the one he made his wife would ever dream of taking all the pleasures without feeling she should have a turn sometimes. But how many of our girls know how to manage him and thus co-operate over these domestic matters? We women have a great and difficult task and privilege to uphold all that fall, and to raise up those that be bowed down, and so, to quote a fine teacher and preacher—Mr. Harry Youlden—in a Litany of Duty and Hope, he says: "let us call to mind those persons whom we ought to succour, that is, all who have defective or perverted minds. The ill-born and the ill-trained, who have had a childhood and a youth without discipline. All who are addicted to frivolity and vanity, to empty speech and silly thoughts. All whose temper is rough in the grain and who spoil the happiness of the home by unwitting harshness. When pleasure smiles and bids you come, and Duty cries and bids you stay."

The picture places are not the only places of amusement that may be abused; theatres, variety halls, etc., all claim a share of patronage from those on pleasure bent, and it does not need a very strong mind to declare that to young mothers the atmosphere is wrong and unhealthy. I love to see the girl whose whole heart and soul is in her own home. To her I can say here is a rosary of sweet and beautiful thoughts which your sister, who neglects her home, cannot appreciate:—

Beautiful is the croon of a mother over her babe. Beautiful is the little dimpled body, the eyes of diamond brightness, the tiny fists, the silky hair of my darling. Beautiful is the sleeping cherub in a cot made bonny by the hands of mother dear. Beautiful is the development of mind and body, the dawn of reason, the evidence of prospective intelligence in my best beloved.

Beautiful is the overshadowing tenderness of motherhood, the strong, sustaining heaven-bestowed father's love over the young and helpless one. Beautiful is the reciprocation of wedded father-mother ministrations in the home.

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 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—17 Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

NOVEMBER, 1912.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1912.

"THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER."

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

It will be seen from our report of the Executive's visit to Dewsbury that the occasion was a big success. This shows what can be done by all the Lyceums in a town uniting and concentrating their forces in one large hall, where all the Lyceumists can gather and feel an interest and pride in the cause of which they are members. Besides, it is an object lesson for the public, which looks for numbers, and is always impressed thereby.

The next Executive Council of the Lyceum Union will be held at Hebden Bridge, on January 11th and 12th. The following are the open dates for 1913: April 12th and 13th, July 12th and 13th, and October 11th and 12th. Lyceums desirous of inviting the Executive on any of these dates should send in their invitations as early as possible. Where there are several Lyceums in a town they should unite and send in a joint invitation and work to make the visit a memorable one that will live in the memories of their youngest Lyceum members.

It will also be gathered from the report that the Lyceum Conference of 1913 will be held at Hull, on Saturday and Sunday, May 10th and 11th. The Hull friends have for several years been desirous of entertaining the Lyceum Conference, and Lyceumists may confidently look forward to a hearty welcome being extended to them. Hull being a seaport town, it can be reached at reduced travelling rates, and so makes it possible for Lyceums of small funds to have the pleasure and honour of being represented thereat. As it is the Lyceums' Annual Parliament, why not each Lyceum have its Conference Special Fund to meet the necessary expenses of sending its most capable representative to take part in its deliberations? Besides, the date of the Conference is Whitsuntide, when people will be having a general holiday, so the daily occupations of the Delegates will not be interfered with. And last, but not least, the strong controversy on Spiritualism that is still stirring the mind and conscience of the people of Hull, will have prepared their minds for such a big event as the Lyceum Conference. So to one and all our advice is,

"Friends, prepare to be represented at the next Lyceum Conference."

We desire to draw the attention of our readers visiting London, to the fact that the Society and Lyceum lately meeting at Parkhurst Hall, 32, Parkhurst Road, Holloway, have removed back to their former place of meeting, Grovedale Hall, Grovedale Road, Upper Holloway, where visitors will receive a hearty welcome.

We learn with regret that the Southend-on-Sea Lyceum and Society find themselves homeless, owing to their Hall being sold. It appears that the Society has secured another place some distance from the other, but as it is only available for week evenings the Lyceum sessions have had to be suspended. We trust they will soon be able to secure a suitable hall.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a photograph from Earby, containing a prettily arranged group of Lyceumist members of a Cantata, which proved to be a success. We are also in receipt of a photograph showing the decorations of the Harvest Festival at Earlestown, with Mr. Davies and Mr. Brown standing on each side. We are informed the whole of the material for the occasion was collected and presented by the Lyceumists. We beg to suggest that Lyceums having good things to present to our readers send us photo blocks of the same, (which shall be duly returned) so that we may insert them in our pages, which are open to all Lyceums. Information respecting photo blocks may be obtained from the printers of the BANNER (Messrs. Wadsworth and Co., Keighley.)

We are glad to learn that the members of the South Shields (King Street Lyceum) Flora Belle Troupe, have presented an excellent concert consisting of 32 items. We beg heartily to congratulate the friends on their excellent performance.

Lyceum Jubilee.

On Sunday, January 26th, 1913, it will be 50 years since Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis described his visions of children in the Summer-land, and inaugurated the first Children's Progressive Lyceum. Now, it is fitting that we celebrate this 50th Anniversary, and make it an International Jubilee. That is, all the Lyceums in existence in the world—English, Scotch, Welsh, American, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and South African join in one grand celebration. Towards this desirable object we invite Lyceumists everywhere to favour us with suggestions of a suitable programme that all Lyceums may observe on January 26th, 1913.

LIVE FOR OTHERS.

Lord help me live from day to day
 In such a self-forgetful way,
 That even when I kneel to pray,
 My prayers shall be for others.
 Help me in all the work I do,
 To ever be sincere and true,
 And know that all I for Thee do,
 Must needs be done for others.
 For others, Lord, ever for others,
 Let this my motto ever be.
 Help me to live for others,
 That I may live for Thee.

WM. HARDWICK.

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

My Dear Chums,—

The nice summer nights have gone, and schools are closing for the day just as darkness is creeping over us. The weather is also cold and often wet. We are now forced to look for pleasure indoors. These are the times when a good book and a nice warm room are a comfort. When we are tired of serious things, there are many innocent amusements to be enjoyed if we only know how to pass the time in this way. I have written you many serious thoughts during the last four months, so I am turning my efforts to the lighter side of our natures for this month, and if you will keep this copy of our paper by you, you need not be short of amusement for some time to come. I shall give you some puzzles, and next month's "Banner" will contain the explanation how to do them.

When you are tired of playing at snap, old maids, donkey, and other card games, draughts, dominoes, etc., try to do the following puzzles:—

1. How will you bite an inch off a hot poker?
2. How will you place a pencil on the floor so that you cannot jump over it?
3. Kiss your shadow.
4. Put one hand where the other cannot touch it.
5. Put two chairs back to back and take off your shoes and jump over them.
6. Put a box of matches in such a place that all in the room may see it except yourself.
7. Put yourself through the key-hole.
8. Make a halfpenny stick on a door without using anything to make it sticky.
9. Take three pennies, place them side by side, and call them one, two, and three; now place number three between one and two without touching number one or moving number two. Do this on a bare table.
10. Obtain seventeen matches to make six squares. Take five matches away and leave three squares.
11. Obtain twenty-four matches to make nine squares. Take eight matches away and leave two squares.
12. I will produce what I have never seen before what you have never seen before, and after we have seen it no one shall ever see it again. How is this done?
13. What is the difference between an engine driver and a school master?
14. Why is a little dog's tail like the heart of a tree?
15. Five hundred begins it, five hundred ends it, five in the middle is seen; the first of all letters, the first of all figures take up their station between, join all together and then you will bring before you the name of an old-time king.
16. Place four buttons in such a position they will all be twelve inches from each other.
17. Can you fill a glass with water and turn it over in such a way the water will remain in the glass?
18. Make a needle float on water.
19. Make a ring hang from a piece of burnt cotton.

20. Add one to five so that four remains.

Now then, boys, there are twenty puzzles. See how many you can do before next month. If you have any puzzles send them along, I shall be very pleased to receive them.

What I have written in our page so far has been for your personal pleasure. Let us now turn our thoughts to the Lyceum. The party season has commenced. How many are helping with the entertainments? There is nothing fathers and mothers so much like when attending the parties, as the efforts of their boys in singing, reciting, and taking part in one of the many dialogues published for children. The Conductors are also very proud if they see the boys are doing their best to make the social side of Lyceum work a success. Boys, talk to your teachers and see if you can't get them to help you to get up a party for the benefit of the Lyceum.

Guy Fawkes day will soon be here. Enjoy your fireworks and parkin and toffee, but don't do as I often used to do, get a bad cold. It's quite a long time now since the people of England used to build big bon-fires on the hill tops to carry the news, as they did when the Spanish Armada came. What a change has taken place since then in the way of sending news from one place to another. Just fancy being able to send a message in a letter to our friends on the other side of the world for a penny. I would like to hear that all Lyceums are keeping in touch with former Lyceumists who have gone to live abroad. They must feel so lonely when they think of the old life and the happy days with the many festive gatherings, especially at Christmas time. I implore your Lyceum to send a greeting card and realise what joy the acceptance of your good wishes will give to those so far away. I am getting quite serious again with you so I will close my monthly message to you and wish you every success with the puzzles.

Send all answers and puzzles to me at 22, Gowers Street, Entwistle Road, Rochdale.

LYCEUMISTS IN CANADA.

In the merry month of May a family of Spiritualists sailed for Canada, and settled in Toronto, Ont., bearing the name of Bell. And after finding a suitable dwelling removed from their lodging and took up their residence in their new home. One night they were surprised by a visit of 25 Lyceumists, each of which brought with them a present in the shape of pots, pans, kettle, etc., and various other useful utensils for household use, together with a roll of oilcloth for the floor.

Mesdames Hobson, Ingle, and members from the Junior Progressive Club, consisting of Messrs. Sydney Brown, Herbert Brett, Fred Brooks and others, were responsible for this very pleasant, welcome surprise. This, I am informed, is the way our Canadian Lyceum scholars and friends treat all English Lyceumists going over to Canada, and I felt sure you would be very pleased to learn that the good work of our Lyceum movement is bearing good fruit, and that the lessons gleaned from the teaching of spiritualism, has not been forgotten. Mr. and Mrs. Bell and family desire to thank all those responsible for this kindly treatment, and also send their united good wishes to all Lyceumists in the mother country.

F. JOHNSON.

12, Bell street, Pendleton.

Questions and Answers.

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

QUESTION.—Dear Sir, I should be pleased if you will kindly explain, through the columns of the LYCEUM BANNER, Musical reading No. 207, the parts I refer to in particular, are the verses sung by the Lyceum. We have had this occasionally at our Lyceum, and I fail to see its relation to Spiritualism. For instance the chorus says:—There is rest for the weary; there is rest for the weary; on the other side of Jordan, in the sweet fields of Eden where the tree of life is blooming, there is rest for you "And in the second verse it says,—"They are fitting up our mansions." which is something I cannot understand. Now in Golden chain recitation No. 106 it tells us the "Spirit life is an active life, a retributive, constructive, and progressive life. And, again, in Golden Chain recitation No. 121 it tells us that the sublimest thought of all is, "We can never finish the noble task of life; we can never cease to work; we can never cease to be for we are eternal." Therefore is not the first one very misleading to many people? And am I mistaken in thinking that the two latter are quite a contradiction to the first one?

Yours truly,
LAVINIA D. MATTOCKS, HYDE.

ANSWER.—If the lines "There is rest for the weary, etc.," are understood to mean that the departed are to do nothing but sit and sing, with harps in their hands, and golden crowns on their heads, then we must agree that it is "misleading," and not in accord with the teachings of Spiritualism. But if we understand the lives to refer to those "weary" with the struggles of earth-life to earn sufficient to feed, clothe, and house the family, with all the anxious care and worry that implies, and being freed from it, the departed are at liberty to give full expression to their innermost aspirations, which were crushed out of sight while on earth, and to follow which, and strive to attain would have been a perpetual joy, then they are in accord with the teachings of Spiritualism, and also in agreement with Nos. 106 and 121. With reference to spiritual "mansions," which our young friend is unable to understand, we would advise her to get a copy of *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*, and read Chapter VII. (See advert. on back cover of the LYCEUM BANNER for October).

SIR, Having asked you a question why Mr. Knight and Mr. Hepworth's articles are missing from our BANNER, I thought you would have answered it. But I see you have not. In your first part you say "Each contributor is a free agent." That might be so, but that does not say why our friends have not continued with their articles, which I thought you would have been able to tell us. In the next part you ask why we have reduced our order from 48 copies to 12 since May, 1910. At the time you mention in 1910, we used to give a BANNER free of charge to every home in our Lyceum. As time went on we

found that the expense was too great for us to keep on. So after we tried to sell them. Then we found out that we could not sell them, so we only got one dozen after. Now the one dozen BANNER buyers are interested in the BANNER, and it is on their behalf we ask you for a reason if you should know it, why the articles are missing.

C. A. LLOYD.

ANSWER.—From the above letter we learn that out of 48 families receiving free copies of the "Lyceum Banner," only twelve cared to take them when they were to buy. It is almost incredible that a Lyceum so loosing interest in its own Official Organ should write such letters of enquiry. It is quite evident its attitude on this matter is "inspired" for some ulterior object. We would remind Mr. Lloyd, who attended the Lyceum Conference last May, that certain parties, who were evidently well informed, declared at the dinner tables "that there would be no more *Bluebell Guild*, *Boys' Specials*, or *Botany* articles in the LYCEUM BANNER." But as we said in our previous answer they are free agents and can cease to contribute when they wish. This matter must now close. Only a tolerant Editor would have noticed such personal letters.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S VISIT TO DEWSBURY.

For the third time the district of Dewsbury has enjoyed the pleasure of the presence of the Executive Council. The first visit was paid on April 10th, 1902, under the Presidency of Mr. Albert Wilkinson, of Nelson, when the Executive consisted of eight members. The second visit was on April 7th, 1906, under the Presidency of Mr. H. A. Kersey, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and the third was on October 13th last. This was in response to a joint invitation of the Dewsbury and Batley Carr Lyceums, who worked together very strenuously to make the visit a big success.

A public tea, concert and social was held on the Saturday, October 12th, in the Spiritualist Church, Bond Street, Dewsbury, which was exceptionally well patronised; in fact the church was uncomfortably crowded, many having to stand the whole of the evening.

The concert consisted of a Cantata by the Dewsbury Lyceum scholars, entitled "The Fairy Ring," and also one entitled "Cinderella," given by the Batley Carr Lyceum scholars. And also solos by Miss Hewitt, Dewsbury, and a glee by the Batley Carr Choir, conducted by Mr. Joseph Roberts, choirmaster. The various items were most enthusiastically applauded.

Permission had been obtained for the Executive Council to be held in the suite of rooms used by the Carlyle Literary Society; where the E.C. members were busy devoting their attention to important business of the Lyceum Union from 3.30 to 10 p.m., with 30 minutes interval for lunch.

The Presidential *Lyceum Manual* was further considered, and the special binding decided on.

Invitations to hold the Lyceum Conference of May, 1913, at Hull and Middlesbrough, were considered, Hull being the place selected, as they had been unfortunate in their previous invitations, the Middlesbrough friends being heartily thanked for their kind invitation.

A new service of song by Mr. Geo. Fred. Knott, Rochdale, was finally accepted, the General Secretary being instructed to obtain quotations for printing a good edition of it, and to report to the next meeting.

The sub-committee on Legalization reported on the initial stage of its proceedings.

The following Lyceums applied for membership with the Lyceum Union: Huddersfield (St. Peter Street), and Salford (Chapel Street). After due consideration they were endorsed and ordered to be placed on the Union's Roll of Membership.

The various reports were duly submitted, considered and accepted, and thanks tendered for services rendered.

Votes of condolence were passed with the families and relations of Mr. J. J. Bennett, Walsall, and Mr. J. Clarke, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SUNDAY.

It had been hoped to secure the Dewsbury Town Hall for the whole of Sunday, and for the two Lyceums to hold a combined session in the morning. The Hall being engaged, the new and handsome Empire Palace was secured, after persistent effort and patient waiting.

The rent was a serious item—£6—to which had to be added the cost of posters, etc. Because all the seats in the Empire Palace were fixtures, there could be no united Lyceum session.

Nothing daunted, the local committees entered on their task with stout hearts and a determination to make the undertaking a success.

Each Lyceum held its session in its own hall, at which a section of the E.C. members attended and took part.

In the afternoon, the members of both Lyceums united in a procession to the Empire Palace, where they filled the Orchestral Stalls. The afternoon meeting was ably presided over by Mr. R. Latham, the President, supported by Mr. Owen, Vice-President, and members of the Executive. It was a children's service.

The chain recitations and musical reading of hymn sheet No. 1 series were ably rendered, hymns were heartily sung, speeches made, interspersed with recitations by the following: Miss Ida Moore, "The thirteenth chime"; Mary Ann Benson, "A child's faith in God"; Ada Smith, "The sea" and Mary Ann Day, "In the children's hospital." Mrs. Greenwood offered the invocation, and Mr. Phillips, President of the Dewsbury Spiritualist Society, extended a hearty welcome to the Executive of the Lyceum Union.

Mr. Latham did not wish the service to strike a heavy tone, but to be happy and joyful. He commented in appreciative terms on the splendid building and its luxurious furnishings.

The cheerful, optimistic tone was maintained by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Owen and Mr. Keeling.

Tea was served in the Bond Street Lyceum, which enabled visitors—"old friends and new"—to enjoy a friendly chat in the interval between the two services.

There was a splendid gathering at the evening meeting. The Orchestral Stalls were again filled by the Lyceumists and friends, and the Dress Circle was filled with a deeply interested audience. The hymns were sweetly rendered under the conductorship of Mr. J. Roberts.

Mr. R. A. Owen presided, and in his remarks referred to the unavoidable absence of the President, Treasurer and Mr. J. Tinker.

Mr. Rau said they were there that night on behalf of the children, who were to be the future men and women. That being so, it was essential for their welfare that they gave them all the help possible to enable them to make their life a success. He quoted Dr. J. M. Peebles on the importance of right training of children.

Miss Alice Hesp said, in taking a general survey of Spiritualism to-day she envied the old pioneers who had something to fight for, and did not shirk the battle, but devoted their whole energies to the promulgation of the truths of spirit return, and the unpopular truths it implied. She deprecated the "don't-care" sort of attitude of many Spiritualists, who wanted everything making easy for them, and would not put themselves out of the way to render the much needed assistance, and concluded her address by making a strong appeal to Spiritualists to stand loyally together for Spiritualism.

Mr. Keeling opened his speech asking "What came ye out for to see, etc.," and boldly declared that Spiritualism was no new thing. It was reported that London authorities were determined to stamp it out. But there was no law in God's universe that could be extinguished. They might crush it for a time, but it was sure to rise up again and declare itself. The teachings of Spiritualism embraced the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man, the Immortality of the Soul, personal responsibility for every good or evil deed done. The love, joy and happiness of the kingdom of heaven was wanted here on earth. We all must do our part to make it. No one could do it for us. He implored them not to wait for some one else to do their work.

"Let love, and truth, and peace alone,
Hold human hearts in thrall,
That heaven its work at length may own
And men be brothers all."

Miss Hewitt, Dewsbury, sweetly rendered "The Holy City." Mrs. Nurse said she was delighted to stand before the audience as a Spiritualist. She knew of the fact of spirit return. She had been taught by the spirit people of the living truths they bring. They had sung "Open the door for the children." She never saw the child of the slums but her heart's love and

sympathy went out to it. She wanted to take it by the hand and bring it into the fold that had been such a blessing to her life. She had experienced the dull misery and cheerless life of the slum, and all she was that evening she owed to Spiritualism and the Lyceum training. Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Greenwood had ever been ready and willing to help and encourage her. And now it was the joy of her life to do all she could to help on the good cause.

Mr. Wright said he had been trained as a Wesleyan till he was 18, then he attended the Church of England for four years. He was of an inquiring nature, and wanted to ask questions on the Bible lessons, but was always repressed. He found it the same in the church, and not till he came into contact with Spiritualism did he find teachings that appealed to his inner being and satisfied the longings of his heart. The Lyceum encouraged children, youths and maidens to ask questions, for such was a sign of mental and moral expansion or growth.

"Lead kindly light" was sung by the audience.

Mrs. Greenwood being invited to address the meeting, asked, Do you believe the words you have been singing? Have the departed dispersed the gloom and silence of the tomb by their sweet, cheering messages? If so, earth would wear a brighter aspect for them, and the hereafter would be the land of promise. The gift of prophecy seemed to have been lost, as had been some of the fine arts. Doctors, ministers and lawyers, and professional people in general, were to-day sitting round tables to try and get the tiny raps that would prove to their doubting minds the fact of spirit return. After dealing with the need of reform in the movement, she brought her address to a close by reciting "The tapestry weavers."

Mr. Johnson said he was a Spiritualist and a Socialist. Spiritualism taught him the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, which, when rightly understood, meant Socialism. God had no favourites. There were neither Jews nor Gentiles, nor elect. "Touch not the Lord's anointed" was a man-made barrier, not God's, and by man would have to be removed. They were there for the emancipation of humanity from the thralldom of man-made creeds and dogmas. They were going to save the human race by saving the children. They did not trouble to teach the children how to die, but how to live, and when children were taught how to live rightly they would no longer fill the drunkards' graves. They would not be content to live in slums. They would have them pulled down and something better put in their place. And so they hoped to make the world better for having lived in it.

The collections were £6 9s. 2d. The proceeds of the Sunday's tea, and Saturday's tea and concert were £5 6s. 5½d., which the combined Lyceums generously donated to the Lyceum Union to defray all the expenses, including the Executive's travelling expenses.

ALFRED KITSON, *General Secretary.*

THE BRADFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The half-yearly meeting of the above D.C. was held at Boynton Street, Bradford, on Sunday, September 29th. The delegates report of the U.D.C. was accepted, and also the report of the "Children's Treat." The D.V. reported that Cleakheaton (Old Robin Street) Lyceum required help. After discussing the subject, it was decided to send a deputation to Cleckheaton some Sunday and take the whole of the day's services, the Lyceum to pay three of the deputation their railway fare. It was resolved that along with the E.C., one from each Lyceum in the district form a working committee for our Field Day. A resolution was also passed that in place of three examiners for the Lyceum examinations, we elect one from outside the district, and that in the event of the Secretary being unable to obtain a suitable examiner, we continue as before. Mr. Barnes was elected as our representative to Keighley Lyceum Anniversary, and Miss Pollard to Gate Street Lyceum Anniversary. The next meeting was arranged to be at Gate Street, Bradford, on Sunday, December 8th. The Open Session in the afternoon was very well attended, Mrs. Ramsden conducting. The following took part: Miss Annie Ward, Master Norman Haley, Miss Hilda Thornton, Miss Ethel Long, Miss Helena Lodge, Master Rowland Hill, Miss Alice Fernihough, Miss Eva Macintosh, Miss Pollard, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Hargreaves. The evening service was presided over by Miss Pollard (President). Short addresses were given by Messrs. Teale, Barnes, and Hargreaves, and clairvoyance by Mr. Carter. The whole of the collections, morning, afternoon and evening were handed over to the D.U. funds.

PRESENTATION OF SILVER SHIELD.

The Shipley Spiritual Church was packed almost to overflowing on Saturday, October 19th, to witness the presentation of the Silver Shield to Shipley Lyceum (winners of the Lyceum examinations). Mr. A. Kitson, in presenting the Shield to Mr. Oldfield (conductor), urged that Lyceumists, whilst trying to win the Shield, would not forget to cultivate their higher natures and not work for the sake of winning the Shield alone, but work for spiritualism, work for that which is right and for that which is noble and pure, etc. Mr. Lightowler received the Banner on behalf of Gate Street, Bradford, (second in the examinations). The rest of the evening was spent with songs, solos, games, etc.

H. BIRDSALL, Sec.

UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICTS' COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the above will be held at Regent's Hall, Rochdale, on Saturday, November 16th, 1912, at 6 p.m. prompt. Tea provided at 5 p.m. Agenda—(1.) Elect Chairman; (2.) Minutes; (3.) Correspondence; (4.) Secretary's report; (5.) Elect Secretary; (6.) Motions: (a) "That naming, marriage, and funeral services be included in the edition of the officers manual." (*Halifax and Huddersfield D.C.*). (b) "That no paper be read until the conference agenda is finished at future B.S.L.U. conferences." (*Rochdale D.C.*). (c) "That any D.C. requesting a special meeting of the U.D.C. shall obtain the support of at least two other D.C. before any special meeting is called by the secretary of the U.D.C." (*Rochdale D.C.*). (7.) Votes of thanks.

Will delegates please endeavour to stay overnight to take part in Sunday Services?

FRED FRANCE, Secretary.

LEEDS LYCEUM STUDENTS' CLASS.

The winter session of the above class commenced on September 10th with a paper by Mr. F. Hynes (Leeds), on "Spiritualism not Spiritism." On Thursday, September 26th, we had with us Rev. H. D. Longbottom (Farnley), who gave us "Materialism and Spiritualism from a Christian's point of view." October 3rd, we had a lecture on "Jeanne D'Arc and the Voices," by W. T. Paine (Burley). It was a subject which created a great amount of lively discussion. Following him on the 10th, we had Mr. Hayland (Armley), with "The way to Spiritualism, and its offers to the world." At this lecture one or two Christians were present who, in discussion got very excited, and behaved anything but like gentlemen and Christians. October 17th, we had with us an old worker in the cause, Mr. H. Smithson, late of Dewsbury, but now of Leeds, who gave us a very interesting lecture on "Heredity and Environment." At all the above lectures questions have been asked and answered, and much agreeable and heated discussion has taken place. On October 23rd, we shall have Mr. Turley, of Leeds, (a Theosophist) to deal with, "Faces we meet, and how to read them." He will read faces in the audience, and while doing so will explain the different phases of physiognomy. Up to the present all lectures have been well attended, and well patronised, and we sincerely hope for a continuance of the same support.

WM. T. PAINE, Sec.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND, 1912.

The time has come round again for the usual reminder, for donations to the above fund, to be sent out to all Lyceums in the Union.

I hope to be able to report a good response to the card which will reach all Secretaries in due time, and shall be glad if Lyceums will take the matter into consideration at once in order that the remittances may reach me before the 31st December, 1912. Thanking all private subscribers and Lyceums for past support, and again asking for continued help.

On behalf of the E.C. of the B.S.L.U.,

Sincerely yours,

JESSIE GREENWOOD, Hon. Sec.
Ashleigh, Hebden Bridge.

CREWE (Mill Street).—On Sunday, October 6th, we held a repetition of our Anniversary Services. We had solos by Misses A. Buxton and G. Bagguley; recitations by Ethel Reay, Gladys Mottram and Alfred Reay. In the evening our

Conductor, Mr. Shearsmith, performed the pleasing ceremony of naming a baby. On Sunday, October 13th, we held our Open Session. The following items were suitably rendered:—Duet by Misses A. Buxton and G. Bagguley; solos by Kate Owen, Rose Smart, Lily Greenwood and Gladys Mottram; also a recitation by Albert Reay. I am sorry to announce that our late Conductor, Mrs. Shearsmith, has had to leave us, but she is going into a district where she will be able to continue her good work.—Fred Horner, Secretary.

Publications Received.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR LYCEUMISTS.

This is a pamphlet specially written and compiled by Ernest Vickers for classes organised by Spiritualist Lyceum District Councils, price 2d. per copy, postage extra, or 2/- per dozen. post free. The author deals with matter in its various forms, solid, liquid, and gaseous; the atom, molecule, and element, etc. A section is devoted to the kingdoms of nature, mineral, vegetable, and animal, with a brief explanation of each. Many leaders of groups and conductors will find equally helpful the section dealing with religious reformers, philosophers, poets, artists, musicians, scientists, inventors, martyrs and saints, as enumerated in the G.C.R. No. 145. The information given concerning each one will be specially helpful. The book can be obtained from Mr. George Magness, 120, Duchess Road, Sheffield.

SELF-CULTURE.—A monthly journal, devoted to physical, mental, moral, and occult sciences, etc., published by the Indian Academy of Science Kiyhanattam, Tinnevely District, South India. No. 1 of Volume XI is enlarged affording more space for its able contributors. Dr. J. M. Peebles has an article on Re-incarnation and Pre-existence. Mr. James Coates of Rothesay, has an article under the title of "Another Message from Mr. Stead." And our old friend, Prof. J. Milot Severn, has an article on "Peculiar Phrenological customers." Besides, there are many other interesting articles. We would like to see an improvement in the type, for the printing leaves much to be desired. As this refers to the mechanical part of the magazine, no doubt the Editor will see to its speedy remedy, and so add to the pleasure of its subscribers.

THE ANIMALS' FRIEND, with children's illustrated supplement, is another good magazine full of helpful stories, concerning all kinds of animals, teaching kindness and tender helpfulness. It should be in the home of every Lyceumist. Price 2d., monthly.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

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

ULVERSTON.—On October 13th we celebrated our 5th anniversary. In the afternoon session the marching and calisthenics were gone through excellently, a flag march by 18 of the youngest members being a special feature, and being prettily done received much appreciation. Emily Clark and Selina Miller conducted the silver chain, and Fred Brown and John Rushmer the golden chain recitations effectively. Recitations were given by Hilda and Elsie Huddleston, Poppie and Beatrice Iyer, Roy Coward, Walker and Edith Martingdale, May Miller, Elsie Brown, May Coward, Lizzie Watson. Doris and Harry Taylor recited the golden chain "Esteem Thyself." Songs were sweetly rendered by Miss May Pennington, Doris Coward, and Annie Miller. An address on Lyceum work was given by Miss Mather, our Conductor.—J. E. COWARD.

AN ESSAY GIVEN AT THE HEELEY LYCEUM. THE LYCEUM, ITS AIM AND OBJECTS.

The Lyceum is the name given to the Spiritualist Sunday School. The word Lyceum came from Athens, where the Lyceum was a building in which Aristotle, a great saint of philosophy, used to give lectures. The Lyceum is a school of a liberal and harmonious education.

The first Lyceum was founded in New York by A. J. Davis, a clever spirit seer,—that is, a person who sees spirit forms. We are taught in the Lyceum to promote health of body, purity of thought, and love of truth and justice in all we say and do.

Spiritualism teaches us to regard God as Father, not King; Christ as Brother, not Redeemer, and the Heaven our Home, not Heaven.

Correspondence.

MANCHESTER LYCEUM DISTRICT VISITOR.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—It is refreshing to know that I have pleased our D.V., Mrs. Bentley, in regard to *at last* taking interest in Lyceum work. I was *not* aware of her suffering, or in a depleted state of health, during the earlier part of the year. Certainly I never heard anyone mention it, either in or out of the Lyceum.

I would like to say at this point that the letter to which exception has been taken was *not* a personal one, but written at the request of the Lyceum. As I had been elected Secretary in place of Miss Cheetwood (who had resigned) it devolved on me, in that capacity, to write on the lines indicated. If anyone else had been secretary, the duty would have fallen upon them.

The object of the letter is evidently met by the D.V. apologising for the out-of-date report, as she says, through illness, and *not* from any desire to see my name in print. I am not out for self-advertisement or self-glorification, nor am I a member of a Mutual Admiration Society, as there are quite enough of that ilk and to spare in the world without me.

Now as to the points in dispute. I don't think that anyone reading the paragraph, *re* Delegate to B.S.L.U. Council, would be misled, as the mistake is so transparent. Of course, it should have been nominated for the E.C.

I also was present on March 10th, and if Mrs. Bentley will refresh her memory she will remember that I questioned her eligibility as to being nominated, as this was her only attendance since the previous December, and if marks at our Lyceum were of any value, she could have obtained them at other Lyceums she may have visited, and so we should, on receipt of them, credit her with the marks in our register. She did not plead illness as the cause of her non-attendance, but her engagements which took up so much of her time, though she always called Maskell Street her Lyceum. (The nomination to the E.C., I might say, was anything but unanimous.)

It seems rather remarkable that the official visit of the D.V. should coincide with the nomination for the E.C., and my remarks *re* personal reasons were quite permissible, seeing that the one attendance stands out in such splendid isolation. So much for that point.

It is quite true that when we had the *official* visit on March 10th, Miss Cheetwood was Conductor; but on March 24th, at the election of officers for the ensuing six months, she declined to take up the position of Conductor again, but accepted the position of Secretary, which had been relinquished by Mr. Jackson. I accepted the position of Conductor, and Miss Cheetwood held her office until June 16th, when she handed to me a written resignation which was read out to the whole Lyceum. (Miss Cheetwood would not have taken office if she knew in March that she was leaving us for Canada.)

Subsequently the Lyceum elected me to be Secretary in Miss Cheetwood's place. So then, our Lyceum *was not* losing its Conductor.

I see I credited the D.V. with an attendance on March 24th. I will take that back, but it does not help her case, it only intensifies it.

The lecture was on Astrology, whatever the discussion brought forth, and the lecturer illustrated his remarks by charts, &c., and kept to his subject.

As to that little point *re* "ridiculous blunder," the D.V. knew personally that I had been elected to be Conductor, as she wished to congratulate me on acceptance thereof. I did not see in her letter any reference to the question of "whether it was a function of a D.V. to report something of which they had no *personal* knowledge," and if the original letter of protest will cause reports to be given more accurately, then its object will have been achieved.

As to the letters of Mrs. Bentley's friends, my remarks were not directed to them, and so call for no reply from me.

Yours fraternally,

ALBERT E. JONES.

[We much regret our limited space compels us to withhold a second letter from Mr. Jones, in reply to Mr. Ronaldson. Correspondents will oblige by condensing their letters as much as possible.—Ed. L.B.]

THE MANCHESTER DISTRICT VISITOR.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Sir,—I much regret to see a wrangle about our Manchester D.V. There has been a sad neglect of duty on her part, but if it has arisen on account of ill health, then she is to be

The object of the Lyceum is the unfolding or the opening out of faculties in their due order and degree. This can be and is obtained by removing the obstacles to self-development. Some of the aims of the Lyceum are the spiritual, moral, and intellectual elevation of its members, and through them of the world at large. By intellectual elevation, I mean the raising up or conveying from a lower to a higher place, the higher capacities of man. The studies of the members are divided into two divisions, the mental and the physical.

The physical is obtained by a series of calisthenics and marches, arranged so as to exercise every portion of the body, for we are taught it is as necessary for the body to be kept healthy as it is for the soul to be kept pure. We are also taught in the Lyceum that there is a life after death, for there is no death, as it is only the laying down of the physical body and the taking up of the spiritual body. The teachings of the Lyceum also tell us there is no Hell of fiery furnaces, as is taught by some other religions, but that we make our own Hell and also shape our after-life while we are here upon earth. At the same time we do not believe that when we pass through the change called death it is to go to a world where we shall be expected only to sing and play on golden harps, for even this would not suit all. We are taught that we are still open to work and climb higher up the hill of progression. In the Lyceum we have no set creeds or forms but are taught new truths, but we are not only taught what others have found to be truth, but to search for ourselves and also to test and prove it before accepting it as such. Another aim of the Lyceum is happiness, and I think if each member would do good because it is good, and not for what people will think and say about them, and to shun wrong because it is wrong, this would at least cause a little happiness somewhere.

ANNIE EVANS, Member of Liberty Group.

Essays given by members of the Keighley Heber Street Lyceum, Sunday, October 6th, subject:

WHY I LIKE TO COME TO THE LYCEUM.

The Lyceum is a school of knowledge and progression, both mentally and spiritually. We come and obtain spiritual knowledge, which some people thirst for, and we obtain a healthy body by marching and calisthenics. Mr. A. J. Davis was the first man to open a Lyceum. He had a vision, and he saw spirit children marching and doing calisthenics in a beautiful garden, and he watched them further and they went into a room and read and sang hymns. After this vision he founded a Lyceum, and it was a great success. Others were opened and the spiritual work was carried over to England from America, along with Lyceum work. I like it because of the readings which we read on Sundays, which give us something to think over during the week, and some of us bring the notes up on a Sunday afternoon in our classes. I come to the Lyceum to gain spiritual knowledge; and when young children come we should try to keep them here, because the younger the children are when people tell them anything, the longer they remember. In memory of Andrew Jackson Davis we have a round brooch with his photograph on, and the initials, S.C.P.L., which mean the "Spiritualists' Children's Progressive Lyceum," of which I am proud to be a member.

ETHEL SMITH, Age 11.

The Lyceum is a school of knowledge, therefore if we come regularly we shall obtain the qualities of knowledge which all people should hunger and thirst for. When we do the calisthenics we should put some force into them so that we might be brighter and more alert for asking questions after having done them. I like to come to the Lyceum because I can read of other people's acts and thoughts. Our pioneers—David Weatherhead, John Pickles, and best of all, Andrew Jackson Davis, taught us the rules of the Lyceum. We are also advised to commence a developing circle, for the Lyceumist about 16 years of age. That is another advantage. We are taught that Spiritualism means, in as few words as possible, to think well, to speak right, and to act right. At our Lyceum we do our utmost to change the programme, so that our youngest Lyceumists do not get tired. I enjoy coming to the Lyceum because of the discussions, and I am glad to inform you that the best of our mediums were brought up in the Lyceum. I always feel it my duty to come to school and always feel at home there. I am sure you will feel better if you start and continue to come to the Lyceum, and you will find it beneficial to you in after life.

DORIS HUGILL, Age 11.

pitied. But what puzzles many of us is, she is able to fill dates in the Midlands, and yet at the same time is not well enough to visit the Lyceums in her own district. If she prefers platform work to rendering help to local Lyceums it would be honest to say so and honourably tender her resignation, so that a suitable successor could be elected to look after the welfare of the Lyceums in our District. I see Mrs. Bentley states that Maskell Street Lyceum wanted to "nominate her for the B.S.L.U. President," and refers to Mr. Jackson as the then acting secretary for confirmation of her statement. But on referring to that gentleman's letter, which also appears in your last issue, he states she was nominated for the Council of the B.S.L.U. Which of the two is right, the District Visitor or Mr. Jackson? In conclusion, allow me to say that there is a deep undercurrent of discontent in our district at the way our Lyceums are neglected.

A LYCEUMIST, Manchester.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to see your correspondent, Mr. J. R. Latham, make such disparaging remarks in the October issue of the LYCEUM BANNER, *re* a lack of suitable books for the study of Spiritualism. I would respectfully draw his attention to Mr. Hudson Tuttle's *Arcana of Spiritualism*, also *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*, which gives full data for all the facts recorded. Nor do I think Mr. Smedley's *Some Reminiscences* are to be lightly passed over by the student, as the experiences recorded therein of Physical Seances are such that would appeal to the scientific minds. I think the last sentence of his letter cuts away the ground of his appeal. For if "personal proof of spirit manifestation is of no use whatever to anyone else inasmuch as their belief is concerned," what matters it as to what scientific books on Spiritualism be recommended? It appears that the only thing that would be of any effect would be personal experience, and he had better recommend them to adopt the course.

A STUDENT, Leeds.

MEDIUMSHIP AND THE REV. H. D. LONGBOTTOM.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—On Thursday, October 3rd, the Rev. H. D. Longbottom spoke at the Leeds Advanced Students' Class, on "Spiritualism from a Christian's point of view." During his lecture he quoted a passage from the G.C.R. No. 140, on "Mediumship," to the effect that mediumship was conducive to immorality. The particular passage in question is the reply to the question, "Do mediums exhibit any peculiarity?" Reply—"Yes, waywardness of character." And this, the rev. gentleman held, meant "immorality." Of course, it is needless for me to remark that the construction put upon this passage is entirely unwarranted. I admit that the paragraph in question is put in a very loose way, and is very misleading. Could not something be done to remedy this defect?

FRANK HYNES.

CORRESPONDENCE CLASS.

Dear Mr. Kitson.—I shall be very much obliged if you will allow me a little more space in the BANNER in order to draw the attention of the Lyceumists in North East Lancashire to a proposed CORRESPONDENCE CLASS. The Education Committee have considered this idea and think it a very good one, and I should be very pleased to hear from all persons who intend joining the class that are Lyceumists in the North East Lancashire District, and I would also be pleased to hear what subject each person would like for the first essay. Each person will be allowed three weeks for the writing of the essay, and at the end of that time No. 1 passes his essay on to No. 2, No. 2 to No. 1, and one week is allowed for criticism, at the end of the week each person announces his criticism to the essay and passes it on to the next number. This process goes on until all the papers have been criticised by each person in the class. Therefore a class of twelve members will take 15 weeks from start to finish.

The essays are then sent to a competent person for examination, and when the result is declared, a social evening is arranged, the examiner criticises the various papers and then calls upon one of the class to address the company upon the subject they have been writing upon. Of course rules will have to be drawn up to govern the class, one of which will be a fine if any person does not send his or her paper in time to allow the next person a full week for criticism. This is a grand opportunity for those Lyceumists who have attended a Study Group to further develop their abilities. In case there are more applications than is desirable for one class we shall arrange for more classes according to the numbers of applicants. In case there is any surplus money I suggest that it form anucleus for a College Fund. All persons in-

tending to join the class must communicate with me as early as possible. Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours very sincerely—J. E. ELLIOTT,
264, Leeds Road, Nelson.

RE THE FIRST LYCEUM.

Dear Sir.—I wish, through the columns of our BANNER, to have settled for all time the question of the first Lyceum. When Mrs. Cadwallader was at the Birkenhead Conference, she stated that the A. J. Davis Lyceum was not the first, and that it, like many other efforts of a few months, had fizzled out. She claimed priority for the continuity of—if I remember rightly—her own Lyceum which still continues. Is it possible to have the truth—the whole truth as to these claims?

Yours—J. KNIGHT.

[We invite Mrs. Cadwallader to supply us with an answer to the above letter, giving the necessary data of priority if there be any.—EDITOR.]

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 October 25th.

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, Nov. 20th, to ensure insertion in the December issue.

BACUP (Market Street).—On Sunday, September 29th, we held our monthly Open Session, recitations by Misses Rhoda and Mary Heyworth, and songs by Mrs. Friend and Master James Marris. On Saturday, October 12th, a social was held in aid of the Lyceum, when there was a good audience, and also a good programme presided over by Mr. George McKenna. Another social will be held on November 9th, prices 4d. and 2d. The Lyceum services, to be held on Sunday, December 15th, speakers, Mr. G. F. Knott, of Rochdale, and clairvoyance by Mr. Eastham, of Blackburn. We hope to see a good number on the two latter occasions.—William Nixon, Secretary.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—On Sunday, October 6th, we held our usual Open Session, when a very enjoyable programme was gone through, showing us that our children can work if they will only try. Recitations were rendered by Herbert Harris, Harry Procter, James Pearson, Arthur Procter; and Mr. Procter recited the first recitation that he learned. Nellie Baxter and Edith Helme sang, "Seeds of Promise" very sweetly. A great improvement from last open session.—Mrs. Wallace, Secretary.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—On Sunday, October 13th, we had the pleasure of having our annual election of officers for 1913, when the following were elected: Conductor, H. Hopper; Assistants, T. Edward, R. Eskdale; Secretary, J. Ainsworth; Minute Secretary, F. Errington; Treasurer, J. Battersby; Financial Secretary, Miss E. Allen; Guardian, Mr. Simpson; Captain of Guards, T. Holland; Guards, Miss M. Holland and Doris Errington; Calisthenic Conductors, Lily Calton and Alice Entwistle; Marching Leader, Sarah Entwistle; Musical Directors, Miss S. Eddleston and E. G. Holding and T. Edwards; Leaders of Groups, Boys, F. Hopper and A. Ferdinhand; Girls, F. Callon, Clara Ferdinhand, Polly Critchley, and Miss M. Wolstenholme. Hoping for a successful year for 1913.—J. Ainsworth, Secretary.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—We held our quarterly Open Session on Sunday, October 13th, when about 80 of our Lyceum scholars took part. Recitations were given by the following: Doris McGraves, Florrie Garnet, Alice Taylor, Arthur Batten, and Mr. Flanagan. A solo was given by Mr. Dowling. Our evening service was conducted by Lyceumists

and Society workers only. On Saturday, October 19th, we held a farewell social for Miss Walkden, who is leaving us for the States. She was presented on behalf of the Lyceumists by our Conductor, Mr. Pilkington, with a pair of Blankets and a photo of all the Lyceumists. Our evening concluded with the farewell song, "Auld Lang Syne."—Harry Speakman, Secretary.

BRADFORD, LITTLE HORTON (Gate Street).—On Sunday, October 6th, we held our Open Session, when the following scholars took part in various responses. Recitations were given by Misses G. Pammerton, E. Silsby, Masters G. E. Robinson and Harry Robinson. Solos, Miss O. Dean, Messrs. V. Snarey and W. Robinson. Reading, Mrs. Snarey. During the sessions words of encouragement were spoken by Mr. Beety, of Wakefield, who was our speaker, and were received with great interest. I am pleased to state that our Lyceum is making rapid progress since we commenced work in the new rooms. I hope that goodwill and harmony will ever prevail in our new sphere. After a good day we brought our Lyceum to a close.—W. Robinson, Secretary.

BRIERFIELD (Colne Road).—On Sunday, October 6th, we held our usual Open Session, when there was a good attendance of scholars, parents, and friends. Lyceumists rendered recitations, songs, duets, etc., in fine style. The questions on the chain recitations were numerous, and the time all too short in which to answer them. Also on Sunday, October 13th, Mr. W. Whittle, of Burnley, was our essayist, subject, "Women, Past and Present" was much appreciated, especially by the ladies.—E. Bannister, Lyceum Secretary.

CHESTER (Commonhall Street).—We went to Delamere Forest for our annual trip. A good muster of Lyceumists and adults met at the Northgate Station and left for Delamere. The children raced for prizes in the afternoon, and altogether the day was passed in an enjoyable manner. A nice tea was provided in the Abbey Arms Hotel and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The weather was favourable, for with the exception of one shower we had a fine day.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, October 13th, we held our Open Session, and I am pleased to report a slightly better response. Items were well rendered by the following Lyceumists: Recitations, Edith Herrot, Lena Elliot, Frances Elliot, Ethel Wale, Doris MacDonald, Florrie Smith, and Lily Marriot. Violin solos by Annie Wale and Ernest Hobster. On Sunday, October 20th, we had a visit from Mr. Vickers, our D.V., who was accompanied by friends from Heeley, Attercliffe, and Darnall. We had a very enjoyable time together, and feel greatly encouraged by their visit. Mr. Vickers expressed the hope that we should take part in the educational scheme, presented by himself, and eventually we shall endeavour to do so.—Edwin Widdowson, Secretary.

CROMPTON (Rochdale Road).—On Saturday, September 29th, we held our tea party, which was poorly attended. On Sunday, September 30th, we held our Harvest Thanksgiving. Solos by Mr. Clegg and Mr. Bardsley. The hall was packed. On the Monday we had a fruit banquet, which was a great success. On October 3rd, one of our oldest members of the church passed to the higher life, aged 71, and was interred at the Crompton Cemetery on October 5th. Mesdames Hamer, Buckley, and Fielding officiating. A large concourse of people witnessed the ceremony. On October 6th we had the memorial service, Mrs. Hamer being the speaker. The organist played the Dead March at the close of the service.—John Thomas Clegg, Secretary.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday and Monday, October 13th and 14th, we held our anniversary services. In the afternoon we held an Open Session, and after the marching our conductor presented the prizes to the following for attendance: 1st prizes to Misses F. Lumley, E. Burnside, H. Burnside, E. Burnside, E. Grey, Masters W. Simpson, A. Simpson, W. Burnside, A. Burnside, E. Wilson. 2nd prizes to Mrs. E. Park, C. Park, D. Cole, E. Cole. 3rd prizes to E. Metcalfe, H. Metcalfe, J. Utley, E. Langhorne, F. Marley, I. Armstrong, Norman Hunter, and prizes were given to L. Lumley, E. Park, D. Cole and E. Burnside for saying the most recitations and singing most solos. In the evening we gave a musical service.—G. Park, Secretary.

EARBY (Aspen Lane).—A large attendance of members and friends came to a tea and concert organised by our Society, but worked by Lyceumists, proceeds for decorating our room, which has since been re-opened. On Sunday, October 6th, we held our Open Session, before a good attendance of Lyceumists, parents, and friends. Mr. T. Anderson read a paper on "Spiritualism." M. England, D. Eastwood, C. Eastwood, E. and M. Ward, gave recitations and readings from the Manual. E. Crabtree, M. England, A. Bradley, V. Ward, contributed songs and duets. A pleasant afternoon was spent under the conductorship of Mr. G. Bradley and the organist, Mr. T. Hodgson.—J. W. Clark, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkeley Street).—This Lyceum is making steady progress, the children and adults take a deep interest in the work. The groups are well attended, the Guardian having good reports from each. The marching and calisthenics are heartily entered in by all, the accommodation being much more suitable than in our last place. The peace brigade has resumed for the winter, and hopes are entertained for a successful session. A literary society has been formed, and with the best speakers from the parent association on the syllabus some excellent discussions are promised. The swimming is still being continued, good progress being made by the boys. Everything points to us having a most successful Lyceum this winter.—C. Roehhead, Junr., Secretary.

GLASGOW, KINGSTON.—We held our open session here on Sunday, October 6th. There was a fairly good attendance. Total 63,—43 juniors, 20 adults. There was a good programme, which fully occupied the time at our disposal. Mr. J. Stewart performed the naming ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson's baby, which was very interesting to a lot who had never seen one in the Spiritualist style of naming with flowers. The hall was very nicely decorated with flowers for the occasion. The child's earthly name is Jessie Robertson (spirit name "Lily"). The marching and calisthenics were gone through in fine style. The Misses Reid and Rainy, from the Glasgow (Berkeley Street Lyceum), being the prompters.—C. Rawkine, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD.—Our hall having been closed five weeks for inside alterations, was re-opened on Saturday, October 19th, with a tea party and social. On Sunday October 20th, we had an Open Session. The silver chain was led by Mr. Baxter; the musical reading by Amy Bullin, Mrs. Holt, Wilfred Taylor, and Patience Birtwistle. The golden chain was led by M. A. Holt. Recitations were given by Irene Bullin, Will Thornley, and Walter Taylor. Solos were rendered by M. A. Holt, May Dandy, Nora Wrigley, and Florrie Owen. We had a few visitors from other Lyceums, along with Mr. Higham, Secretary of the N.E.L.D.C., who gave to us a few encouraging remarks which I hope will be taken to heart.—Mr. R. Baxter, Secretary.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street).—On Saturday, October 5th, we had a good number of Lyceumists and friends from Hindley on a picnic to Lever Park, Rivington. The children enjoyed themselves amongst the various attractions in the park, the Museum and Art Gallery, the elder portion by games and walks to places of interest. Over 30 partook of teas in the Hall Barn, which, by the way, would be a good place for a monster demonstration. In the evening they adjourned to Horwich Spiritualists' Hall. Mr. W. H. Yates presided over the social, when a highly appreciated programme was rendered by Messrs Davies, Gregory, Ernsall, Adams, Walsh, and Yates. Games and dancing brought a pleasant day to a close.—Ed. Walsh.

HYDE (Clarendon Street).—On Sunday, October 13th, was our Lyceum Sunday. In the afternoon we had an Open Session. Mr. Firth conducted, assisted by Mr. Dean. We had a good rally of scholars and friends. Recitations and pearls were given by the Misses A. Hill, R. Blacksham, and I. Wright. We also had a special recitation by Miss W. Gartside, entitled, "The Fashionable Choir," it was a real treat. In the evening we had with us our old friend, Mrs. Batman, who gave a very interesting address. Mrs. Wright sung a solo, "Star of the East." We had a good time all round.—A. S. Wright, Secretary.

KEIGHLEY (Heber Street).—On Saturday, October 5th, we held our anniversary tea and concert, which were attended by about 150 persons. The concert was given by the Lyceumists, and ably presided over by Councillor T. Holdsworth. Songs were given by Misses D. Hugill, S. Kay, G. Hugill, A. Smith, and E. Thistlewaite. Recitations by Misses M. Walker and M. Arnold. Mr. T. Longbottom favoured us with two humorous songs. Action songs were given by the youngest Lyceumists, who had been trained by Miss Holdsworth. The Liberty Group members gave a humorous dialogue entitled, "Hoaxed and Croaxed," which caused much amusement. The rest of the evening was devoted to dancing. Mrs. E. H. Wallis, of London, was our speaker on the Sunday.

LANCASTER (Collegian Rooms).—Only a few took part in our Open Session. Mr. Clarkson was conductor, and had to make out the programme with a "solo" effort on his own part. We have got together groups again, and our conductor has promised a continuation of same. This will mean a general benefit all round. Our Society is still living and hopes to have the help of anyone wishing this great cause success. Our Building Fund is still open, and we should be pleased to receive any small help for this purpose. Hoping those interested will send a small donation to J. Kirk.

LEEDS, ARMLEY (Theaker Lane).—On Tuesday evening social was held in respect of Mrs. Sharp, who is about to sail for Toronto, Canada. A good number of friends assembled, and a good time was spent. The following artistes took part in singing and reciting. A song was sung by Master J. Whitaker entitled, "Fol, dol"; Mrs. Firth recited, "King Bruce and the Spider"; Mrs. Morris sang a song, "Bit of String." Mr. Sykes presided and called upon Mrs. Scott to present Mrs. Sharp and daughter with a shawl and motor scarf to travel with. All sung together "Auld Lang Syne," and "God be with you till we meet again."

LONDON, UPPER HOLLOWAY, GROVEDALE HALL (Grovedale Road).—Owing to unforeseen circumstances we have been compelled to remove back to our old home, friends kindly note the address. During the month bright and good sessions have been held, many visitors and mostly strangers to our Lyceum have been welcomed. October 6th we had a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Clegg, and were delighted to receive a very beautiful motto from them. October 20th Mr. R. Cuthbert and Mr. H. Hawes addressed the Lyceumists.—J. Forsyth, Conductor.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—September 29th, our kind friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bowskill, again asked us to hold our session at their lovely house. We held the session in the grounds, after which we had a photograph taken by Mr. Bowskill, and each family has had one presented to them. We also had a good time with the apples in the garden, and also a nice tea. Mr. Humphreys, conductor, after thanking our kind friends, brought us home to Kingston a tired but very happy party. Open session October 6th was good. Individual efforts by the Misses Brown, Chambers, Beresford, Huskwith, and John Chambers were good. Mrs. Hulland gave some useful suggestions in her talk on plants, vegetable and human.—John Chambers.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—The Lyceum still continues to make a few new members, although we have lost some owing to removals, but we keep pegging away and those we lose will be a gain to someone else. Pearls, recitations, are being splendidly rendered and explained, and altogether the sessions are bright and instructive. We are cheered up by the presence from time to time of a few members of our Parent Society. (Other Societies please note), we are looking forward now to our second Anniversary, when we are hoping to have a good time.—H. Watthey, Hon. Secretary.

HALIFAX (Raven Street).—The usual services were dispensed with on Sunday. In the afternoon an open session of the Lyceum was held when marching and calisthenics, songs, recitations &c, were given by the Lyceum Scholars. Miss M. Shaw, acting as conductor. The evening service took the form of a Musical Evening, contributed by our choir. Anthems rendered were, "O Worship the Lord," "Like as a Father," "Hearken unto me my people," "Send out the Light" and "The radiant morn hath passed away." Songs were also rendered by the following. Mr. Firth, "Nearer my God to Thee," Miss Spetch, "The last Milestone," Mr. Fitton, "Joy shall arise from sorrow," Miss Buckley, "Into Thy hands," and Miss Wagstaffe, "The Gift."—F.B., Secretary.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—On October 6th, the following officers were elected:—Conductor, Mr. A. E. Jones, Assistants, Mr. H. Hislop and Miss A. Hill; Treasurer, Mrs. Sims; Secretary, Mr. H. Hislop; Leaders for Calisthenics, Miss Gladys Entwistle and Mr. Grimsditch; Musical Director, Miss Evelyn Wood; Musical Assistant, Mr. A. Bennett; Guardian, Miss Florie Jones; Teachers for Groups, Mr. A. E. Jones, Mr. McClland, Miss G. Entwistle, and Miss A. Hill, Delegates to M.D.C. Mr. Grimsditch and Mr. Reynolds. On October 20th, we held our fortnightly Discussion Class, in which some good work is being carried on. We were pleased to receive a visit of some friends from Coventry, which was very much appreciated by all.—H. Hislop, Assistant Conductor and Secretary.

MIDDLETON (Gilmour Street).—The Lyceum held its Open Session on the 13th, in the afternoon, which was a success. Solos, recitations, pearls, etc. very good. Evening service of song, "Unseen Hands," reader Mrs. John Dooley. Songs given by the following: Misses Horrocks, Wilkinson, Simpson, Mrs. Dooley, and Mr. Whithead and Collinge. Recitations, Messrs. R. Blackey and Williamson. Organist, Mr. J. Evans. Mr. W. Spurr, chairman. Miss Davies, conductor.—J. Liddle, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliot Street).—On Sunday we held our Harvest Festival. Both afternoon and evening were very largely attended. In the afternoon Madam Booth and Miss Platt rendered suitable solos, and Miss Frost and Miss A. Diggle

were the soloists in the evening. Mr. C. E. Waterhouse officiated at the organ. On Monday following we held the fruit banquet, which was a crowning success, the fruit being sweet, etc. On Saturday, October 5th, we held a farewell social for our late President, Mr. Carter, and family, who are leaving for Australia with everybody's best wishes.—H. Shaw, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—On Sunday, October 6th, we held our usual Quarterly Open Session in the evening, before a large congregation. The silver chain recitation was conducted by Annie Brown, musical reading by Mr. Seanor, and golden chain by Mr. Lingard. Solos were nicely rendered by Elsie Farby, Elsie Quarumby and Annie Brown. Recitations were given by Elsie Taylor, Elsie Quarumby, Emily Holt, Annie Brown, Eric Berry, Joe Brown and Ernest Berry. Five of the children sang very nicely "There is something for children to do." It was a very successful session, ably conducted by the Conductor, Mr. Seanor.—Ernest Berry, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Sunday, October 6th, we held our eleventh Anniversary Services, Mrs. Bentley being the speaker. In the afternoon she distributed prizes to the children, and also judged essays on "The Lyceum," Annie Evans and Cyril Truelove winning prizes. In the evening Mrs. Bentley lectured to a large audience, and also named the daughter of Mrs. Woodhouse. Sunday, October 13th, was election of officers:—Conductor, Mr. Stevenson; Secretary, George Magness; Treasurer, Mr. Truelove; Guardian, Mr. Truelove; Librarian, Ernest Kitson; Captain of Guards, F. Alton; Guards, Harry Truelove, Harry Gibbons, Cecil Norris and Reginald Stevenson; Musical Directors, Ernest Vickers, Ernest Stevenson, Margaret Marshall, Grace Thickell; Assistants, M. Thickell and M. Marshall; Auditors, Ernest Vickers and Mr. Deaken.—G. H. Magness, Secretary.

STOCKPORT.—On Sunday, September 29th, we had our first Harvest Thanksgiving Services, which were ably conducted by Mr. R. A. Owen, of Liverpool, the children's friend. The church was tastefully decorated by the members and friends, and Mr. Owen conducted our Lyceum in the morning and also gave addresses in the afternoon and evening, in which he gave everyone present some good advice and food for thought. On the Monday following we had a fruit banquet and entertainment by Mr. J. Bell's Imps (who are Lyceumists ranging from the age of six years up to eleven years), who gave a splendid entertainment for two hours. The two days realised for us about £5. Truly we are doing exceptionally well.—J. Bell, Secretary.

STOCKTON.—On October 6th we had Mrs. Chapman, of Gateshead, at our Open Session, when she gave a number of prizes to the Lyceum scholars for their work in the past year. The recipients were:—H. E. Westbrook, W. H. Harrison, T. Oliver, E. Cannon, C. Jones, L. Williams, H. Jones, R. W. Westbrook, W. E. Jones, S. Williams, T. Carter, J. Carter and F. Coates. The prizes were greatly appreciated by the scholars. Recitations were given by W. H. Harrison, D. Jones, T. Oliver and L. Williams.—H. W. Westbrook, Sec.

TODMORDEN Spiritual Lyceum.—October 6th we held our Open Session in the morning. Programme as follows:—Recitation, "Uncle Hi's Opinion," Harold Firth; song, 382 *Manual*, Mrs. Wilson; recitation, "The Song of the North," Bertha Lee; reading, Mr. A. J. Scholfield; duet, 375 *Manual*, Leslie Clarke and Willie Howorth; song, 403 *Manual*, Miss Crossley; recitation, Leslie Clarke. In the afternoon we had the naming of our Secretary's child, this being carried out by Mrs. Thompson, of Accrington, in a very inspiring manner, at the close of which ceremony our Conductor, Mr. A. J. Scholfield, presented the child with a Lyceum Badge.—Frank Pratt, Secretary.

TORONTO, CENTRAL.—Perhaps a little report will not be out of order. We are progressing favourably as a Lyceum and Society. Our officers are of the sticking kind, and we have some very harmonious sessions. Our debating class is well attended, and our evening meetings are very successful. Our Open Session takes the form of a musical afternoon, and our open evening session is an open platform for any speaker who will help, and financially we are successful too. In fact, "The Workers Win" is our motto, and we are the winners.—W. R. Elvin.

WAIHI, N.Z.—We held our Open Session to-day, but owing to wet weather did not have a very large gathering. Recitations were given by Masters R. Lewis, G. and N. Morton and Misses Gregory, G. Grange and Q. Morton. Miss B. Grange rendered a pianoforte solo. The leaders and conductor read from the *Manual* and Mr. Whitehouse expressed his opinions on "What good Lyceum work is doing."—Miss W. M. Morton, Secretary.