

THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XXII. No. 263.

DECEMBER, 1912.

ONE PENNY.

Stories from the Classics.

JASON AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

CHAPTER V.—*Continued.*

And Medeia thought of Jason and his brave countenance, and said: "If there was one amongst them who knew no fear, I could show him how to win the Fleece."

So in the dusk of evening the two sisters went down to the river side, and took the boy Argus, the son of Phrixus, and sent him to Jason, who kept watch while his comrades slept. And the boy crept cautiously up to Jason and said:

"I am the son of Phrixus, your cousin; and Chalciope, my mother, waits for you, to talk about the Golden Fleece."

Then Jason went with the boy to the two princesses; and when Chalciope saw his noble bearing she wept, and took hold of his hand and said:

"O cousin of my beloved husband, go home before you die!"

"It would be cowardly to go home now, fair princess, and to have braved all our dangers in vain."

"But you know not," said the Princess Medeia, "what he must do who would win the Fleece. He must tame the two brazen-footed bulls, whose breath is like a flame of fire; and with them he must plough before night-fall four acres in the field of Ares (Mars); and he must sow them with serpent's teeth, from each of which springs up into being a fully-armed man. Then he must fight with all these warriors, and little will it profit him to conquer them, for the Fleece is guarded by a serpent, bigger than a pine tree, and over its body he must step to reach the Golden Fleece."

Then Jason said, "Unjustly is that Fleece kept here by an unjust king; and unjustly shall I die in my youth for I will attempt it before another sun be set."

The Princess Medeia trembled for his safety and said: "No mortal man can reach the Golden Fleece unless I guide him. For round it, beyond the river, is a wall fully nine yards high, with lofty towers and buttresses, and mighty three-fold gates of brass, and over the gates the wall is arched. And over the archway sits Brimo, the wild witch-huntress of the woods, brandishing a pine-torch in her hands, while her mad hounds howl around. No man dare meet or look at her, only I, her priestess, and she watches far and wide lest any stranger should come near."

"No wall so high," exclaimed Jason, "but it may be climbed, and no wood so thick but it may be crawled through, no serpent so wary but it may be charmed, or witch-queen so fierce but spells may soothe her, and I may yet win the Golden Fleece, if a wise maiden helps a bold man."

And he looked at the princess till she blushed and trembled, and said:

"Who can face the fire of the bulls' breath and fight ten thousand men?"

"He whom you help," said Jason, flattering her, "for your fame has spread over all the earth. Are you not the queen of all enchantresses, wiser even than your sister Circe, in her fairy island in the west?"

"Would that I were with my sister Circe [Sirse] in her fairy island in the West, far away from sore temptaton and thoughts which tear the heart. But if I be so, why should you die? I have an ointment here; I made it from the magic ice-flower which sprang from Prometheus' wound, above the clouds on Mount Caucasus, in the dreary fields of snow. Anoint yourself with it, and it will give you the strength of seven men; and anoint your shield with it, and neither fire nor sword can harm you. But whatsoever task you begin you must finish before sunset, for its virtue lasts but one day. And anoint your helmet with it before you sow the serpent's teeth, and when the sons of Ares spring up, cast your helmet among their ranks, and the deadly crop of the War-god's field will mow itself and perish."

Then Jason fell on his knees before her, and thanked her and kissed her hands; and she gave him the vase of ointment and fled home. And Jason told his comrades what had happened, and showed them the vase of ointment; and all rejoiced but Idas, and he grew mad with envy.

And at sunrise Jason went and bathed and anointed himself from head to feet, and his shield, and his helmet, and all his weapons, and bade his comrades to try the spell. So they tried to bend his lance, but it stood like an iron bar; and Idas in spite hewed at the lance with his sword, but the blade broke. Then they hurled their lances at his shield, but their points turned like pieces of lead; and Caineus [Kān-ē-us] tried to throw Jason on the ground, but he could not move him one inch; then Pollox struck him with his fist, a blow which would have felled an ox, but to Jason it was only as if a little boy had tapped him. So being fully assured that the spell of the magic ointment was effective in its protecting power, they sent word to the King that they were ready for the contest.

And when the king came they all exclaimed: "Fulfil your promise to us, O child of the Sun. Give us the serpent's teeth, and let loose the fiery bulls; for we have found a champion among us who can win the Golden Fleece."

And when the King heard this speech he bit his lips with rage, for he fancied that they had fled away during the night, but he could not go back from his promise; so he gave them the serpent's teeth. Then the King entered his chariot, and sent heralds through the town; and all the people went with him to the dreadful War-god's field. And Jason's comrades were a mere handful in the midst of the vast throng. And Medeia was there, closely veiled, muttering her words of power to give victory to Jason.

Then Jason cried, "Fulfil your promise, O king, and let your fiery bulls come forth."

Then the King bade the keepers open the gates,

and the magic bulls dashed out, and rushed with lowered heads upon Jason; but he did not move. The flame of their breath swept round him, but it did not singe a hair of his head; and the bulls stopped short and trembled when Medeia began her words of power.

Then Jason sprang at the nearest and seized it by the horns, and up and down they wrestled, till the bull fell grovelling on its knees. Then he caught the other bull and yoked them to the plough, and goaded them on till he had ploughed the sacred field.

Then he took the serpents' teeth and sowed them, and waited results. But Medeia looked at him and at his helmet, lest he should forget the lesson she had taught him.

Then the furrows began to heave, and presently out of them rose the serpents' teeth, changed into terrible looking warriors, clad from head to feet in steel, and they all drew their swords and rushed on Jason to cut him down.

And Jason's comrades grew pale with fear for him, but the King laughed a bitter, cruel laugh, and remarked, "See! if I had not sufficient warriors around me I could call them out of the bosom of the earth."

But Jason remembering his instructions snatched off his helmet and hurled it into the midst of the fierce throng. And blind madness came upon them, suspicion, hate, and fear, and each turned his hand against the rest, and fought with all their maddened fury till they all lay dead upon the ground. Then the magic furrows opened, and the kind earth covered them up, and Jason's work was done. And remembering his prize he cried, "Lead me to the Golden Fleece, O King, according to your promise, before the sun goes down."

But the King thought "He has conquered the bulls and sown and reaped the deadly crop. Who is this who is proof against all magic? He may kill the serpent yet." So he delayed, and sat taking counsel with his princes till the sun went down and all was dark. Then he bade a herald cry "Every man to his home for to-night. To-morrow we will meet these stranegers and speak about the Golden Fleece."

Then he turned and looked at the Princess Medeia, and knowing of her wonderful powers he said, "This is your doing. You have helped these yellow-haired strangers, and brought shame upon your father and yourself. *If they win the Fleece YOU DIE.*"

Jason and his comrades returned to their ship greatly displeased, for they saw that the King did not intend to part with the Fleece. One suggested that they should go to the grove and take it by force. Another suggested that they draw lots who should venture in first, as he was sure to be killed by the serpent, and while the monster was engaged devouring him, the others were to rush up and slay it, and carry off the Fleece in peace. But Jason held them back, though he praised them; for he hoped for Medeia's help.

And after awhile Medeia came full of grief, and wept long before she could speak. At last she cried:

"My end has come, and I must die; for my father has found out that I have helped you. You he would kill if he dared; but he will not harm you, because you have been his guests. Go then, and remember poor Medeia when you are far away across the sea."

But all the crew cried: "If you die, we die with you; for without you we cannot win the Fleece, and home we will not go without it, but fall here fighting to the last man."

"You need not die," said Jason. Flee home with us across the sea. Show us first how to win the Fleece; for you can do it, and come with us, and you shall be my queen and rule over the rich princes in Iolcas by the sea."

But the princess was deeply troubled and sad at heart at the idea of leaving her home and relations, and she wet bitterly at her sad lot. And all the heroes vowed she should be their queen if she would help them. At last she looked up at Jason and said:

"Must I leave my home and people, to wander with strangers across the sea? Alas, the lot is cast and I must endure my position. I will show you how to win the Golden Fleece. Bring up your ship to the woodside and moor her there against the bank, and let Jason and Orpheus with his harp come up at midnight, for I hear he is the king of all minstrels, and can charm all things on earth."

So at midnight they went up the bank, and found Medeia and her young brother, Absyrtus [Ab-sir-tus] leading a lamb.

Then Medeia brought them to a thicket beside the gate of the grove, and there she bade Jason dig a ditch and kill the lamb and leave it there, and strew on it magic herbs and honey.

Then sprang up the terrible Brimo, with three heads; one like that of a horse, another like that of a fierce hound, and another like that of a snake. And Brimo leapt into the ditch with her hounds, and they ate and drank their fill of the lamb, while Jason and Orpheus trembled at the awful sight, and Medeia hid her eyes. At last Brimo vanished with her hounds into the woods; and the bars of the gates fell down, and the brazen doors flew open, and Medeia and her companions ran forward and hurried through the poisonous shrubs and weeds towards the Golden Fleece, guided by the steady light of its glow. And Jason would have sprung forward to seize it, but Medeia, ever mindful of his safety, held him back and pointed to the foot of the tree, where the mighty serpent lay guarding the Golden Fleece, darting out its forked tongue, hissing at them, and its eyes seeming to sparkle with fire.

Then Medeia made a sign to Orpheus, and he began to lay on his magic harp and sing one of his rare songs.

And as he sung, the serpent's head sank down, and its coils grew limp, and its glittering eyes closed lazily, and then it fell asleep.

Then Jason stepped over its body and took down the precious Golden Fleece for which he had dared and braved so much. And then the four hastily returned to the good ship Argo. When all were safely on board, he cried, "Go, now, good Argo, swift and steady, if ever you would behold Pelion more."

And the crew rowed with all their power, with muffled oars, and the stout Argo groaned beneath their strokes, till they heard the surge of waters upon the bar, as it tossed and tumbled in the moonlight.

Into the surge they rushed, and Argo leapt the breakers like a horse; for she knew the time had come to show her powers, and win renown for herself and honour for her crew; and the heroes rested, each man upon his oar, as she glided into the broad sea.
(To be continued).

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

CHAPTER XIV (Continued).

The teacher read the verse heading the lesson, "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth Him that sent me."

"Miss Cragie, whose words are these?"

"They were spoken by Jesus to men appointed to go out and preach the gospel."

"What is their meaning, Miss Wilkes?"

"That whosoever will not receive His ministers will not receive Him."

A quick, sharp voice added, "That whosoever will not receive His *poor* casts Him out."

Miss Gregory blushed deeply, and said severely, "Answer only when I put a question to you."

Forbearance had ceased to be a virtue with Belle. Cutty saw a reckless desperation in her face, which frightened her.

"Miss Phillips read, if you please, St. Luke X, 25th verse."

She read, "And behold a certain lawyer stood up and tempted him, saying, 'Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'"

"Miss Cutty, what is the meaning of Jesus' reply?"

Cutty readily answered, "That our love for God must be full and sincere, and our love for our *neighbours* should be *equal* to the love we have for ourselves."

Fearful lest Cutty should begin to comment on it, Miss Gregory said, "Isobel Orcut, read the 30th verse if you will."

Belle's face coloured painfully. She noticed the difference in the way of putting the request, but curbing her anger she read, "And Jesus answering said, 'A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his raiment and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.'"

"Very well, Miss Jones, what did those who came along do?"

"Passed by on the other side." (See Musical reading, No. 206.—Editor).

"But who tarried, Miss Simpson, to relieve his sufferings?"

"The good Samaritan."

"Read the 36th verse, Miss Wilkes."

"Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among thieves?"

"What did Jesus say, Miss Cutty?"

"Go and do thou likewise."

And so the lesson ran, until it was concluded.

Belle Orcut went to her home crushed in spirit, hating God's professed people, thinking the Church a mockery, Christians hypocrites. But she had faith in sweet Lizzie Holt, and wept for her absence. Never again could Cutty or I persuade her to enter our grand Church.

CHAPTER XV.

Mr. Mackenzie called this morning. I was surprised, for I had not heard of his return from the East. I had met Phoebe and Hope several times in the interval of his absence, and it may have been

fancy, but it appeared to me Hope was sick with "hope long deferred," so I inquired with some anxiety concerning her.

"Quite well, Mrs. Blake—or at least as well as she ever will be beneath her trials. I would not hesitate to elope with the girl. The old gentleman has worn me out with his wilful obstinacy. He knows better; but Hope is a good daughter and will never disobey her father. I have not been to the house since my return."

"I think you did visit there?"

"Yes, a few times; but the last evening I spent with them previous to my departure, I chanced to say in her father's presence, "Death is incapable of changing the real man—the one who dies to-night is the same to-morrow morning!"

"He said, 'The Book of Life will be opened, and you will be judged, sir, if you die to-night. If you have done well you will go to the right hand; if not, to the left.'"

"I answered, 'Our own being is, I believe. the Book of Life.'"

"Supposing this night, young man, thy soul be required of thee?"

"I should go without a fear," I replied. "I would rather live. I want to live as long as I can. I want to raise myself as high in all virtues as possible, so that my condition there may be a pleasant and benefiting one. My soul is enraptured when I think of passing over with the record of a good life."

"The deacon said, 'Henrique Mackenzie, remember you will never change a hair after you leave this world. If you are wicked you will go to hell, if you are good you will go to heaven; there is no half-way work about it.'"

"Are there not different states of happiness?" I asked. And he answered, "No, young man, heaven is heaven, and hell is hell."

"Then," I said, "if I sin a little, and my neighbour sins a great deal, we both go to the same place of torment and suffer alike?"

"Yes, Mr. Mackenzie, if you offend in one jot or tittle of the law, you might as well offend in the whole."

"Then, Deacon Wilberforce, if I commit a murder I shall not be any worse off than if I tell a lie?"

"That is so."

"And you believe, Deacon, we suffer in hell for ever and ever through eternity?"

"Of course we do—or sing in heaven. I expect to sit upon the right hand of God through all eternity."

I answered, "Heaven deliver me. I would rather suffer the possible changes misery may bring than the dreary monotony of sitting and singing, and crying 'Hallelujah' through an eternity."

"Young man, how dare you close your eyes at night. Aren't you afraid you'll wake up in torment some morning?"

"No, Deacon, I have not a particle of fear. If I should die during the night, the morning would probably find me endeavouring to ascertain my vital relations to that better world, and how best to reap the fullest and speediest good. The morning, I have not a doubt, would find me in reception of the greeting of many friends. Oh, the thought of beholding my dear mother, and being folded to her bosom, perhaps she would say, 'Henrique, my son, I have waited—what to you would be a long, long time, but I have been so busily engaged, to me the

interval has been almost brief—but come to the home I have made ready, the home where we will be reunited."

"The Deacon groaned, repeating, 'Home I have made ready!' Do you, then, expect people to have homes there—separate homes?"

"Yes, sir, I do. I can see no reason why they should not."

"And you suppose she talks in that earthly way?"

"What should she say, Deacon—how should she talk?"

"Henrique Mackenzie, if ever you repent, are born again, are baptized and join the church, and get to heaven, you will find your mother (provided she was a Christian) praising God before the great white throne."

"What is the throne made of, Deacon?"

"Oh, it may be made of marble and gold, or ivory and precious stones, or some such things. I suppose it is really very beautiful."

"Who made the throne, Deacon?"

"It was made without hands eternal in the heavens?"

(To be continued).

Bluebell Guild.

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

SANTA CLAUS IN MANY LANDS.

The custom of hanging stockings, or placing shoes for a spirit of kindness to fill with gifts on Christmas Eve is common to children all the world over. In Austria and Holland, children follow the custom on December 6th, the day of Saint Nicolas. On the eve of the sixth, shoes are placed by the open grates, and sure if their owners have been good during the preceding year, St. Nicolas will fill them with charming presents during the dark night. To those unfortunates who have not been good he will leave nothing more than a birch rod. The good Saint is regarded as the patron of children, young women, sailors, tailors, and half a score other beings; the story by which he gained his reputation for generous goodness is well known.

Saint Nicolas was one time Bishop of Myra, when he heard of a certain merchant of Padua, whose three daughters could not marry owing to their possessing no dowries. The bishop went past the house and threw a purse of gold in at the open window unobserved. Twice did he succeed in accomplishing this kindly act unseen, and each purse enabled one daughter to become a wedded wife. The third time, however, the nobleman caught the bishop in the very act. The cleric commanded that none should be told of his action—a command which the merchant had not sufficient gratitude to observe, and it doubtless gave rise to the secrecy which is ever attendant upon the visits of the Yuletide Gift-bringer.

Quite ideal is the Santa Claus who yearly visits the little folk of Finland. The dear old gentleman bears much resemblance to some of our Christmas pictures. He is not very tall, but stout and genial, smothered from head to foot in an enormous fur coat, and goes

his round of visits in a sleigh drawn by four reindeer.

In Switzerland Santa Claus has to make use of a female deputy, as he finds it quite impossible to get to that land in time for Christmas. His wife Lucy, therefore goes in his stead, and is greatly revered by the little Swiss children, whom she honours by wearing a peasant costume of the country.

A strange legend is connected with Rome as to the surprise presents brought to children there at Yule. Here, also, they are distributed by a woman—a visitor from lands of magic, who comes to Rome on Christmas Eve on a broomstick. The house walls turn into green cheese, through which she eats her way and leaves her presents. So runs tradition, and when all are distributed the old lady flies skyward again on her broomstick.

In Norway and Sweden the great god Woden acts as deputy for Santa Claus. He is a cheerful old gentleman, who invariably brings his gifts nicely arranged on a fir tree. It was to provide the great white horse which he rides with food that the sheaf of corn which appears over every house door in these lands at Yule, first originated.

Punchinello, a gay little fellow, with cap and bells and motley ribbons, brings the Italian children their Christmas gifts. He carries his presents in a basket as big as himself, and among them sweetmeats in various shapes and forms predominate largely.

In beautiful France, Jean Noel distributes gifts to good children, who place their shoes by the fireplace on the Eve of Christmas Day, and some little French folk place a cake by the side of their shoes, lest the sweet Noel should be hungry.

The bright almond-eyed children of Japan call the good spirit which brings their Christmas surprise gifts, Hotei. Hotei was a great ecclesiastic of Japan, and is regarded as the patron saint of children in the land of cherry and plum blossom.

Not till New Year's Day can Santa Claus find time to pay a visit to the great Yellow Land. He guises himself as one of the most representative types of China—a tea trader. He wears a long, loose, yellow gown, a pigtail, and carries his gifts in trays which hang from a long bamboo pole put across his shoulders.

The English Father Christmas is familiar to all, and the same dear old man carries a message from the Motherland to her Colonies on Christmas Eve. To the sun-laden cities of Australia and the ice regions of Canada, to the palm-land of India and Ceylon, the ruddy-cheeked white-bearded Father Christmas goes on magic wings, telling little children tales of the great Motherland.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, November 10th, the Tees-side District Council held their quarterly Conference at our Lyceum. Business meeting in the morning at 10-30. In the afternoon we held an Open Session. Special solos and recitations were given by Ethel Park, Daisy Cole, Elizabeth Burnside and Eva Gray. Mr. Smith and others were asked to speak a few words to the children. There was also a large audience to witness the children in their marching and calisthenics. At the evening service the delegates occupied the platform and addressed a very large congregation. The delegates and associates were very ably catered for at the Hall by the Lyceum.—H. Nicholson, Sec.

CHADDERTON (off Brook Street).—On November 17th we had a brother delegate, Mr. Burrows, of Halifax, and we spent a pleasant session along with our brother, who gave some encouraging remarks to the Lyceum scholars, and also conducted our session. Friends present from Hollinwood and Middleton.—Mrs. M. Oldfield, Secretary.

[The forepart of the report is out of order. See Rule 2 in our last issue.—ED.]

Girls' Own Corner.

By Mrs. JESSY GREENWOOD



DECEMBER, 1912. SESSION PLAN.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
DEC. 1st	407	375	225	135	412
„ 8th	398	59	232	109	390
„ 15th	*89	100	234	138	†86
„ 22nd	371	80	235	146	340
„ 29th	346	367	202	Lyceum's choice.	363

*Tune, St. Peters, 52, Bristol Tune Book.

† Tune 58, Bristol.

PEARLS.

- DEC. 1st.—Man must pass from old to new, from what once seemed good to what now proves best; how could man have progression otherwise. *Browning.*
- DEC. 8th.—Difficulties strengthen the mind as labour does the body.—*Seneca.*
- DEC. 15th.—For benefits return benefits: for injuries return justice without any admixture of revenge.—*Confucius.*
- DEC. 22nd.—I never saw an oft removed tree, nor yet an oft removed family, that throve so well as those that settled be.—*Benjamin Franklin.*
- DEC. 29th.—We advocate Education, not merely to make man the better workman, but the workman the better man.—*Sir John Lubbock.*

How quickly the months go by! It seems so little since my last talk to you girls and mothers. Since then many things have happened, serious and otherwise, and we all have had varied experiences. Have you thought about accidents happening, and how you would act if such a thing happened in your immediate surroundings? It is a grand thing when the mother or sister or aunt knows exactly how to proceed when the boy cuts his finger badly, with his latest, newest knife, instead of going off in a faint and making matters worse; or the little girl gets her hair on fire with playing with a lighted taper, or using sister's curling tongs, as she has so often seen done; or father has had a nasty fall and put his shoulder out of joint, or broken a leg or arm, or hurt his head and needs some bandaging. Have you ever thought what you would do in such circumstances? In every district there are classes for FIRST AID TO THE INJURED

and HOME NURSING, which every mother should try to attend and every girl practice. There you learn a great deal about your own body, its composition, where the veins and arteries are placed, etc., and no girl need be ignorant on these matters if she will only put herself to the trouble to attend about half-a-dozen lectures in each subject. No doubt it has an attraction to some who have a fancy to be a nurse and wear the uniform you are all familiar with, but before that can be accomplished you have an immense amount of work and study and examinations to pass, covering perhaps a three years' residence in a hospital or infirmary, so that the knowledge gained in the classes mentioned is useful for all such persons. You are also taught about digestion, and the way to cook food for invalids; how to test the temperature of the body, or the room; how to change the bed when a person may not be raised or is too ill to move, and many more things necessary to be known by the mother more than anyone else. I feel sure there would be fewer babies die from fits and teething and measles or fever, or improper feeding, or from inattention to cleanliness, than at present obtains. Then think how useful you could be to a neighbour, or at your work, etc., if you knew just what to do at the moment.

Andrew Jackson Davis said something that will live for ever, in my opinion, and it obtains in this particular very markedly, "UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES KEEP AN EVEN MIND." This good man had learned this strong comprehensive, sensible, and practical proposition, and understood its value, as well as its almost impossible practice, except to the one who has trained his mental powers in order to accomplish what it infers. Think it out! Not a flippant look at the words, nor a putting off until another time, but deeply enough to be able to act on it at the moment, on the spot. For instance, recently Winston Churchill had a nasty smack in the face from a book thrown by a prominent Tory. He didn't throw it back or "go for him." What would you have done? Accidents come quickly, unexpectedly, and it is our business as wives and mothers to be able to cope with them intelligently and help the doctor to complete what you cannot hope to do.

Another Christmas is close upon us, and before our next chat will have come and gone. It is a time when good actions come to the fore, when we like to bid each other a Merry Christmas, and when gifts pass to "our ain' folk." Well, there is one thing we might keep in mind,—the old and infirm workers and those who are sick. How nice it would be to send our happy, healthy thoughts to all such, and better still send a monetary gift to the Fund of Benevolence. You can send it just to our EDITOR, who will have the names of all who wish to give something to that fund in the next issue of the BANNER, and afterwards pass it on in one sum to the Secretary, Mrs. Stair. It will gladden some hearts, make some one's fire brighter, and the larder better stocked and not hurt any of us.

If you've had a kindness shown,
 Pass it on;
 T'was not given for you alone,
 Pass it on;
 Let it travel down the years,
 Let it wipe another's tears;
 Till in Heaven the deed appears,
 Pass it on.

[We regret much useful matter is unavoidably crowded out.—ED.]

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ALFRED KITSON, *Editor.*

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DECEMBER, 1912.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1912.

"THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER."

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

During the past month we have been pleased to have enquiries from several places re the necessary outfit for starting a Lyceum. We are pleased to add that the following Societies have started a Lyceum: Dundee (Cutlers' Hall), and Exeter, Fore Street (Market Hall). And also the Lyceum at Windhill (School Hill), and London, Peckham (Lausanne Road), have re-opened.

Several Lyceums have also intimated their intention of applying for membership with the Lyceum Union on the arrival of the New Year. As only those applications for Membership that are made on the printed forms, as per Constitution, can be considered by the Executive, Lyceum Secretaries should lose no time in applying to the Lyceum Union's Secretary for a *Form* on which to make application for Membership. The Secretary to the Lyceum Union is prepared to receive applications any time during December and hold them in readiness for the Executive Council on January 11th at Hebden Bridge.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that Councillor John Venables, the Treasurer to the Lyceum Union, has been unanimously elected to the Mayoral Chair of Walsall for a second year. The mover and seconder for his re-election paid a high tribute of praise to the Mayor for the splendid manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office, ably assisted by Mrs. Venables, the Mayoress. Mr. Venables was 60 years old on November 5th. THE LYCEUM BANNER joins its numerous readers in congratulating the Mayor on his re-election, and wishing him many years of an honourable and useful life.

The following letter raises an important point concerning Rule 4 governing Lyceum Reports, and so we give full publicity thereto.

Dear Mr. Kitson,—

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Yours fraternally,

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Girls' Own Corner.

By Mrs. JESSY GREENWOOD



DECEMBER, 1912.
SESSION PLAN.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
DEC. 1st	407	375	225	135	412
„ 8th	398	59	232	109	390
„ 15th	*89	100	234	138	†86
„ 22nd	371	80	235	146	340
„ 29th	346	367	202	Lyceum's choice.	363

*Tune, St. Peters, 52, Bristol Tune Book.
† Tune 58, Bristol.

PEARLS.

- DEC. 1st.—Man must pass from old to new, from what once seemed good to what now proves best; how could man have progression otherwise. *Browning.*
- DEC. 8th.—Difficulties strengthen the mind as labour does the body.—*Seneca.*
- DEC. 15th.—For benefits return benefits: for injuries return justice without any admixture of revenge.—*Confucius.*
- DEC. 22nd.—I never saw an oft removed tree, nor yet an oft removed family, that throve so well as those that settled be.—*Benjamin Franklin.*
- DEC. 29th.—We advocate Education, not merely to make man the better workman, but the workman the better man.—*Sir John Lubbock.*

How quickly the months go by! It seems so little since my last talk to you girls and mothers. Since then many things have happened, serious and otherwise, and we all have had varied experiences. Have you thought about accidents happening, and how you would act if such a thing happened in your immediate surroundings? It is a grand thing when the mother or sister or aunt knows exactly how to proceed when the boy cuts his finger badly, with his latest, newest knife, instead of going off in a faint and making matters worse; or the little girl gets her hair on fire with playing with a lighted taper, or using sister's curling tongs, as she has so often seen done; or father has had a nasty fall and put his shoulder out of joint, or broken a leg or arm, or hurt his head and needs some bandaging. Have you ever thought what you would do in such circumstances? In every district there are classes for FIRST AID TO THE INJURED

and HOME NURSING, which every mother should try to attend and every girl practice. There you learn a great deal about your own body, its composition, where the veins and arteries are placed, etc., and no girl need be ignorant on these matters if she will only put herself to the trouble to attend about half-a-dozen lectures in each subject. No doubt it has an attraction to some who have a fancy to be a nurse and wear the uniform you are all familiar with, but before that can be accomplished you have an immense amount of work and study and examinations to pass, covering perhaps a three years' residence in a hospital or infirmary, so that the knowledge gained in the classes mentioned is useful for all such persons. You are also taught about digestion, and the way to cook food for invalids; how to test the temperature of the body, or the room; how to change the bed when a person may not be raised or is too ill to move, and many more things necessary to be known by the mother more than anyone else. I feel sure there would be fewer babies die from fits and teething and measles or fever, or improper feeding, or from inattention to cleanliness, than at present obtains. Then think how useful you could be to a neighbour, or at your work, etc., if you knew just what to do at the moment.

Andrew Jackson Davis said something that will live for ever, in my opinion, and it obtains in this particular very markedly, "UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES KEEP AN EVEN MIND." This good man had learned this strong comprehensive, sensible, and practical proposition, and understood its value, as well as its almost impossible practice, except to the one who has trained his mental powers in order to accomplish what it infers. Think it out! Not a flippant look at the words, nor a putting off until another time, but deeply enough to be able to act on it at the moment, on the spot. For instance, recently Winston Churchill had a nasty smack in the face from a book thrown by a prominent Tory. He didn't throw it back or "go for him." What would you have done? Accidents come quickly, unexpectedly, and it is our business as wives and mothers to be able to cope with them intelligently and help the doctor to complete what you cannot hope to do.

Another Christmas is close upon us, and before our next chat will have come and gone. It is a time when good actions come to the fore, when we like to bid each other a Merry Christmas, and when gifts pass to "our ain' folk." Well, there is one thing we might keep in mind,—the old and infirm workers and those who are sick. How nice it would be to send our happy, healthy thoughts to all such, and better still send a monetary gift to the Fund of Benevolence. You can send it just to our EDITOR, who will have the names of all who wish to give something to that fund in the next issue of the BANNER, and afterwards pass it on in one sum to the Secretary, Mrs. Stair. It will gladden some hearts, make some one's fire brighter, and the larder better stocked and not hurt any of us.

If you've had a kindness shown,
Pass it on;
T'was not given for you alone,
Pass it on;
Let it travel down the years,
Let it wipe another's tears;
Till in Heaven the deed appears,
Pass it on.

[We regret much useful matter is unavoidably crowded out.—ED.]

The Peace Brigade.

CONDUCTED BY C. W. M.

A few days ago we read an account of a lecture on International Polity given by Mr. John Hilton, of London, emphasising the urgency of the problem, in view of the increasing danger of great nations blundering into war, and further enfeebling and distorting all that was best in their civilisation. Moreover, he gave an additional reason for the importance of the question; and it appealed to us as being valuable information for all our members and readers, as well as providing food for further thought and deeper reflection. Here are his statements:—

"The nations of the world are spending £450,000,000 per year on armies and navies. Add to this sum the annual interest on war debts, which have now reached the stupendous total of something like £6,000,000,000, and also the sums paid in pensions, and the world's annual military and naval expenditure is not very far short of £1,000,000,000.

"Great Britain's expenditure on army and navy, together with the annual interest on war debts, was not less than £90,000,000 per year.

"To realise the magnitude of this sum imagine what it would do if applied to the abolition of poverty. It is computed that there are two million families in the land living below the border-line of decent subsistence. *The sum would provide fifteen shillings a week for every such family*, and yet leave a substantial surplus. How much nearer security does expenditure on armaments ever bring us? We are told that we are less secure to-day than thirty years ago. Probably, current political philosophy being what it is, the statement is true. Yet in the intervening thirty years we have spent just over a thousand million pounds on the army and navy. Our expenditure now is double what it was then.

"It is a striking commentary on the effectiveness of military expenditure as an aid to national security."

Just think over those statements, friends. Just imagine the numbers of homes from which the fiend of dire poverty could be banished, and the numbers of hearts that could be eased of care, by a humane use of that enormous sum of wealth expended yearly on—what?—the preparations for, and against, possible warfare.

The following paragraph in one of our dailies gave us pleasure as evidencing that at last even the churches are awakening to the crying needs of the time. We all, as a body, unanimously second the Council in its resolution, and hope and trust that it will bear good fruit, and in the near future too:—

"The Leeds Free Church Council, at their quarterly meeting, unanimously passed a resolution strongly deploring "the recent utterances of prominent military leaders, voicing opinions which are inimical to the brotherhood of nations, appeal to prejudice and passion, and are direct incentives to war." The resolution added that the Council considered it the imperative duty of the churches at such a time of unrest among the nations to condemn "such provocation and untimely utterances." Are we, as Spiritualists, as Lyceumists, as professed believers in the "Fatherhood of God, the *Brotherhood of Man*" doing all we can in a similar direction, even though the "all" seems very little and insignificant?

THE ADVENTURES OF PRIVATE WILLIAMS.

Last month I made a definite promise to tell you more of the life of our new chum Rough, the pup, which we rescued from the old well at Zabler Gate.

A few months,—two, I believe it was,—after we had taken him in, our regiment was ordered to leave Malta for Goza, a small island about two and a half hours' sail from Valetta.

Nobody seemed very pleased at the prospects before us, for, you see, we were just getting used to our surroundings and knew we should miss some of the sights and sounds which used to fascinate us. Zabler Gate was only a small place with accommodation for two companies—one on each side of the drawbridge—and both buildings were encircled by a moat with twenty feet of water. At the entrance of the gate, between and level with the roofs and forming a kind of archway, was a big white statue of the Virgin Mary, with a number of small lamps always kept burning, and forming a circle behind her head. Built into the side of the wall was a great iron box with a little slot in the top; and into this the natives as they used to pass would drop their coppers, after bowing and crossing themselves. This was the only way by which those lamps could be kept burning; and yet they never go out for there are always sufficient coins to purchase the necessary oil. Laugh if you like, then measure your own devotion and its sincerity by that of the natives.

Now after we gave our pup to the Sergeant of the Police, he was taken to Fort Salvator, and so it was not often that we got to see him, and some of the Boys had forgotten him altogether.

At last came the order to assemble—the whole battalion was to parade on the landing-stage and there embark on the Princess Maletta, a steamship that plied between Malta and Goza twice daily. And there, sure enough, as we got down to the landing-stage, was our old friend Rough, strutting backwards and forwards, with the policeman's badge for a collar, and looking as proud as though he was in command of the troops. G. Company also had brought their pet along with them, a monkey who answered to the name of Jane, and who was quite as tricky as most monkeys are. However, Rough and Jane did not get along very well together.

On reaching Goza, we found it necessary to put a strong picket at the bathing place, on account of its being dangerous. The only means of getting into the water was by walking along a plank that jutted out over the rocks, and all non-swimmers were warned off on account of the depth of the water.

When the bathing picket went on duty, two of their number would strip and jump into the water, and the others would practise throwing the life-line out to them, which was no easy task and only on rare occasions could they throw it within yards of where it should reach. One day Rough followed the picket, and at the first casting of the line into the water he jumped in after it and quickly brought it ashore again. It was cast again and then the swimmers called for Rough who understood and took the line to them. This was repeated; but it was a long time before he was thoroughly taught to take it to those in the water without their having to call to him. But in time he learned what was required of him, thus rendering a service that could not be thought of lightly.

To Lyceum Workers.

A MESSAGE FROM ELSIE C. E. WILKINS, MANAGER CHILDREN'S CORNER, "AMERICAN SPIRITUALIST," AND CALIFORNIA STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF LYCEUMS.

Since the first issue of the "American Spiritualist" we have taken enthusiastic interest in Lyceum propaganda, and have been amply repaid for our efforts by the awakening noted all over the land. We are greatly in earnest in this work for we can truly see the good to be accomplished for the future of Spiritualism by teaching the rudiments to the children, who are to be the coming workers for the truth we are holding to with such great tenacity and hope. We have enlisted the best workers the country affords and besides have established great interest with the children themselves in our letter box and the Band of Mercy, through which we know we shall build up a better and more humane and peace-loving future humanity.

This is a work we never tire of, and in fact feel more courage to pursue with each issue of the paper, and any Lyceum will find first-class lessons, thought-gems, flag-salute, Band of Mercy pledge, pretty and educative stories, nature studies, and any and everything that tends to uplift the little minds and give them food for growth along spiritual lines.

Do we want these little ones to tread in the tracks of superstition, ignorant of the truth we have found and sometime will have to unlearn and throw off?

Do we want them to sit supinely down and let others think for them from our own observations and experiences how necessary it is for them to do their own thinking, their own planning, and their own reasoning along religious, economic, scientific and political lines?

These are problems for each Spiritualist father and mother to take into consideration. Were it not at least better to teach them independence of thought, and let them reason out problems for themselves?

The Lyceum properly conducted will give them all these advantages, besides teach them loyalty to the country and to friends. When I hear our Socialist friends say, "No time for Spiritual things in the grind for bread and butter," I want to say that if humanity would just live Spiritual Spiritualism the bread and butter question would take care of itself.

The Calisthenics, as taught in the Lyceum, will give the children helpful and interesting movements, and the marching gives rhythmic motion of form; all conducing to the inspiring of the Spirit that is ever fluttering in its prison house of clay to gain higher heights and grander knowledge.

Spirit is energy, and unless developed towards the higher thoughts and acts it may go the other way, for Spirit will not remain still; it is the power behind the throne of reason, investigation and progress, and these childish spirits should be shown the beatitudes of soul-unfoldment and taught how to reach them.

The true disciple is the one who works for the truth he espouses, and while much has been said and little done regarding Lyceum work, it never will be a successful movement until the parents and older people take an active interest in the movement.

I remember distinctly, when a child of my Lyceum days. Being born of Spiritualist parents who neither feared nor cared for the ridicule of the people less favoured with the knowledge of the great truths of immortality, I was privileged to attend the Lyceum, and every Sunday, clad in my clean calico dress, with my lesson and recitation well learned, I walked proudly with my parents, sister and little brother in the city of Battle Creek, Mich., to what seemed to me a heaven, and it was a Lyceum of not three or four adults, with eight or ten children, but there gathered young and old until every group was filled, and it was certainly a beautiful sight; and as I look back now, and see the feeble attempt at Lyceum work to-day, I feel as though Spiritualism, instead of progressing, was going the other way.

Now what is the cause of this lack of interest? I can tell you the fear of being unpopular has had a great deal to do with it. I have heard people say, who professed to be ardent Spiritualists, I don't want my children to go to any meetings or circles, because I think it is harmful to their health.

Do I look unhealthy? I was born and bred in Spiritualism, attending circles ever since I can remember.

And again, "My children are so ashamed that they do not want anyone to know that we are Spiritualists," and there are plenty to-day who, instead of going out in God's beautiful sunlight, proud of their health and opportunity to attend the Spiritualist meeting, will sneak out as though doing a dreadful act, even lying to their husbands or wives, neighbours and friends, as to the truth of their absence.

I remember while living in a small town in Nebraska, dur-

ing the childhood of my two daughters, there was a medium came into the place billing the town for a lecture on the philosophy and phenomena of Spiritualism. How proud I was to be able to attend, and as with my husband and two little girls, I entered the hall I was shocked to see two gentlemen for the audience, besides ourselves. Now I believe had he advertised to locate gold mines, produce soul-mates, restore lost lovers, and the various other wonderful things done under the name of Spiritualism, the hall would have been packed to the doors.

That meeting was the only opportunity my children had of attending a Spiritualist meeting until almost women grown, and yet through the influence of a Spiritualist mother's love and training they are staunch Spiritualists, and both mediums, and not only are they proud of it, but are not ashamed to say no, nor are they ashamed of the mother who reared them.

Why, bless you, friends, I remember going to school and having the children point their finger at me and say "Old Spiritualist!" Was I ashamed? No, I fought for what I believed was the truth and I am fighting yet.

My parents have long since gone to that beautiful home, but still, with words of encouragement they tell me every day to keep up the fight for suffering humanity, not alone in singing to them of "The Home Over There," but of the beautiful home here and how that can and should be appreciated. Not by being the possessor of lands, fine clothes and jewels, but the possessor of an unselfish heart, with the knowledge of the brotherhood of man, knowing it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This, my friends, is the key-note to this great Spiritualism that we are here to honour. Spiritualism, not as a religion, not as a science, not as a means of livelihood, nor of making dollars and cents but a father, as it were, for the protection of those unable to care for themselves; a mother with the loving, unselfish motives for her children, never to blame, but clasping them in her arms of love showing them the way out of darkness, gloom and despair.

Let it be a beacon light that will ever light our pathway as we stumble and fall under the burdens that many times seem more than we can carry. But how many of us have not been thankful after all, for the hardships and influences being brought to bear upon us, having made us more charitable to our brother man and less selfish in our every attainment.

I would not have missed one heartache, one burden, for they have only fitted me for a better understanding of life, and of the life of my brother and sister, and as to ever being ashamed of the truth I espoused, I have borne the flag bravely and fearlessly so far in life, and do not believe that I have lost any friends worth having by my having done so, and I certainly feel that I have been blessed in a thousand ways by following in the footsteps of my blessed father and mother and their teachings, as prepared in the Spirit World.

So, brothers and sisters, if we are Spiritualists, let us live it and let us show our unselfish life by sharing with our children that which we have found to be a comfort to ourselves, letting them know and understand that we are only children grown up, and keep in fellowship and confidence with them in our Spiritualism; then we need have no fear for the future of the truth we love.

What of the cause in the sweet bye and bye,

Left with the veterans alone when they die?

What of the truth that we love so well,

With no one on earth its story to tell?

What of the work of the old pioneers,

When they shall have gone to the spiritual spheres?

What of the work we are holding in view,

And doubtless shall leave for the children to do,

If they are not tutored to take up the thread,

Their parents left fallen, where they ceased to tread?

In Memoria.

Ordinary intimations will be inserted as follows:—
Not exceeding twenty-four words, Free. 6d. will be charged for every additional nine words. Poetry 6d. per line. Payment must accompany all intimations of more than 24 words, or they cannot be inserted.

OLDHAM.—I regret to announce the passing to spirit life, on October 26th, of Master Harry Clayton, aged 17, the beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. James Clayton, President of Elliott Street Lyceum.

The interment was conducted by Mr. William Hilditch, of Oldham, at Greenacres Cemetery, on Wednesday, October 30th, 1912.

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

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, *Editor.*

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

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Office—17 Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.

DECEMBER, 1912.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1912.

“THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER.”

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

During the past month we have been pleased to have enquiries from several places re the necessary outfit for starting a Lyceum. We are pleased to add that the following Societies have started a Lyceum: Dundee (Cutlers' Hall), and Exeter, Fore Street (Market Hall). And also the Lyceum at Windhill (School Hill), and London, Peckham (Lausanne Road), have re-opened.

Several Lyceums have also intimated their intention of applying for membership with the Lyceum Union on the arrival of the New Year. As only those applications for Membership that are made on the printed forms, as per Constitution, can be considered by the Executive, Lyceum Secretaries should lose no time in applying to the Lyceum Union's Secretary for a *Form* on which to make application for Membership. The Secretary to the Lyceum Union is prepared to receive applications any time during December and hold them in readiness for the Executive Council on January 11th at Hebden Bridge.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that Councillor John Venables, the Treasurer to the Lyceum Union, has been unanimously elected to the Mayoral Chair of Walsall for a second year. The mover and seconder for his re-election paid a high tribute of praise to the Mayor for the splendid manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office, ably assisted by Mrs. Venables, the Mayoress. Mr. Venables was 60 years old on November 5th. THE LYCEUM BANNER joins its numerous readers in congratulating the Mayor on his re-election, and wishing him many years of an honourable and useful life.

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Yours fraternally,

(MRS.) RHODA HOBSON, Conductor.

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For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

My Dear Chums,—

I feel the first things you will look for on our page are the answers to the puzzle last month. Many boys have no doubt thought they would write to me their answers. There is a wise saying: Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny. Two boys have been thinking and have acted upon their thoughts by sending in a list of answers. I sincerely thank Jack Hodgett, of Ulverston, and John Firth, of Rochdale, for two nice letters. They have each sent twelve correct solutions. Jack has also sent me a puzzle, the answer to which is six and two-thirds. Now for the answers, here they are:

- 1.—This is done by making a bite with your mouth one inch off (away) from the poker.
- 2.—Place the pencil on the floor against a wall.
- 3.—Kiss your shadow on the wall or let your shadow fall upon someone you like and then kiss them.
- 4.—Put the right hand to the left elbow.
- 5.—Jump over your shoes.
- 6.—Put the box of matches on your head.
- 7.—Write yourself on a piece of post card and push it through the keyhole.
- 8.—Slide the halfpenny up the door and quickly press it against the door. The vacuum caused will make the coin hold to the door.
- 9.—Place the three pennies side by side, touching each other; now grip number two very firmly to the table by pressing with the thumb. Take number three and bang it against number two, when number one will be caused to move a few inches away from number two, and number three can then be placed between them. It is the vibration sent through number two which enables this puzzle to be done.
- 10.—Remove the top centre match and the two corner matches from each bottom corner.
- 11.—You will notice a large outside square and a small inner square. Remove the eight other matches and two squares will remain.
- 12.—Crack a nut, produce the kernel; you have never seen it before, your friends have never seen it before. Next eat the nut and say, "no one shall ever see it again."
- 13.—One minds the train and the other trains the mind.
- 14.—Because it is farthest from the bark.
- 15.—David.
- 16.—Place three buttons in a triangle and hold the fourth button an equal distance above them.
- 17.—Place a piece of paper over the glass.
- 18.—A needle will float in a saucerful of water if placed very gently upon it. Try it.
- 19.—Soak the cotton in salt before tying to the ring.
- 20.—Add I to V and IV will remain.

Now the winter season is coming we shall have to stay indoors very much. There are many books we can read. I should like to think every boy who reads this page will read during this month a book by Charles Dickens, called the "Christmas Carol." It

is very cheap. If your parents cannot afford it the book may be obtained from any free library. This is a splendid story with a very good lesson for boys, how not to grow up. I am sure you will all feel sorry for the poor clerk and be as happy as he was when he received his Christmas hamper. Another splendid story for boys by the same author is "Oliver Twist." These are books which are often talked about but seldom read. Every boy should read about little Oliver, then you will know what the life of a workhouse boy was like when men like Bumble were common.

I often wonder are there any Lyceum boys making use of the many things your parents and friends buy for you at the festive season. Many a father and mother has shown me, with great pride, many of the things their boys have made in fretwork and done in other ways. Now is the time for recitations, songs, and dialogues in the Lyceum. Let every boy endeavour to make his school a success by attempting to do something every Sunday. Every Lyceum is just as much a success as the conductor, teachers, and Lyceumists make it. If nobody did anything shouldn't we have a strange school. If everybody did something it would be just lovely. Some people do right for fear of being seen doing wrong, and some do right through fear of punishment for doing wrong. The best people do right just because they feel it is right, and are never afraid to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of others. All the good and wise people who live as heroes and heroines in history have followed this plan. When Dr. Livingstone, the explorer, was a little lad working in the factory he longed to grow up a good and clever man. He also longed to be a missionary and walked many miles at night after working all day in the mill to where he could obtain an education. How he came to be a missionary, doctor, and explorer can be learned from the book of his life. The dark-skinned natives of Africa so loved him that when he passed away in the Dark Continent, his followers brought his body over eight thousand miles to be buried in England.

Grace Darling did right because it was right when she started in an open boat from the lighthouse to rescue the shipwrecked sailors. Abraham Lincoln did the same thing when he worked against the wishes of the white people for the emancipation of the slaves of America. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will prove a very interesting book about American Slavery if you boys will read it. When a pestilence disease broke out in the Midlands of England, Sister Dora was the human angel, as Florence Nightingale was the heroine of the Crimean War, and ever afterwards known as "The Lady of the Lamp."

There is only one other thing I want to write about, and then good-bye for another month. I have only mentioned a very few of the people who live in history. Think of the others for yourselves. What is most important in the lives of these people is, they all educated themselves and were prepared to grasp the opportunities when they came. Boys, you can never learn too much. When school life is over and you get in the workshops, the real world is open before you. Then is the time when your education really commences and the world has need of thinkers and reformers to make the earth a sweeter, brighter, and happier place to live on. There is room enough and plenty of food, every necessity for human comfort. I am longing to see many brave,

courageous souls produced from the boys in our Lyceums who have obtained the necessary love for humanity as the result of a spiritual training, face the problems of an oppressed and uncultured people. I hope you are ambitious enough to learn the lessons of life in such a way that with a free and open mind, our boys may become pioneers in a new phase of life when precept and practise, the ideal and the real, the hope and the realization shall be fused together as a purposeful object which shall bring happiness amongst us. Boys, fix your minds on lofty thoughts, angels will help you in your talk, and to humanity your name shall be a living memory.

GOOD COUNSEL.

I read in your October Lyceum Banner the very interesting article to boys by Mr. Knott. May I, Mr. Editor, through your interesting little monthly, ask your boy and girl readers if they have ever tried to weave a fabric from the many webs of interest which have been published from time to time to teach them useful lessons. Just as the raw cotton has to undergo many processes before it becomes a piece of wearing apparel, so will every boy and girl. Lyceumists have to submit themselves to the many processes of likes and dislikes if they have to become men and women fit to face the battles of life. Let me ask every young friend to have an ambition in life, and let your motto be to emulate Bruce's spider, and, if at first you don't succeed, just try again, and remember Mr. Knott's advice, that even the beautiful furry and feathered tribes can teach us all valuable lessons of duty and perseverance. Remember this, that the giant trees of the forest were once tiny seedlings, but as their roots penetrated further and deeper into the earth they became fixed and firm to withstand the stress and strain of the fiercest storms. Now, my young friends, you will sooner or later have to submit yourselves to the stress and strain of young man and womanhood, so learn a life's lesson from the trees as you see them, and never forget that to be a success in life you must have the roots of perseverance, ambition, will power, determination, thoroughness, and willingness, and a loving and kindly temperament, firmly fixed in your mind, and if you let these thoughts establish themselves as your heart's desires, like the roots of the forest trees, they will permeate every fibre of your being, and you will grow a living example of everything your Lyceum principles teach you.

V. H. LUCAS, Sheffield.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

The following donations have been received by the Secretary in answer to the cards recently sent out to all Lyceums. We trust that all contributions will reach us not later than the 31st of December.

Thanking all donors for past gifts and hoping for a continuance of your favours.

Sincerely yours,

JESSIE GREENWOOD,

Hon. Sec.

1912 CONTRIBUTIONS.

Crewe Lyceum, 5/-; Batley Carr, 10/-; Mr. Kitson's services, 40/-; Huddersfield, Ramsden Street, 10/-; Wellington Lyceum, N.Z., 7/6; Mrs. Johnstone, Wellington, N.Z., 2/6; Mr. Wadsworth, 10/6; Mr. Horsfall, 5/-; Nelson Lyceum, 21/-; Leeds, 5/-; Mr. Walker, 2/6; Mr. Robertson, 21/-; Mr. Venables, 21/-.

LANCASTER (Collegian Rooms).—Our Open Session is for the leaders as well as the little ones, and many recitations or readings could be made instructive if the many, instead of the few, would take it in hand. We are on the eve of making many changes in our election of officers for the coming year, and we trust the choice made will be for the development of new talent. I hope the leaders will attend better to the Lyceum than they have done of late, if they wish for the change to be successful. Recitations, W. Bleasdale, J. Thompson, Ena Thompson, E. Kirk, A. Sayle and May Dodd. Friends please accept my heartiest greetings this Christmas in all Lyceums.—J. Kirk.

SOUTH MANCHESTER (Princess Road).—On Sunday, Nov. 10th, we had a very successful Musical Afternoon. Solos and recitations were beautifully rendered by the Lyceumists and friends. On Wednesday, November 20th, we had a splendid social. A sketch was performed, entitled "My neighbour's wife." The parts were exceedingly well taken by the Misses Harcastle, Jackson and Robinson, and Messrs. Gilbert, Hart, and Potter. Our good friend, Mr. Henley, again helped us and acted as M.C. for dancing. Our Conductor and the convenor deserve every credit for this splendid affair, which was a grand success in every way. Solos were given by friends, Miss Sutton again singing for us. I hope Lyceums will note our December Open Session, when Mr. R. A. Owen, of Liverpool, will be the speaker.—Ernest Hart, Secretary.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION. DISTRICT VISITORS' QUARTERLY REPORTS.

Ending September 30th, 1912.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.—There are twelve Societies in this district, six of which have a Lyceum. The following Societies lacking Lyceums have been written. Replies not to hand: Foleshill, Leamington, Netherton, Birmingham (John Street), Wolverhampton (Temple Street and Princess Street).

General Remarks:—Birmingham (Crabtree Road).—This Lyceum is composed of young children chiefly, who pay great attention to the Conductor. Singing and order good. Praise is due to the Secretary and Conductor in conducting Liberty Group. As time goes on this Lyceum should be a great help to the parent Society. Fare 1/3.

Sattley (Crawford Street).—This Lyceum has more older members, from 15 to 20 and should prove a great help to their parent Society. The singing went with a swing. Great attention was paid to responses and musical readings. Mr. Laxton gave a most interesting and practical talk on plant life. A very pleasant and instructive session which made one feel that it was good to be there. Fare 1/3.

Walsall (Bradford Street).—Liberty Group continues to have interesting subjects for debate. The sessions are very bright, and full of interest. Conduct and attendance are very good. Fare nil.

A. O. THOMAS, D.V.

BOLTON DISTRICT.—There are 11 Societies in this district, all but two have a Lyceum. The Society at Chapel Street, Platt Bridge, is reported as being strongly opposed to having a Lyceum.

General remarks:—Daisy Hill.—I am very pleased to report this Lyceum is doing very well, good attendances, full sessions continually being held.

Platt Bridge (Gas Street).—I found this Lyceum working very nicely with the assistance of Conductors from other Lyceums. A pleasant afternoon was spent, the session being thoroughly gone through. Fare 4d.

Hindley.—July 28th, I found this Lyceum very weak in numbers. The chain recitations musical readings, pearls and recitations very well rendered. No marching or calisthenics; there being no musical

conductor. I trust the adult members will study the needs of the children more.

Chorley.—August 4th. This is a newly opened Lyceum, and lacks *Lyceum Manuals*. Numbers occasionally small. Considering their difficulties the session was fairly good. Fare 1/6.

Leigh (Brown Street).—This is a strong, healthy Lyceum, and a credit to the Society. Punctual start. Everything that was done was all that could be desired. Fare 1/-.

JOHN RUDD, D.V.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—There are 12 Societies in this district all but one has a Lyceum.

General remarks:—Bradford (Shirley Road).—A very fair Lyceum. Marching and calisthenics good. Fare 1/6.

Bradford (Carlisle Road).—A fairly good Lyceum, a fair number of adults. Marching and calisthenics very good, and a good Liberty Group. Fare 1/6.

Cleckheaton (Old Robin Street).—This Lyceum is in great need of help, only 12 present. The exercises good. Singing fair. (Walker Street) A good Lyceum, 30 present. They will soon be removing to their new hall. Fares 2/5.

Windhill.—A fair Lyceum to say they are only just reopened.

Bradford (Boyton Street).—This is a good Lyceum. The marching, calisthenics, pearls and recitations were all good. Mrs. Ramsden conducted the session in a capital manner. Expenses 1/6.

E. SHACKLETON, D.V.

HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 12 Societies in this district, all but Quarmby, and Huddersfield central mission have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—On August 18th I visited (Ramsden St.), 47 present. Punctuality had not arrived as they were ten minutes late. There was a good, useful session. A fine exposition of the physical, moral and spiritual orders was given. Calisthenics were an improvement, but taken very slow.

On August 25th, I visited *Slaithwaite*.—Present 24. They have usually a better attendance. There is an improvement in their position, they have a few more workers. A more missionary spirit would do them good. We had a biographical study, "the calendar of Saints." Fare 6d.

On September 1st, I visited *Brighouse* (Commercial St.).—There were 23 present in the morning, and 36 in the afternoon. We had an exposition of the G.C.R. "Nature of Spiritualism," and in Liberty group the study of "Phases of Spiritualism," The calisthenic display was remarkably good. Fare 10d.

On September 22nd, I visited *Elland*.—This is a struggling Lyceum. There is a need of experienced workers. The Lyceum is calling for help, who will step forward? The progress of our beloved system has often been arrested by thoughtlessly turning good workers adrift. The one great need in our district is more capable workers. Fare 8d.

S. ACKROYD, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—There are 23 Societies in this district, 4 of which have no Lyceum.

General remarks.—On August 11th. I visited *Morley*, which has recently been reopened. I was pleased to see a few of the old workers among them who seemed anxious to build up a Lyceum worthy of its old character. There were 23 present in the morning. A very good session. Fare 4d

On August 25th, I visited *Armley*,—a poor attendance in the morning. No groups, otherwise a good

session. There were over 50 present in the afternoon. The officers seem intent on regaining the old position as first in the district. I wish success to their efforts.

On September 8th, I visited *Osselt*.—Present 16 who were mostly children well under control of the conductor. A good session, but no groups. A better attendance in the afternoon. Fares 1/5.

On September 22nd, I visited *York*,—(St. Saviourgate in the morning).—There were 22 present. Singing, responses, etc., were very good. Comments on the chain recitations good. A marked improvement since my last visit.

In the afternoon I visited *High Ousegate*,—and found 24 present. Chain recitations good, but hardly up to my last visit. I must add that some of their chief officers were unavoidably absent. Fares 2/9.

On September 29th, I visited *Normanton*,—where they have morning session only; 24 present. This Lyceum depends on one or two adults to keep it going, who find it hard work to keep up with its demands. The singing and responses were good. A nice improvement since my last visit. The conductor took great pains in explaining the meaning of the chain recitations. Fares 2/1.

SAM LEE, D.V.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.—There are 16 Societies in this district, all but three have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Birkenhead* (Hamilton St.)—Slightly improved attendance. Mr. Taylor, the conductor was assisted by Mr. George. The lessons were fair. There were three pearls. The marching and calisthenics were also fair. No groups were held, but I was pleased to see five Leaders present.

Liverpool (Erskin St.)—Start a little late, with an attendance of 23. The singing, reading, and pearls were good. It was the first time I had seen marching and calisthenics, as they labour under structural difficulties. They meet on Wednesday evenings to practice marching and calisthenics. Fares 4d.

Earlstown (Wargrave St.)—I found a nice Lyceum, the number reached 33. The conductor and his assistant were the only leaders present, and I have nothing but praise to offer concerning them.

Earlstown (Haydock St.)—Mr. Duncan the conductor has my sympathy, as, being without a musical conductor, he has to play as well as conduct the session. This Lyceum is in sore need of help in the form of leaders. Fares 2/9.

Warrington (Sankey St.)—I visited when they were practising for their anniversary, and what I saw of their session compares favourably to any Lyceum I visit. Their marching and calisthenics were excellent, and their singing good. Fare 3/4.

GEORGE MATHISON, D.V.

LONDON DISTRICT.—There are 26 Societies in London, 14 of them have no Lyceum. Seven interviews have been sought and held, with promising results.

General remarks.—I have visited *Tottenham* twice. We had special sessions with the help of the conductor of the Parkhurst Hall who gave needed encouragement to the Tottenham Lyceum friends. Marching and calisthenics in the open air were well done. Pearls and recitations good. Fare 1/-.

Fulham.—A slight increase in numbers since my last visit. The conductor has the Lyceum members well in hand. Very good attention and harmony.

Holloway, (Parkhurst Hall).—We had a smart harmonious session, all the three series of calisthenics were well done. Pearls very good. Fare 10d.

Peckham.—I am pleased to report this Lyceum is

improving both in numbers and quality. I trust they will continue to do so. Fare 2/-.

Kingston.—I am pleased to say this Lyceum has improved since my last visit. Marching, calisthenics, pearls and solos good. Great praise is due to the conductor for so ably training the children.

Plumstead.—I was pleased to see the marching and calisthenics here. I trust they will be able to complete the whole series by the time my next visit is due. There are some very intelligent children in this Lyceum, and I anticipate good results from them.

Plaistow.—Present 26 and 6 visitors. This Lyceum is short of officers. The conductor is working hard, but needs assistance. I hope those friends interested in the children's welfare will render all the help they can. Fare 6d.

Brixton, (Stockwell Park Road).—The marching and calisthenics and songs good. Pearls very good. Recitations not so good. Fare 10d.

M. CLEGG, D.V.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.—There are 12 Lyceums in this district.

General remarks.—*Hollinwood*.—Thirty minutes late start, attendance small. I consider if the selection of readings were less in quantity, and one given in explanation it would improve the session. Fare 7d.

Manchester (Princess Road).—Everything passed off fairly well. It makes one wonder why the numbers seem to ebb and flow so much.

Collyhurst.—The very best morning I have ever spent with them for harmonious feeling throughout. Responses very good. Not a large attendance by any means. Fare 4d.

Salford (Chapel St.).—This has been opened by Mr. John Kay, late Leaf Square conductor. There were about 30 present, and everything passed off satisfactorily. Fare 4d.

Openshaw.—The attendance was not so large as on my previous visit. The conduct was good, and the general outline of session very interesting. Fare 2d.

ANNIE E. BENTLEY, D.V.

ROCDALE DISTRICT.—There are 20 Societies in this district, all but 2 have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—I visited *Todmorden* on July 14th, but found the room closed owing to holidays. Fare 1/10.

Rochdale (Askern St.).—This is a Lyceum that has been recently reopened. Fare 6d.

Shaw (Lyon St.).—I visited on September 1st. 33 present. Singing good. Reading rather too quick. Marching and calisthenics splendid. A number of solos rendered. This Lyceum seems to be doing good work.

In the afternoon I visited *Crompton*.—Singing moderate. Reading good. Several solos rendered. No marching or calisthenics. Fares 1/1.

A. TAYLOR, D.V.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 16 Societies in this district, all but 4 have a Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Parkgate*.—A good session throughout. I asked several questions upon the chain recitations, and good answers were given. Fare 1/1.

West Melton.—This new Lyceum is not making the progress anticipated for it. I hope for a big improvement on my next visit. Fare 1/6.

ERNEST VICKERS, D.V.

STOCKPORT DISTRICT.—There are 14 Societies in this district, 4 of which have no Lyceum.

General remarks.—*Macclesfield*.—I found on arrival it was their Lyceum Anniversary. There was a splen-

did attendance, and a very good session throughout. Fare 1/11.

Dukinfield.—I was sorry to find a small attendance. No marching or calisthenics. It seems to be neglected by the members of the Society. Fare 1/-.

Ashton-under-Lyne.—The membership here has fallen off, but otherwise the sessions are good. It is well officered. The singing, reading, and exercises very good. A splendid session. Fare 1/-.

JOHN MARSTON, D.V.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.—There are 8 Societies in this district, 2 who have no Lyceum.

General remarks.—On July 7th, I visited *West Hartlepool*. Only a small attendance, but a remarkable aptitude upon the part of those present to make the session interesting and profitable to all. Great credit is due to the conductor and faithful few who work with him under such adverse conditions. Expenses nil.

RICHELIEU BROWN, D.V.

TYNESIDE.—There are 18 Societies in this district, 4 of which have no Lyceum.

General remarks.—On July 7th, I visited *Benwell*. Glad to see them making such good headway. Session bright and cheerful. Good pearls, and recitations. Fare 4d.

August 11th, I visited *Ashington*.—They need more leaders. Credit is due to Mr. Crook of Hirst, who takes such great interest in this Lyceum. They have a nice Hall, but want more people to fill it. Fare 2/8.

September 8th, I visited *South Shields* (Fowler St.).—Punctual and good order. I was pleased to see the elders take such an interest in the work, which augurs well for its future success. Fare 1/-.

September 22nd, I visited *South Shields* (Robinson Street).—and found them in good order. Solos and recitations well rendered. They have made good progress since my last visit. Fares 1/-.

W. J. TAYLOR, D.V.

Correspondence.

THE LYCEUM AND PLATFORM.

Dear Sir.—I was much interested in Mr. J. R. Latham's letter in the October issue of the BANNER, because I think he deals with certain aspects of our movement that call for the serious attention of the leaders of the movement, Lyceum and Society.

The letter is all the more important because it comes from the pen of a son of one of our leading legislators. Mr. Latham's state of mind is in no sense singular. One only needs to travel from Lyceum to Lyceum to prove this, and since this is a fact, we should look at the matter seriously and try to strengthen the weakness. He is decidedly more pessimistic with regard to the future success of our movement than I thought he was, and his letter gives one the impression that he has given up almost all hope. I think he hits the nail very squarely where he writes, "I must continue to ask myself, etc.," right to the end of the letter.

Personally I don't object to any person bringing to his aid any other person's opinions in order to substantiate his own, but I do object to persons who are continually posing as authorities who have not the true ring of conviction. But these are not the worst kind of mediums. We have mediums who don't ring true, neither do they quote other people with effect. Yes, it is truly a sad state of affairs, and I quite agree we are too content to sit and listen to the sentimental phenomena that is "cooked" for us like hot dinners at a café.

But who is to blame? Nobody but the individual members of the movement themselves. There is too much sentimentality exercised in the voting for the various mediums that shall have dates at this or that church. We shall have to be businesslike, and when we find that a medium is existing, as an exponent of his or her past achievements, strike them off at once. I know there are churches that are paying from ten to fifteen shillings per week in fees and expenses to mediums who are no better than their own "locals," and if one attempts to move that their

names be struck off the list he gets the whole band of old women upon his head like a load of bricks.

It is a very common thing for mediums to announce a subject, and then speak upon any mortal thing except the subject announced, and invariably the thought is so disconnected that there is scarcely two sentences uttered consecutively that are related to each other. We could well afford to drop such persons and encourage our own "locals," who generally give their services, and send what we might have had to pay in fees and expenses to a Central College Fund. We should thus be improving our own talents and providing for posterity at the same time.

The movement has failed in the past by being more combative than constructive. We have been, and are now, like an army fighting without reserve forces. The moment one of the front line men is struck down we have not another to take his place. How long are we going to be content with this state of affairs? Surely there's a remedy? Yes, and there is a remedy. I would suggest that a National College Fund be inaugurated at once, and that each Church and Lyceum contribute pro ratio to it. While this fund is growing we should be busy with study groups, correspondence classes, etc., and by the time we have sufficient money to establish a college, we shall have developed a few promising young men and women that we can confidently send to the college to be trained as "mediums," not only the psychic, but the intellectual as well.

I can't help but think that there is another question that is being discussed very much just at present that is very much wrapped up in this "Educational Question" (it is nothing else than an educational question), and that is the legalisation of the B.S.L.U. What a difficult task it will be to establish a college if the B.S.L.U. legalise separately. It will be more difficult to establish a college, either on its own, or in conjunction with the S.N.U. if the two bodies are separate legally, and I hope this question will be considered when the B.S.L.U. and the S.N.U. Executives meet, as per resolution passed at the special U.D.C. Meeting, held at Burnley Hammerton Street, on August 31st this year.

Hoping to hear from other Lyceumists
Yours very sincerely,

264, Leeds Road, Nelson.

J. E. ELLIOTT.

LYCEUM AND PLATFORM.

Dear Sir—I am afraid that "Student" misinterprets the term "scientific proof" which I used in my letter. Scientific proof is not contained in the giving of full data for facts recorded, so much as explaining how the manifestation takes place. How many fully understand what takes place in the "controlling" of a medium, clairvoyance, clairaudience, materialisation, etc.? We are all somewhat conversant with the outward sign of each state, but what is actually taking place?

In preference to Mr. Hudson Tuttle and Mr. Smedley, I think H. Carrington and F. Podmore among others are more researchful.

One cannot help but realise that we have been and are interested in the manifestation itself rather than its true significance. To me, there are always two aspects to consider. In one sense, a manifestation presents itself as a link between ourselves and the departed, and in the second it presents itself as a study, a definite scientific connection between this, the material life, and the spiritual. It is on this latter aspect that we are always attacked by sceptics. It is the explanation and proof in this aspect which presents itself as the alternative to personal experience, and is therefore of great value. Hence I disagree with "Student's" statement that personal experience would appear the only mode of effect.

Maybe my remarks may seem to have been bold and out of place, but after twelve years of Lyceum training I find myself without even a superficial knowledge of psychical research, beyond my own private study. I have come to the conclusion that there is scope for improvement in the syllabus of Lyceum study. I think a system of Lyceum Education, organised by a central body, would not only benefit each Lyceumist personally, but make the whole movement stronger in its struggle for recognition.

J. R. LATHAM.

MANCHESTER LYCEUM DISTRICT VISITOR.

Dear Sir.—I have been requested by so very many Lyceumists in Manchester and other places to ignore entirely the two letters published in your November issue, that I scarcely know what to do for the best. The Lyceum Council held their meeting at Maskell Street on Friday, October 30th "prior to the issue of your November number," and after careful consideration passed a UNANIMOUS vote of confidence in their

District Visitor. Therefore I am inclined not to waste your valuable space by even referring to letters, when people have not the moral courage to sign their name. I am pleased to know Mr. Jones had no personal feeling in the matter. And if the publicity given has satisfied them, the splendid good feeling and resolution of the delegates has given me only greater courage to go forward.

ANNIE E. BENTLEY,
Manchester District Visitor.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.
STUDENTS' CLASS.

The classes held in connection with the L.L.D.C. at the Clarion Institute, Leeds, are proving their utility and usefulness by their continued success. One of the most pleasing features of the class is that it is representative of all the different societies in Leeds; the object of all being to raise the standard of knowledge concerning Spiritualism in general.

The subjects under discussion have been varied, and the keen interest which was apparent on the first evening of the session has increased. Truly, a thirst for knowledge is making itself felt, and a search for truth is being ably conducted.

On December 5th the Rev. J. J. Forsyth will give a paper on "The Opponents of Christianity," to be followed on December 12th by a paper from Miss E. Mortimer on "Spiritual Alchemy"; and on the 19th by "Materiality of the Spirit World" by Mr. Gush.

A. HESP, Secretary.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Council will be held at Ossett on Sunday, December 15th, at 10-30 a.m. It is urgently desired that every Lyceum in the Council be represented, as business having a direct bearing on each Lyceum will be discussed. The afternoon Open Session and evening services will be conducted by members and delegates of the Council.

A.H., Secretary.

NORTHEAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Silver Shield Competition, 1912, for general efficiency in Lyceum routine.

NAME OF LYCEUM.	Singing		Reading		Marching		Calisthenics		Efficiency		Total	
	Expression	Tone	Response	Delivery	Mental	Ethical	Time	Carriage	Accuracy	Of Figure		Time
Vernon Street, Nelson.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	73
St Peter Street, Blackburn.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	75
North Street, Burnley.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	71
Blackpool.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	70
Chilva Street, Accrington.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	69
Hammerton Street, Burnley.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	69
Clark's yard, Preston.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	65
Great Harwood.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	65
Colne.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	64
Rishton.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	64
Darwen.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	63
Northgate, Blabburn.....	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	63
Salford, Blackburn.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	59
Pauham.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	58
Lancaster Road, Preston.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	57
Kawtenstall.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	57
Earby.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	50
Barnoldswick.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	48
Brierfield.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	47
Clayton-le-Moors.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	47

J. E. ELLIOTT, Adjudicator. GEO. C. HIGHAM, Secretary.

ROCHDALE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.
The next Quarterly Meeting of the above Council will

take place at Bacup on Saturday December 14th, to commence at 4 p.m. prompt.

Agenda:—(1) Minutes; (2) Correspondence; (3) Reports: (a) Auditor's; (b) Presentation to Mr. A. Taylor; (c) Delegates to U.D.C.; (d) District Visitors; (4) Invitations for 1913 Demonstration; (5) Suggestions, etc.; (6) General Business.

Will each Lyceum who are members of the Council, kindly endeavour to be represented on this occasion. Also the Council will gladly welcome Lyceum representatives who intend to become affiliated. Will representatives come prepared to invite the R.D.C. for March, and so facilitate business. I trust to see a full representation, and that good and useful work for the children may be the outcome of our meeting.

AMOS HARRIS, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council held a special meeting in the Vestry Room of the Attercliffe Church on Sunday morning, October 27th. All the officers of the Council were present. The following Lyceums were represented, viz: Attercliffe, Miss H. Appleby; Balaclava Road Mr. Ainsbury; Chesterfield, Mr. E. Widdowson; Darnall, Mr. R. Bowmer; Heeley, Mr. G. Magness; Sheffield District Council, Mr. F. Lakin. Also four new associates joined our ranks, viz: Misses Thickett and Evans, Mr. Alton, of Heeley, and Mis Mason, of Attercliffe. After the usual confirmation of minutes etc., we got to business. The much expected resignation of the Secretary, Mr. Spittlehouse, was accepted, and a vote of thanks was tendered to him for services rendered to the Council in the past. Mr. Saxelby, of Attercliffe, was elected to be Secretary in the future. The Council accepted greetings from Attercliffe Lyceum and Church members, which Mr. Jones, of Attercliffe, offered to the Council.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at Balaclava Road Rooms on Sunday, December 8th, and will take services all day. Will all Lyceums in the district kindly be represented?

C. H. SAXELBY.

UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the above Council was held on Saturday, November 16th, at Regent's Hall, Rochdale. Fourteen delegates were present, representing the following D.C.'s:—Bolton, Bradford, Halifax, N.E. Lancashire and Sheffield. Mrs. Nurse and Mr. Tinker represented the B.S.L.U. Mr. Tinker was elected to the chair. The minutes were accepted as a correct record, the following resolution arising therefrom:—“That the U.D.C. constitution be sent immediately to the B.S.L.U. by N.E. Lancashire D.C.”

The minutes were then confirmed. The question of National Examinations, arising from the correspondence, was referred to D.C.'s. It was also resolved, “That Sheffield D.C. bring forward some definite proposal to place on the agenda of the February, 1913, meeting regarding National Examinations.” The Secretary gave his financial report, which showed 10/- expenditure.

It was decided that D.C.'s, each contribute 1/- to refund same. Mr. F. France was unanimously re-elected Secretary for the ensuing 12 months. MOTIONS:—

(a) The Secretary was instructed to ask the S.N.U. Secretary if the S.N.U. intend proceeding with their chairman's handbook. If not it was resolved as follows:—“That Secretary write to B.S.L.U., asking them to consider the advisability of including services for births, marriages and deaths in the officers' edition of the *Manual*.”

(b) “That any D.C. requesting a special meeting of the U.D.C. shall obtain the support of at least two other D.C.'s. before any special meeting is called by the Secretary of the U.D.C.”

Carried; 8 for, 2 against.

It was also resolved, “That D.C.'s. consider the most suitable persons for officers or E.C. for B.S.L.U. and submit same at February meeting.”

Hearty votes of thanks were passed to local friends for their splendid hospitality, and Mr. Tinker for presiding.

Mrs. Nurse briefly replied on behalf of local friends, and Mr. Tinker thanked them for their thanks. A social evening was afterwards indulged in, much to the delight of some of the delegates.

The Sunday services were in the hands of Misses Hesp and Pollard, and Messrs. Hargreaves, Higham, Burrows, Ackroyd, Saxelby and France.

Middleton, Bacup and Heywood Lyceums were visited in the morning, other delegates remaining at Regent's Hall.

A splendid session was held in the morning, at which Mrs. Nurse beautifully named a child, which made quite an impression on all present. All delegates assembled at Regent's Hall for Afternoon Session, which was very successful and largely attended. The evening service was conducted by the delegates.

Mr. Knott presided. Our visit was a very successful one. Next meeting, Heeley, February 9th, 1913. D.C.'s. please note and arrange accordingly.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Sec.

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 November 22nd.

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, Dec. 25th, to ensure insertion in the January issue.

BACUP (Market Street).—On Sunday, October 27th, we held our monthly Open Session. Songs and recitations were given by the Lyceumists. Mr. James Ridehalgh spoke of 26 years ago, when Bacup held their first Open Session. Mrs. Harrison, of Bacup, conducted both a funeral and christening service. The former was in remembrance of Mr. Lister Harrison, age 34. The latter was the babe, Clifford, of Mr. and Mrs. Duerden. On Saturday, November 9th, a social was held, a good company being present. Disappointment was felt at the artistes failing to put in an appearance. On Saturday, December 14th, will be the visit of R.D.C. delegate, when a tea and social will be held, prices 6d. and 4d.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our usual Open Session, when a very good programme was rendered. The little girls joining in small groups and singing pieces from the *Lyceum Manual*. Mrs. Galloway gave a very interesting paper on her visit to Egypt, showing us picture post cards of same. Mr. Galloway also gave a paper on his visit to the Arctic regions. Our heartiest thanks are tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Galloway for entertaining us so nicely. Miss M. Hopson sang “The Golden Gateway” very sweetly. Altogether we had a very enjoyable afternoon.—Mrs. Wallace, Secretary.

BATLEY CARR (Carr Street).—On November 2nd the Batley Carr Lyceumists held their annual tea and concert, the tea being a great success, everyone apparently enjoying it. Mr. Holdsworth presided over the concert, and the programme was gone through with credit. The concert turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable one. Many visitors were present, and the Batley Carr Lyceumists wish them to accept their humble thanks for the help received. Although all in connection with the Lyceum did not contribute towards the success of tea and concert, the affair was a financial success, realizing £2 10s. 6d.—Walter Hartley, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—On Sunday, 10th November, we held our anniversary services. The usual morning session was held at 9.30 a.m., and an open meeting at 11.0. At the Open Session in the afternoon solos and recitations were rendered by Dolly Critchlow, Gladys Hulme, Winnie Hodgkinson, Mercy Hamlet, Bessie Barnes, and Robert Hulme. Mr. Robert Owen was with us the whole of the day, and in the evening gave a very able and interesting address on “Perpetual Youth: How to obtain it.” The tea and entertainment was held on the following Wednesday. An excellent tea was served, after which a long programme was gone through, and a most enjoyable evening concluded with games and dancing.—Arthur C. Eaton.

BRADFORD (Gate Street).—On November 3rd we held our Open Sessions, in the morning at 10.30 and afternoon at 2, when the following items were rendered: Recitations by Masters G. E. and H. Robinson, V. Snarey, L. Walmsley, Misses G. Pammerton, E. Snarey, and Mrs. Tempest. A reading by Mr. J. Lightowler, entitled “At the end of these things is death.” Solos were rendered by Mrs. O. Dean, E. Snarey, and Master V. Snarey. Miss K. Ramsden presided at the piano, and the sessions were ably conducted by Mr. J. Lightowler.—V. Robinson, Secretary.

BRADFORD, IVY ROOMS (Carlisle Road).—Grand Open Session, Sunday morning, November 3rd, when Misses E. Ingham and friend, P. Thurlow, L. Nixon, rendered hymns, recitations, etc. Songs by Messrs. Houlbrook, Naylor, M. Simpson, J. P. Simpson, and others. A very pleasant session being enjoyed by all. We have also held a series of "At Homes." Lyceum Day being November 16th a splendid tea was provided, over 120 persons present. The hostesses for the evening were two of our Lyceum children, Miss Jennie Butterworth and Miss Cora Broadley. They gave two grand short speeches that delighted all. The room was crowded, and a very good concert was given, Lyceum friends from Armley kindly giving their assistance. It was a great success.—J. P. Simpson.

BRADFORD (Otley Road).—We held our usual Open Session on Sunday, November 3rd, marching and calisthenics were gone through at both sessions. In the morning the following took part: Duets were rendered by Miss Eva Ripley and Miss Cuthbert, Miss Elsie Ripley and Miss Jones. Solo by Mr. Hale, also a reading. In the afternoon session (which were commenced a month ago) we had duets by H. Hale and A. Holt; trio by Misses Elsie Ripley, May Flatt, and Walter Hale. Our conductor, Mr. Horn, then favoured us with a reading out of the Manual. The sessions were well conducted and we spent an enjoyable time together.—W. Hale, Secretary.

[Will the Secretary supply us with the time of their afternoon session?—Ed.]

BRIGHTON (Manchester Street).—The Lyceumists during the last month have turned up in good numbers. The marching and calisthenics have been gone through in fine style, many new exercises having been introduced. Members responded splendidly in the social programmes, our Band especially having rendered some good selections. On Sunday, October 27th, pearls of thought were given by the Lyceum, young and old alike. Mrs. Clark has commenced a series of lessons on Astrology which adds to the enjoyment and usefulness of the sessions. Our Lyceumists have been busy preparing articles for a "Lyceum Stall" at the Parent Society's Bazaar. Good wishes to all Lyceumists.—Roy Banks, Secretary.

BURNLEY (Hammerton Street).—On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our usual Open Session, Mr. Richard being conductor. A recitation was given by Miss Slater. Solos were given by Miss R. Margerison and Mr. D. Holden. Piano solos by Miss A. Redman. Afterwards a pleasant duty was performed by Mr. Hargreaves, of Nelson, in naming two children belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes, Ivy and Lily. Afterwards, Misses S. Hoole and L. Bailey rendered "Open the door for the Children." Altogether we had a very good session.—H. Bannister, Secretary.

BURY (King Street).—On Saturday, October 26th, we entertained to tea and social the Bolton (Bradford Street) Lyceumists. In the evening songs and recitations were rendered and dancing enjoyed. On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our Lyceum Open Session. Songs were given by Mr. Ellis Duckworth, H. Metcalfe, J. Castle, W. Kaye, and Hettie Myers. Recitations by Mr. E. Roberts, Alfred Henderson, Miss F. Kaye, C. Henderson. Duets by Misses E. Kaye and J. Kaye, Mrs. Cotterell and Miss M. A. Dixon; Misses May Jepworth and A. Wood. Reading by Mr. W. Fletcher, a quartette by the sisters Henderson, Miss Dixon, and Mr. S. Howarth. Mr. Mills gave a brief address at each session.—E. Roberts.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, November 10th, we held our usual Open Session, when the following contributed to make a very pleasant morning. Recitations by Evelyn Elliott, Edna Smith, Alice Smith, and Ethel Wale. Violin solos by Hume Wale and Ernest Hobster. All the items were much appreciated. On Friday, November 8th, we started our Education Classes, when a good attendance was made, and I think these classes will be very instructive and interesting to all who attend them.—Edwin H. Widdowson, Secretary.

COLNE (Cloth Hall).—On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our Open Session. There was a good attendance of Lyceumists. Miss E. Jobling rendered the silver chain and Mr. A. Spencer the golden chain. The responses were good. Mr. J. T. Todd, of Bradford, gave a very interesting address to the Lyceum. Recitations were given by Misses E. Hartley, J. Shipley, L. Shipley, L. Banks, and Master H. Barnes, making a pleasant session.—Fred Driver, Secretary.

CREWE (Mill Street).—On Sunday, November 10th, we held our usual monthly Open Session, when a fair number of scholars were present. The following items were suitably rendered, viz. solo, "The Roses of Life," by Gwennie Baggeley. Recitations by Gladys Mottram and Ethel Reay. The pearls were very good. Mr. Mathison, the District

Visitor, was present, and from the manner he commended us upon our marching and calisthenics I think he entertained a very favourable opinion of us.—Fred Homer, Secretary.

DARWEN.—On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. The following have accepted office for the following twelve months: Conductors, Miss M. Bury No. 1; Miss L. Hewitt (No. 2); Secretary, Mr. J. Nightingale; Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Kirkham; Calisthenic Leader, Miss R. Grime; Guardians, Mr. M. C. Harwood (No. 1); J. W. Townsend (No. 2); Librarians, Miss A. Riding (No. 1); Miss H. Lomax (No. 2); Auditors, G. Watson and J. Shuttleworth; Committee, Misses N. Simms, A. A. Kay, L. Hewitt, Mrs. Pearce, in addition to the No. 1 officers. It was decided to again hold two sessions each Sunday (morning and afternoon). It is hoped that the Lyceum will be better attended in future than what it has been during the last year.—J. Nightingale, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkeley Street).—On Sunday, November 3rd, several of the young Lyceumists gave a marching and calisthenic display in the Pavilion Theatre, under the auspices of the Clarion Scouts (Socialist Party). The large audience showed their appreciation by the enthusiasm they displayed. The Lyceumists going through their exhibition in perfect order. The object in view being to let the Socialist Sunday Schools see how the Spiritualists' Lyceum combined physical culture with spiritual culture. We hope this will stimulate those Sunday Schools to progress in this respect, as the law of Nature says first the physical then the spiritual.—C. S. Roehhead, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 3rd. The silver chain was led by Mr. Baxter. The musical reading by Nora Wrigley, Mrs. Groves, and Richard Leaver. The golden chain by Mrs. Groves. Marching and rod exercises were gone through, after which the following items were rendered: Recitations by Amy Bullin and Will Thornley, solos by Mary Alice Holt, Wilfred Taylor and Arthur Holt. A duet by Miss T. Holt and Mr. Baxter. Some of our Lyceumists are attending very badly, and I trust that they will try never to be weary in well doing.—Mr. R. Baxter, Secretary.

HOLLINGWOOD (Byrom Street).—Our annual yearly meeting was held on November 2nd for the election of officers for the coming year, 1913. Conductor, Mr. G. Lawton; Assistant Conductor, Miss S. Chadwick; Guardians, Miss A. Nuttall and Mr. H. Hedgeley; Guards, Mrs. Sheridan, Miss J. Anderson, Mr. C. Wilkinson, Mr. T. Taylor; Treasurer, Mr. Wilfred Taylor; Secretary, Mr. W. Anderson.

HOLLINWOOD (Hudson Street).—On Sunday, October 27th, we held our Lyceum anniversary services. In the afternoon we had a good attendance at the Open Session, when a good number of solos and recitations were rendered. In the evening we had a reading by Miss Green, Conductor, a reading by Miss Hatocks "The Pioneers of Freedom," a solo by Miss Thornton, a reading by Miss Allen, "Children in spirit life," a solo by Mrs. Thornton, a recitation by Miss Hatocks, and a solo by Miss Allen. Mrs. Thorn on spoke on the good work the Lyceum can do, and gave a few clairvoyant descriptions. We closed with the musical reading, "Be kind to each other."—Mrs. Thornton, Secretary, *pro tem*.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—On Saturday, November 16th, we held an entertainment and social. The entertainment was given by the younger children of our Lyceum, entitled, "The old woman who lived in a shoe." Miss Bertha Gregory taking the part of the Old Woman. The children went through their parts in grand style, both the singing and exercises being well rendered. Great credit is due to Mrs. Blackshaw for the able manner in which she has taught the children. The proceeds were for new tea urns for our school. We are very pleased to report it was a financial success.—J. Hurdus, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On November 3rd we took the services all day. In the morning we had Open Session, when the following Lyceumists gave solos: Misses Foster, Heath, Chater, Goldsmith, and Mr. Cobley. Recitations by Miss Chater and Master Wicks. In the afternoon Mr. Wright gave a short reading on "The duty of Lyceum officers to Society, and Society officers to Lyceum." The Lyceumists gave solos and recitations. In the evening we gave a service of song entitled "A Terrible Lesson." Miss Clark gave connective readings. Good attendance.—John Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—Sunday, November 3rd, we held our Open Session, when about 40 Lyceumists and friends were present. The conductor gave a short address on "Spiritual Gifts," which was supplemented by songs, recita-

tions, etc. by the following Lyceumists: Edith Hurst recited "Dora"; Albert Veary recited "Winking, Blinking, and Nod"; Miss Whitmore a solo, "Bright Spirit Star"; and Misses M. Bromley and F. Smith sang "Strike your harps." This concluded a bright and pleasant session. I am sorry to report a decrease in numbers, but we hope by the spirit of unity and strength to retrieve our former strength.—J. C. Buttle, Secretary.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—Conductor and officers are very pleased with the efforts all are making to make our Lyceum a success. October 30th our church held a Bazaar; the Lyceum stall was a great success, and the officers of our parent society were very pleased with our effort. This has helped to strengthen the cordial relations already existing. Mrs. Mary Davies, who opened the Bazaar, was presented by one of our young Lyceumists with a bouquet. Florrie Brown had the honour. Other Lyceumists wore their sashes and badges, adding thereby to the beauty of the opening ceremony, and also did much during the day to press upon visitors their wares. Open Session, November 3rd, was a great success.—J. W. Humphreys, Conductor.

SOUTH LONDON, PECKHAM (Lansanne Road).—I am pleased to state that we have reconstructed our Lyceum, and thanks to our conductor, Mr. Richards, we are sailing along comfortably. We had the pleasure of Mr. Imison to address the children, expressing the benefits of Lyceumism among the younger generation. We have a very fine Liberty Group, under the leadership of Mr. Williams, who will gladly welcome visitors each Sunday. We take different subjects and have a little discussion. Visitors are invited to give their views also. I am very pleased to say that we are getting on very well indeed.—J. J. Draxler, Secretary.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—The Lyceum sessions during the month have been very small, and we are very sorry to have so many absent every Sunday. We are endeavouring to make our Lyceum as interesting and helpful as possible, and we hope all our Lyceumists will be more regular in attendance. Recitations, etc., have been given by Dorothy Steel, Elsie Barnes, and K. Jones. On October 27th we had a paper by Elsie Barnes, entitled, "Animals." November 10th Dorothy Steel gave a paper on "The Workers' Win," both were excellent, though very short.—Kathleen Jones, Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH, AND PLUMSTEAD.—This Lyceum is still sailing merrily on, and some most enjoyable sessions are held. Our anniversary was held on November 3rd and was carried out splendidly. Mrs. Podmore and Mrs. A. Brooking and Clegg, were the speakers. On Sunday our election of officers took place. Mr. Drury, Conductor, and Mr. Watthey (Hon. Secretary), being re-elected for the third time in succession, and I am pleased to say every office was filled for the first time, which is very gratifying. Sunday, November 17th, prizes were distributed, and Ivy Giles was awarded the prize for the best scholar of the year (a watch), presented by Mr. Self. Her record was: present 52 times. Ind. Eff. 90. A splendid record.—H. Watthey, Hon. Secretary.

MANCHESTER, OPENING (Beulah Street).—On Sunday afternoon, November 1st, we held our Open Session, when there was a large attendance of scholars and friends. Marching and calisthenics were gone through by the children. There was a good response for recitations given by the children. We were with Mr. Kitson, General Secretary of the Lyceum Union, who took the platform in the evening, so we had a good time all round.—W. Jackson, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, BENWELL (Co-op. Hall).—On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our Open Session, when Mrs. Duggan of Benwell, addressed the Lyceum, her subject was taken from one of Mr. Ernest P. Grahame's meditations, entitled, "O Worship the King." Our sister gave many interesting remarks on the meditation, stating that in the hour of her greatest trials she had received much upliftment from its reading. This was our sister's first attempt at addressing the children, and the effort was a good one. Mrs. Rutherford described a spirit form she had seen with our sister while speaking. Mrs. Salkald sang a solo. After a short reading by Mr. Dodgson, the conductor concluded the session.—William Stock, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON.—Our Open Session on Sunday, 3rd November, in the Bridge End Assembly Rooms, was a great success. During the session we had an attendance of 45 juveniles and 45 adults. Recitations were given by Fred, Ralph, Alice, Beatrice, and Lily Eke, Nellie Dodsworth, Sam Goodliffe, Charlie and Thomas Ord, Minnie Elliott, Edith Forster, Annie Shadforth, Haakon Hetherington, Hannah McLean, Edward Patterson, Ralph Blair, John Ronaldson, Mammie Blair, and Lily Taylor. Miss Gray sang a solo, "Do not wait." The marching and calis-

thenics were especially enjoyable, as there was plenty of room. The lack of space in our room at Potts Street is a great drawback.—J. Ronaldson, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, WALLSEND.—On Sunday, November 10th, we held our usual monthly Open Session. Recitations were given by Alice Jackson, Lily Adams, Annie Dixon, Clara Dixon, Mary Pallis, Ernest Finlay, Albert Shyler, and Willie Emmerson. We had also a duet given by Annie Robson and Alice Jackson. Solos were rendered by Mesdames Dixon and Jackson and Adam Dixon. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent.—A. Lawrence, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—This Lyceum is doing good work. We have a splendid Liberty Group conducted by Mr. John Ingham. We have a good attendance and exceptional talent, many of whom are able to officiate on the platform. The memorial service of our arisen brother, Harry Clayton, was conducted by Mrs. Holt, of Manchester, on November 3rd (see In Memoria). Our deepest sympathy is extended to our esteemed President and family in their sad bereavement. Our Lyceum tea party on November 2nd convinced us that we cannot make a numerical record every time. Our conductor, Mr. W. N. Platt, deserves our appreciation for his thoroughness and reliability. Our Lyceum socials are a great success.

ROCHDALE (Regent Hall).—October 26th we had our election of officers: Conductors, J. W. Nurse and Mr. Lord; Marching, Messrs. Briggs and Jenkinson; Calisthenics, Mr. J. Farrow and Mrs. Brown; Guardians, Annie Rainor and John Firth (junr.); Musical Directors, Gertrude Dean, Agnes Sherbourne, James Martin, and Frank Brown; Treasurer, Alfred Hudson; Secretary, James Nurse. On Sunday, November 3rd, we had our Open Session, and Mr. Latham, the President of the S.L.U. was the speaker. The subject was "Equality, Liberty, and Fraternity." Mr. J. W. Nurse was in the chair. Recitations were given by Emma Firth and John Firth; pearls by Ivy Brown, Ernest Shepherd, Robert Lherwoud; solos by Mrs. Firth and Emma Holt; duet, Ivy Brown and Annie Firth.—John Firth (Senior).

SHEFFIELD, HELLINGLY.—On Sunday, November 3rd, we held our first Open Session after the anniversary. We had the pleasure of the Sheffield District Council being present with us. In the afternoon we held an Open Session, recitations were given by Lyceumists interspersed with short address from delegates of Council. Those giving recitations were Thomas Hopkins, Evelyn Wainwright, Hugh Cecil Truelove, Frances Evans, Nora Hampson, Jessie Arnold, Joe Hopkins, Cyril Truelove, and Mr. Newton. Miss M. Thickett gave a solo. Messrs Webster, Jacques, Davis, and Sam Featherstone gave short encouraging addresses to the Lyceum. Also in the evening the delegates still commented on the excellency of the Lyceum, and gave us a very good word to our Society.—G. H. Magness, Secretary.

TORONTO.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 3rd. We had a record attendance. Members of Pape Avenue and Central Lyceums being present. Mrs. Cardy acting as conductor for the session. Songs, duets, readings, and brief remarks were given, followed by the naming and accepting as a member of the Lyceum of Barry Marous Ingle by the Conductor, Miss Milly Hobson acting as godmother. The ceremony was commenced by singing "From realms Supernal" to the tune of "Crown Him Lord of All." It seemed to fill everyone with energy, and this continued throughout the session. Since last reporting we have welcomed Mrs. Bell and family, Mrs. Holden, Miss Holden, Miss Vernon, Mrs. Fielding, and several members of the Sittle family.—Rhoda Hobson Conductor.

WAIHI, NEW ZEALAND.—We held an enjoyable open session to-day, the weather being fine, and we had a good attendance. Recitations were given by Messrs Lewis, Dunstan, and Morton (2) and Misses G. Grange and Morton (2). The Leaders read from the Manual, and Miss P. Grange gave a piano solo. We are patiently waiting for our Lyceum to increase.—Winnie Morton, Secretary.

WIDNES.—Our Lyceum held a tea and concert on Thursday, November 14th, at which nearly 100 attended. Mr. J. W. Jones, the President of the Society, presided over the gathering. The children were trained by Miss Rixley, who is an adept at the work, with the result that a great success was obtained. It was pleasing to see persons not directly connected with the Lyceum helping to make the tea arrangements a success. Considering that very many denominations were represented (not officially), we are hoping that it will be the means of increasing our membership, and a greater interest being taken in our cause. Thanks are due to all who assisted.—J. Pickering, Hon. Secretary.