

THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

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ONE PENNY.

Stories from the Classics

[As the legends of Grecian Mythology afford countless subjects for poets, painters, and sculptors, so that we cannot enter a picture-gallery without finding ourselves surrounded with gods, goddesses and Greek Heroes, and as these are often alluded to in our best books and discourses to illustrate a point, or draw a moral, our insertion of selections from the ancient classics needs no apology to the scholarly reader.]

JASON AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

CHAPTER V.—Continued.

Then Orpheus took his harp and sang a pæan of praise, till the heroes hearts grew light and strong with renewed courage; and they rowed on stoutly and steadily, away into the darkness of the West.

CHAPTER VI.

THE RETURN VOYAGE.

Early in the morning the King Aietes discovered the loss of the Golden Fleece, and with it the disappearance of the strangers and his daughter, the Princess Medeia, and at once gave orders for the manning of his fleet to pursue the Argonauts. And Lynceus, the sharp-eyed, saw him following them, and cried, "I see a hundred ships, like a flock of white swans, far in the East." And the crew rowed their best, but those in pursuit gradually gained on them hour by hour.

Then the Princess Medeia was filled with dismay, for she saw that in a short time they would be overtaken, surrounded, and all would be put to the sword. She did not fear so much for her own safety as for the safety of Jason and his companions, and she saw that by sacrificing one life, that of her brother, whom she loved very dearly, the lives of all the rest might be saved. So she slew her brother Absyrtus, and cast his corpse into the sea, saying to the horrified crew, "Ere my father, the King, can take up the corpse of my dear brother and bury it, he must wait long, and be left far behind."

And when the King came to the place he saw the floating corpse; and he stopped a long time and bewailed the death of his son, and took him up, and returned home to give it a royal burial. But he sent on a large number of his fleet to continue the chase, and took a mighty oath, saying: "Bring back to me my cruel daughter, that she may die a terrible death. But if you return without her, then you shall die by the same mode of death yourselves."

So the Argonauts escaped for the time; but Father Zeus had seen the foul crime and decided to punish it, as all crimes are ever punished, whether committed for expediency or not; so he sent a storm and drove the ship from her course. Day after day the storm drove her, amid foam and blinding rain, till at last the ship struck on a shoal, and the waves rolled over her, and the crew lost all hope of life.

Then Jason cried to the goddess Hera, "Fair queen of heaven, who hast befriended us till now, why has thou left us in our hour of misery and distress to die here? It is hard to lose the honour which we have won with such toil and danger, and never to see fair Hellas again."

Then the goddess Hera spoke to Jason through the magic bough which was fixed at the ship's head, and said, "Because Father Zeus is angry; all this has befallen you for a cruel crime has been done on board, and your sacred ship is made foul with innocent blood."

At that some of the heroes cried, "Medeia is the murderess, let her bear her sin and die." And they seized her to hurl her into the sea. In their hour of danger they forgot that she had sacrificed her father's love, home, and kindred, in order to help them, and further, she had committed the crime with which she was charged in order to secure their escape with their golden prize. The magic bough spoke again and said: "Let her live till her work is done. Vengeance waits for her, slow but sure; but she must live, for you will need her skill and the use of her magic powers. She must show you the way to her sister Circe, who lives among the islands of the West. To her you must sail, and she may cleanse you from your guilt."

So they let her live, and some of the crew upbraided her, and some said, "We are her debtors still, for without her we should never have won the Golden Fleece."

The sea grew calmer, and the sun began to shine, and the heroes pushed the ship off the sand-bank, and rowed away under the guidance of Medica.

And they sailed for many long weary weeks, until they were weary of limb and sick at heart when one day Lynceus, the sharp-sighted, called out gaily from the bows "Take heart brave sailors, for I see a pine-clad isle and the halls of the Earth-mother, with a crown of clouds around them."

But Orpheus said, "Turn from them, for no living man can land there; there is no harbour on the coast, but steep-walled cliffs all round."

So they turned the ship away, and for three days more they sailed on, till they came to Circe's home, in the fairy island of the West.

And there Jason bade them land and seek about for any sign of living man. And as they walked inland Circe met them, and they trembled when they saw her, for her hair, and face, and robes, shone with brightness.

And she came and looked at Medeia, the princess, and Medeia hid her face beneath her veil.

And Circe cried, "Ah, wretched one, have you forgotten your crime that you come hither to my island, where the flowers bloom all the year round? Where is your brother whom you killed? Little do I expect you to return in safety with these strangers whom you love. I will send you food and wine; but your ship must not stay here, for it is foul with sin."

And the crew prayed her to have mercy on them, and cleanse them from guilt, but in vain. She sent them away saying, "Go on the Malea, and there you may be cleansed, and return home."

Then a fair wind arose, and they sailed eastward past the Iberian shore, till they came to the pillars of Hercules, and the Mediterranean Sea. And they sailed on till they came to the flowery island. And as they neared it, slowly and wearily, they heard sweet songs from the shore. But when Medeia heard it, she cried, "Beware all ye heroes for these are the rocks of the Sirens [Si-reens]. You must pass close by them, for there is no other channel; but those who listen to their songs are lost."

Then Orpheus the king of minstrels spoke, and said, "Let them match their song against mine. I have charmed stones, and trees, and serpents, how much more can I charm the hearts of men." So he caught up his magic harp, and stood on the poop, and began his magic song.

And they had drawn so near the flowery isle of Antheniousea that they could see the Sirens, who appeared to be three fair maidens sitting on the beach, beneath a red rock in the soft mellow light of the setting sun, among beds of crimson poppies and golden asphodel. Slowly they sang, and sleepily, with silvery voices, mild and clear, which stole over the waters into the hearts of all the heroes, in spite of Orpheus' song.

And as the heroes listened they forgot to row, the oars fell from their hands, and their heads drooped on their bosoms, and they closed their heavy eye-lids, as if under some magic spell, and dreamed of beautiful gardens, and pleasant times, till all their toil seemed foolishness, and they thought of their renown no more. (See musical reading No. 226, the first line of verse 3).

Then one lifted his head and cried, "What is the use of wandering for ever? Let us stay here and and rest awhile." And another said, "Let us row to the shore and hear the words they sing." And yet another, "I care not for the words, but for the music. They shall sing me to sleep, that I may rest."

And Butes, the fairest of all mortal men, leaped overboard and swam towards the shore crying "I come, I come, fair maidens, to live with you, or die listening to your song." And when he reached the shore he knelt down before the Sirens, saying, "Sing on, sing on." But he could say no more for they cast a charm over him before he could notice the beach all strewn with the whitened bones of their dead victims.

Then Orpheus, at the bidding of Medeia sang louder and sweeter. He sang the song of Perseus, how the Gods led him over land and sea, and how he slew the terrible Gorgon, and the sea monster, and won for himself a peerless bride, and how he sits now with the Gods upon mount Olympus, a shining star in the sky, immortal with his immortal bride, and honoured by all men on earth. And the heroes took fresh courage, seized their oars and said, "We will be men like Perseus, and we will dare and suffer to the last. Sing us his song again, good Orpheus, that we may forget the Sirens who would tempt us to forget our duty."

Then slowly rose up those three fair sisters, with a cruel smile upon their lips, and slowly they crept down towards Butes, like leopards who creep upon their prey to devour it; their hands were like talons

of eagles ready to tear the flesh off their victim's bones.

But the fairest Goddess Aphrodite (Venus) saw the peril of Butes and pitied his youth and beauty, and like a falling star from heaven she quickly reached his side, threw a golden mist around him, and bore him away to a place of safety.

But when the cruel Sirens, who sing to charm in order to devour their victims, saw that they were robbed of their prey they screamed with rage, and leapt from the beach into the sea and were changed by the Gods into rocks where they still remain.

The heroes then pursued their journey, thankful for their escape from the dread Sirens, and saw Sicily, under which Enceladus [En-cel-â-déz], the giant, lies groaning day and night, and when he turns the earth quakes, and his breath bursts in roaring flames from the highest cone of mount Ætna. And there Charybdis [Kar-ib-dis] caught the ship in its fearful coils of waves, and the whirlpool gradually sucked them in. And while they struggled to get out of the whirlpool they saw near them a great smooth rock, and half way up was a cave in which dwelt the cruel monster Scylla [Sil-la]. And when Orpheus saw it he groaned, and said, "Little will it help us to escape the jaws of the whirlpool; for in that cave lives Scylla, who has six heads and six long necks. And from her cave she fishes for all things which pass by—for sharks, and seals, and dolphins. And never a ship's crew yet boasted that they sailed safely by her rock without losing one or more of their number, for she bends her long necks down to them, and every mouth that comes in contact with a man seizes him. And who will help us now? For Hera and Father Zeus hate us, and our ship is foul with guilt; so we must all perish."

Then up from the depths came Thetis, and all her nymphs around her; and they played round the good ship Argo like snow-white dolphins. And they caught hold of Argo and guided it safely out of the whirlpool called Charybdis, past the rock of Scylla, and when the monster stooped to seize any of the crew, the nymphs struck at her ravening heads. And she shrank into her cave afraid—for all bad things shrink from good—and Argo sailed safely past her. Then Thetis and her nymphs sank down to their coral caves beneath the sea, and their gardens of green and purple, where live flowers bloom all the year round; while Jason and his comrades rejoiced at their marvellous deliverance.

(To be continued).

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

CHAPTER XV (Continued).

"Well, Deacon, chemistry has shown us that all solid bodies may exist aëriformly—may be converted into invisible gases—so perchance the materials of the throne may have become volatilized and passed upwards through space, becoming condensed again up there. We are told that in the remote distances between the planets there is no inactive void. If, then, these spaces of ether are filled with attraction of matter, we may have all the elements for house-keeping."

"Henrique Mackenzie, you never shall marry my daughter—*never*. I desire you to leave my house."

"Deacon Wilberforce," I said calmly, "memory is imperishable—you may regret these words some day, though ages may pass away, these very words may rise with a stinging consciousness; our acts and words here will persist there in a review; we here suspend remembrance, sir, but it is reproducible, and each scene of life here will be reproduced there with vividness. Deacon, I never can convince you of my true heart here, but there I fear you will regret having banished me from your presence. I will go, promising never to enter your house again except by invitation from you; but I shall not promise to cease wooing your daughter at every opportunity."

Scarcely had Mr. Mackenzie finished his narrative of his last interview with Hope's father, when Jennie came up, saying, "Deacon Wilberforce has sent in great haste for Mr. Mackenzie." The latter gentleman hurriedly bade me good morning, and I await the sequel.

Another morning has dawned. As I glance through the parlour window I see Henrique coming up the path. He met me with a laugh and an apology.

"I must leave town, Mrs. Blake, for several weeks, and much desire you (if you have leisure) to assist Hope in her bridal wardrobe. Go to Boston with her if possible!"

I promised, and we went into the parlour.

"How is Deacon Wilberforce?"

"Better this morning."

"Has he forgiven you?"

"Yes, heartily. In fact I could not leave until I had related to you my good fortune. When I left you, I went as summoned to the house, finding the Deacon very ill indeed. The moment I entered he extended his hand towards me, saying, 'Henrique, come here—sit down; then turning to Hope and his wife, he said, 'leave me alone with him.' When they had gone he looked at me, and imploringly whispered—'Henrique, what was it you said about our future?'"

"Mr. Wilberforce," I answered, "*Man shall reap as he has sown.*"

"Yes, yes, I know; but do you really believe we shall have an opportunity to outlive sins which the best of us commit? Do you really believe, Henrique, I may have a chance to improve my condition just a little, if no more?"

I replied, "Time will give you the privilege to raise yourself as high as you aspire to go."

He said, "We all go out of this life with so many fears. It is indeed dreadful to think we must remain in a fixed state through eternity, when we so regret we are not further advanced; and Henrique, have you proof sufficient that—that we may—perhaps be like ourselves here—that is, to feel interested in those we leave behind; and what is it about us meeting again, to be as we have been here—only so much better and happier, and all that? After all, my mind is not quite clear, and when one is almost ready to step forth out of this life, one does desire something a little real. I want some kind of a definite idea, Henrique."

"I would not reproach you, Deacon," I said, "but you have called me an infidel for desiring and seeking for this same thing. I want it so that when I am called I can go without adding mental pain to the pains of death. You have been a Church member, a Deacon, for years. Why do you fear?"

"Henrique, I have been inconsistent, dishonest,

and a hypocrite unto the world and myself. Oh, if I might live only two short years more, how different would be my life. Is there such a thing as atonement when we are just stepping out of this world into the next? I cannot tell my wife and daughters of my misdeeds, but, Henrique, you will give Widow Grant a hundred dollars, and those two orphan nieces of mine five hundred dollars; and—oh, Henrique, I never paid—oh! I can't breathe very well—don't forget—don't forget. I—I ought to give a good deal to John. I never paid him enough wages, and his children go cold—cold; and—oh! I am dying—I am afraid, listen, quick, Henrique: Give Suky Black that hard-earned money she paid me for the wood, and—call my wife—me, here, quick! Be my executor; don't tell them, but look up all the people I have wronged or cheated in business, and teach Hope what you please—Phoebe, too, and my wife; and Henrique, you think we are neither doomed to be stationary in heaven or hell. I believe at last I'd rather go to hell with a hope of rising higher and higher, than to heaven, and remain in a fixed state. Talk to me, Henrique—you may have Hope—only talk to me of the future. Tell me something real; call them—I am dying."

"He sank away in a swoon—the effect of fear and anxiety, I believe. We sent for the doctor, and today the Deacon is much better. He will recover, I have not a doubt. I remained with him through the night, and he would not sleep, but kept up one incessant train of inquiry. I told him if he did not forget it, and if he ever chanced to meet Ellen Mackenzie in the other world (she is my mother, Mrs. Blake), to tell her her son in earth-life longs to meet her."

"But she cannot be the same as she was here," he said, after I had shown him a beautiful picture of her, I always wear next my heart. Have I ever shown it to you, Mrs. Blake?"

"No. I would much like to see it," I replied.

"Presently, please. I told the Deacon I believed she was the same in every particular, save her spiritual body would be beautified. I asked him how he expected to recognise his friends hereafter if they did not possess those same individual and distinctive qualities they possessed here. I suppose he thought he would be obliged to go inquiring around and then learn to remember that was the real person. He expected to meet angels with wings and bright faces—a group of them having no separate characteristics of countenance, and after a time he might possibly distinguish his friends from the dozens of other angels. So it was through the night. I could plainly perceive he was growing more comfortable in mind each minute, but he was fully satisfied of the presence of the death messenger."

"Will he, after recovering, cling to these better teachings, or retrograde to his old religious ideas, Mr. Mackenzie?"

(To be continued).

After Death What:

[Under this head will appear a series of spirit-communications describing some of the experiences of people on their entrance into spirit-life, which the reader may find both interesting and helpful.—Ed.]

DEATH, A NATURAL PROCESS.

The physical body, after reaching the period called the 'prime of life,' begins to lose its powers and energies. The step that has been light and buoyant

begins to show signs of weariness, which increases with each succeeding year, until it becomes so feeble that a stick is required to assist and steady the faltering feet. The eyes begin to grow dim in their power to focus the objects around them, and glasses are required to assist them in their office. The teeth decay and loosen from their sockets, and the lips and cheeks fall inward. The ears grow heavy and dull, the hands become feeble and are unsteady in their efforts to obey the will. The hair whitens and begins to fall off, indicative of ripened years and the winter time of the physical body. These are some of the outward and visible signs of the approaching change.

Internally the signs of old age are equally manifest. The decrease of digestive, secretive and assimilative powers are equally evident to the physician. The breathing becomes more laboured and difficult, the pulse more feeble, the valves of the heart, and the veins, begin to harden, and fail to perform their office in the physical economy of life; the heat of the body gradually decreases, and the muscles lose their elasticity.

These are signs that the physical body has served the inward man in his efforts to obtain a full quota of earth-life's experiences, and it is naturally ripening ready to drop from the tree of life, as the apple, pear, or any other fruit ripens and drops from its parent tree.

When the severance takes place, those looking on call it death—death to the earth-life. And those left to mourn ask:

“AFTER DEATH, WHAT?”

We will try to describe to you the general effect the change called death has on the liberated spirit.

There generally follows the change a period of rest in which the soul is assisted to regain the strength of the spirit body, as the vital forces are generally at a low ebb before leaving the body, so that the soul is unable to build a strong spirit body. This is one of the reasons why those newly born into the spirit world require assistance when trying to communicate with those left on earth.

When they have rested and gained sufficient strength to enter into the activities of their new mode of life they are amazed at the ease and freedom of all their actions. Being able to move without the cumbersome earthly body is quite a new sensation which they have to get accustomed to.

Imagine to yourself an engine that for long years has been accustomed to driving heavy machinery which, as time has rolled on, has become more and more difficult to turn on account of its bearings, pulleys, straps, etc., becoming worn and stiff, and almost useless. Such an engine finding itself some morning when called upon to commence its daily task, suddenly released from the old lumbering load of machinery would be able to bound joyously along with very little pressure of steam. Similarly, the soul finding itself free from the old worn-out body, and in possession of a spirit body that responds to the slightest will force, is full of youthful buoyancy in which it revels in every exuberance of joy and gladness.

They also rejoice to find they are in possession of all their faculties, their senses being cleared and extended.

The law of telepathy will enable you to understand,

in a small degree, what we mean by the ‘senses being cleared and extended.’ This power to sense other peoples’ thoughts, emotions, etc., even when many miles separate the parties, is only a faint indication of what spirits are able to sense of peoples’ thoughts, ideas, and emotions when freed from the physical body. This increased power gives the freed soul the feeling of being all sensation which enables it to embrace all who are near and dear to it, and to know what is passing with them, though many miles of space separate them. The poet well expressed this fact when he wrote:

“The mystery of the spirit birth,
Out fathoms human skill,
Though one’s on earth, and one’s in heaven,
They are together still.”

(To be Continued).

Bluebell Guild.

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

My Dear Bluebells,

I trust all of you have had a Merry Christmas, without being ill from eating too much of the Christmas cake and cheese, plum-pudding, mince-pies, apples, nuts, oranges, and all the other good things that are provided for Christmas. Just think what a lot of extra work your mothers have had to provide all the good things you have feasted on. I do hope you have shown your gratitude by doing readily and cheerfully any little errand or task for mother. I am sorry to say some boys and girls never seem to be grateful, they take all the pleasures that come their way without a word or thought of thanks, or without trying to think of some little act of kindness in return.

I have just been reading a story of such a boy which I should like to tell you, but as it is too long I must leave out those parts of it that do not matter. it is called

FAULTY JAMES.

James was a little boy who was never satisfied with anything he had, or anything that happened. Besides he was lazy, he didn't want to get up in the morning, but lay in bed instead of going to school, he did not want to wash himself, he was content to go about with dirty hands and face, and boots.

One Saturday his mother wanted him to help her with a carpet. She knew he liked to have a stick and beat things with it, sometimes he would strike at a cat, or a dog, or any animal that was near, so she thought it would please him to beat one of the carpets which she hung over a stout cord for him. He pulled a long face and looked very glum, and after a few strokes he strolled away, and found a cosy corner and sat down.

Pretty soon he heard voices and opening his eyes he saw a number of little men with big heads, wearing poke caps with tassels at the end.

They were standing round him talking. “Yes,” said one, “this is Faulty James; he would be a good useful boy if he were rid of his faults.”

“Oh! there are lots of boys like that,” said another; “they nearly all are.”

"I am not sure of that," said the first elf, for that was what they were.

"I think we had better not bother with him," said another; "it very likely will not pay for our trouble to try to cure him. Let us take him to old Witch Bad Temper, she will be able to make a big black cloud out of his black looks of surliness.

"No," said the first elf, "listen to me this once. I am sure this boy is well worth saving and will repay us by being a dutiful and grateful boy the rest of his life. Let us take away his faults and bury them on the other side of this fence."

"It will be very hard work," argued the others, "and besides, it will take away nearly all there is of him, he is so full of faults."

"Never mind that," said the first elf, "I am willing to work the hardest if you will help me."

"All right," said the others; "we will help, you seem to be so set upon curing him, we hope he will turn out as you think."

All this time James was wondering what they intended doing to him, and when it was decided to cure him he was frightened and tried to get up and run away, but to his surprise he could not move, although he could see and hear.

The little people then drew close to him. "The first fault to remove," said the one who seemed to be his friend, "is carelessness; it is very deep rooted and will take a good, strong pull," (he felt them doing something with the top of his head and another one busy with his chest, in the region of the heart) "now all together pull."

James felt as if a lot of needles and pins were being drawn through his heart and up through the head.

"We will take the fault of disobedience next," said the elf. "Here it is," and again the pins and needles began to prick as before.

"We will have a hard time with his temper," said one of the pullers.

"I am not going to take away his temper," said James' friend. "I wouldn't give much for a boy without a temper; all he needs is to be able to control it, and after we get these faults removed he will be able to control his temper. Now we will remove "Discontent."

"Wait a minute," said another elf, "I am tired out with pulling so hard. Why not save ourselves needless work by only pulling up the "dis" which is like a canker worm eating at the root of "content?" That part is all right. The "dis" is the trouble in many things besides "content," such as "dis"-cord, "dis"-agree, "dis"-appoint, "dis"-obey, "dis"-comfort, "dis"-courage, "dis"-courteous, "dis"-behave, "dis"-honest, "dis"-grace, "dis"-order, and such lot more "dises."

"Very well," said the elf, "I can pull that out myself," and this time James felt only a little of the pricking and tugging.

"There now, I think he will do without any help from us; we will leave him, and if he does not take the trouble to keep his faults buried then we will come back and take him to the old Witch Bad Temper to do as she likes with."

All this time they had not taken any notice of James other than to remove his faults, but now one of them said, "Let us give him a look at the grave where his faults are buried," and without another word of warning they lifted him up and carried him

to a ditch where there was a little mound of freshly turned earth, like a little grave with a stone on which were engraved the names of the faults that lay buried beneath.

"You will have hard work to keep them buried," said one of the elfs, "as they will all spring up and take possession of you, if you do not be careful. That "Dis" is a wick'un, and will have you before you can say "Jack Robinson" if you are not on your guard, young man." Then he left him.

James lay quiet a few minutes till he thought all the funny little folks had gone. Then he got up and looked all round. He looked for the grave, but it had vanished. He felt at his head, and found the skin sore at the top. He passed his hand over his heart, and felt it beating merrily as if it had lost a heavy load. Then he said, "I certainly thought I saw those little men, and felt them pulling and tugging at me like a hundred needles and pins. I must have been asleep. Then he went and told his mother he had finished beating the carpet, and asked what he could do next to help her.

Whenever he felt tempted to adopt his old ways he remembered his dream, or vision, or whatever it was, and he determined to keep his faults deep buried out of sight, and not let them jump up and take possession of him again.

I wish all of you a Happy, and Useful New Year.

Your loving sister,

FLORA BELL.

Girls' Own Corner.

By
Mrs. JESSY
GREENWOOD



JANUARY, 1913.

LYCEUM JUBILEE, JANUARY 26th, 1913.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME.

Date	Opening	Musical	Closing
Jan.	Hymn	S.C.R. Reading	G.C.R. Hymn
26	306	60 212	*103 303
			148

*For those Lyceums whose manuals do not contain the G.C.R. given above, use 103 and 148.

Routine. Call to order. Salute Conductor. Place left hand on the breast, palm outwards and repeat the following words: "I show the angels the face of my heart." Sing opening Hymn, 306.

Invocation. "Our Father, we thank Thee for a religion of hope, faith and knowledge. On this

day, of all days, we acknowledge our indebtedness to many arisen souls, but particularly our founder, Andrew Jackson Davis, now in spirit life, and to whom we offer greetings of goodwill and fraternal love.

May we be in earnest to pursue a good life, because it is beautiful and wholly to be desired.

May we never forget our parents and the tender love and care they have bestowed upon us since we were born.

May we ever be gentle and kind to our brothers and sisters whether in the home or in other lands, whether white or coloured, bond or free. Let us love one another. May we seek for opportunities to do good; to render sympathy where sorrow prevails; and consciously bestow a pure and clean influence on the world so that in the evening of life we may be content to say, "I have done my best and am ready to pass into that community of human souls whose love-power is ever present with the world, and all congenial souls wherever gathered together. May the inspiration of the strong, the true, the noble and honest be upon us, and may we all feel its impelling force in our daily lives.

We pray for the progress of our Lyceum and the welfare of our conductors and officers. We remember those of us who are sick (here mention names if desirable) and pray for their recovery.

O Angels of Light and Wisdom we solicit your presence with us this day. O great spirit of the Universe, whom we call Father—send Thy Holy Messengers unto us, may they unlock the door of every heart, enter in and dwell there, and guide us for evermore. Amen.

Conductor's Story of the origin, objects and conduct of a Lyceum as given in "OUTLINES OF SPIRITUALISM FOR THE YOUNG," by Alfred Kitson, pages 57 to 62 and also to be found in Andrew Jackson Davis' Original Lyceum Manual, price 2d., per copy, 3d. by post (See "Lyceum Banner" for particulars).

Continue programme, S.C.R. 60, etc.

Take Marching in its proper place, and if possible have erected a FLORAL ARCH in such a position that the whole Lyceum shall march under it (see Spandogatta," page 61 above), each Lyceumist wearing the colour designating of their group (see page 59).

During the marching the initials of Andrew Jackson Davis should be formed, and a Lyceumist chosen to explain the meaning of the letters thus formed to possible visitors.

Before closing the chain march, attention should be called to the significance of the "right" and "left" hand (see page 61).

After the calisthenics open session is reached, when the efforts of the scholars should continue in harmony with the event of the day.

Pearls. "Nature, with an impartial hand scatters her truths everywhere; the same at the poles as beneath the equator; and thus the whole globe is abundantly filled with their beauty and fragrance."—A. J. Davis.

"The Spirits' world is a natural world, regulated by natural laws, covered by a natural firmament, animated by a natural Deity, populated by natural spirits and angels who were once men and women, and it is therefore natural that dwelling-places should diversify the landscape."—A. J. Davis.

"All excess is vicious—whether it be excessive

praying, excessive piety, . . . excessive spiritual factism, or excessive devotion to the commandments of one idea."—A. J. Davis.

"Let us handle the proofs of our immortality very tenderly, for they are all evidences the most sacred to human progress; but let no man dare degrade them by over-consumption and irreverent familiarity."—A. J. Davis.

"The spirit remembers everything. But intellect cannot always *recall* the picture."

"A noble thought may generate a thousand noble deeds."

"A single benevolent act may eventually save a nation."

"The glory of mankind is exhibited in the unflinching integrity of soul."—A. J. Davis.

Before the close of the session the Lyceum might resolve that a universal greeting from all Lyceums be sent, through Alfred Kitson, to Mrs. Davis, in grateful remembrance of the undying and eternal work and life of her immortal husband, A. J. Davis.

The institution in all Lyceums of a Birthday Scroll, on which the names of all babies belonging to the Lyceum members should be inscribed, the scroll to be called the "A. J. DAVIS' BIRTHDAY SCROLL, JANUARY, 1913.

Closing hymn, Benediction, and

It is to be hoped that all Lyceums will hold their sessions at the same hour, 10-30 a.m. and 2-30 p.m., and if the above programme can be carried out by all Lyceums, at the same hour, we venture to think the importance of the day and event will live in the memories of those who participate in such meetings. "Harmony is Heaven and Heaven is Harmony."

SESSION PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY, 1913.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
JAN. 5	368	367	203	134	408
" 12	375	69 & 70	211	110	398
" 19	406	409	214	105	*410
" 26	306	60	212	103	363
				148	

*Tune "Austria," Bristol Tune Book.

My heartiest greetings to all Lyceumists, especially the girls to whom I apologise for deviating from the usual chat to giving a rather full programme for the very special event of January 26th, 1913.

We women will endorse the resolution—whether adopted or not by the Lyceums—which directs our good wishes to Mrs. Davies because she was the helpmeet and companion of the never-to-be-forgotten pioneer of Lyceum work—A. J. Davis. We might also direct our sweetest thoughts and loving remembrances to another lady who worked very arduously in the Liverpool Lyceum when she was able, and who, like Mrs. Davis, is bereft of the physical presence of her dear husband. Her birthday is on January 1st, 1913. Now with me say "Many happy returns of the day" to Mrs. S. S. Chiswell. It will reach both ladies.

To all of you, wherever you are, even to far away friends and readers, the following:—

"May the saints protect ye and sorrow neglect ye,
And bad luck to the one that doesn't respect ye.
And the top of the mornin' to all that belong ye,
And long life to yerself; that's the end of my song to ye."

The Peace Brigade.

CONDUCTED BY C. W. M.

DEBATE BETWEEN A BOY SCOUT AND A LYCEUMIST.

The following report of a friendly discussion between a Y.M.C.A. Boy Scout and a Lyceumist pretty fairly represents the attitude of the majority of Orthodox Christians and the Spiritualists on the war question:

Harry, the Y.M.C.A. lad, said: "Tom, why don't you join our company of scouts? We have glorious times. Last summer we had picnics and outings in the groves, and went boating and swimming and had heaps of fun."

Tom: "Well, Harry, I am a Socialist and Spiritualist, and all over the world our people advocate peace and brotherhood. Now I know there are two different Boy Scout movements; one of them—your kind—was started by General Baden-Powell, and is military in its nature. The other, called The World Scouts, is non-military, but they are not so numerous in this country, and there is no organization in this town which I could join."

Harry: "Now, Tom, what if our Boy Scout companies are military? Yes, I guess they are, but isn't it glorious to be a soldier and go to war?"

Tom: "No, I do not think so. In the past there have been wars in which men had to go out and fight for their homes and their liberty. Socialists probably would fight in defence of their sacred rights, but not for spoils or glory. We know that the Boy Scout movement originated in a monarchy—was invented by a professional man-killer, and is being boosted by kings and **plutocrats** for the purpose of creating an army that can be used when the time comes to crush the working people when they insist on better conditions of living. I think you are a kind-hearted fellow, and probably not seriously thought of the horrors of war. When you become a soldier you will be expected to burn people's houses, destroy their property, shoot to death your brother-men whom you never saw before and who has done you no harm. You will be ordered to rush at him like a demon, thrust him through by a bayonet, knock out his brains with the butt end of your gun and slash, stab, cut, shoot and kill him as you would a venomous reptile or a mad dog. If he falls to the ground, wounded, bleeding, dying and with the death palor on his face, murmuring the name of mother in his agonies and breathing a prayer, and looks appeal-to you to spare his life, you will be expected to crush his skull or run your glittering bayonet through his heart, not because you want to do it, but because you are a professional soldier, volunteered to become a murderer, and took an oath to obey the orders of your officers. Now, Harry, no good Lyceumist could be so inhuman and fiendish as that; do you think such a profession as that is a glorious one?"

Harry: "No; no; my heavens; I never gave the subject my serious thought. Now I know you are right. You have not overdrawn the awful realities of war. My pastor and Sunday School Superintendent both favour the Baden-Powell Scouts and advised me to join them. I now see that I cannot be a consistent member of the Y.M.C.A. and encourage this movement which does create in the boys a yearning

to be soldiers. I thank you, Tom, for having this little talk with me."

Tom: "I am glad to hear you say that, Harry, for General Sir Baden-Powell distinguished himself as a successful man-killer in the war which England waged against the peaceful Boers because English capitalists wanted the rich mines of the Transvaal. Later he went to Russia and induced the Czar to order 3,500,000 peasant boys to be organized into boy scouts and receive military training by regular army officers. These companies are attached to the war department and are reviewed by the czar annually and are known as the juvenile part of the Russian army." Over there no claim is made that the Boy Scouts are not being schooled for war. The emperor of Germany is promoting the movement in that country, and the statement was made by high military officials that it was intended to strengthen the army. When Sir Baden-Powell went to the United States he found opposition to his scout movement by Socialists, labour unionists and peace advocates, and he soon left the country in disgust. Since that time some defenders of the Boy Scouts have made the claim that they are "peace scouts," but all well-informed people know that the purpose of its inventors was to adroitly cultivate the military inclination of boys and make it a means of recruiting for the army. The movement for peace and courts of arbitration was so steadily growing throughout the world and enlistments in the army and navy were so rapidly diminishing, that the war-lords of Europe got together and invented the Boy Scouts to counteract the peace propositions. It was a cunning devised scheme. Now, you see, Harry, why no Socialist boy, especially if he is a Lyceumist can become a Baden-Powell Scout for both Socialists and Spiritualists everywhere are favouring universal peace and universal brotherhood and are doing all they can to hasten the coming of that day when 'swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks and nations shall learn war no more.'"

War is the greatest curse that afflicts this otherwise happy mother earth, and I am glad that all the boys and girls of the Lyceum are opposed to it.—R. A. Dague in the *Progressive Thinker*.

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ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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JANUARY, 1913.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1913.

"All religion has relation to life, and the life of religion is to do good."

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

The present month is a most important one, and will be noted by future historians as being the Jubilee of the Lyceum Movement. It will be 50 years on the 26th of this month since Andrew Jackson Davis made known his visions of children in the Summerland, and the mode of teaching adopted there for the training of spirit children.

Mrs. Jessie Greenwood has kindly compiled a special programme for the occasion so we may call it our First Jubilee Programme. We want all Lyceum conductors to follow out the programme on January 26th. In order that they may do so we are mailing a marked copy of this month's LYCEUM BANNER to those Lyceums who do not read it regularly.

To those conductors who do not possess a copy of *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*, in which they have read not only of the commencement of Spiritualism and the trials of the Fox Sisters, but also of the commencement of the Children's Progressive Lyceum, and the beautiful districts in the Summer-land where the spirit children live and are taught of God's love and wisdom, we recommend them to send to the Lyceum Union's Office for a copy of Andrew Jackson Davis' (abridged) *Lyceum Manual*, post free, 3d., or 12 copies 1/9 post free. This will enable them to relate the wonderful story of the founding of the Children's Progressive Lyceum on earth.

If all Lyceum conductors join whole-heartedly in the celebration, it will create a mighty spiritual impulse that will reach the spirit spheres and meet with a glad and joyous refrain. Indeed, we feel we may safely add that the celebration of this grand event by all the Lyceums on earth will be a meagre affair compared to the celebration that will take place in the spirit spheres, for the angels rejoice at its progress far more than the people on earth, because they do not see what its far reaching moral teachings are destined to effect in the world's upward march, as do the angels. So let us all unite on the last Sunday, January

26th, in carrying out the Lyceum Jubilee Programme, so that the children of to-day may relate to the children of 50 years hence when the second Lyceum Jubilee is being celebrated, their glad recollections of the first Jubilee.

By the time this issue is in the hands of its numerous readers, all Lyceum Secretaries will have been supplied with a copy of the Annual Statistical Returns of the number of Officers and Scholars they have on their Lyceum Register on the *last* Sunday of December and not the *first* Sunday of January. In the upper half of the form will be found the number of Officers and Scholars that were returned last year, which will enable the Officers to see at a glance the progress made during the year 1912.

Non-Union Lyceums wishing to join the Lyceum Union, if properly conducted, should send in their applications at once, so they can be considered by the Executive Council on January 11th. Five applications are already on hand, so that if accepted they will enjoy a full twelve month's benefits of membership.

Our friends at Hull are anticipating a record gathering at the Lyceum Conference on May 10th and 11th. They have elected several committees to deal with the various important matters. All Lyceums should take steps while there is time to send one or more delegates.

We desire to draw our readers' attention to the note at the head of "Stories from the Classics," and beg to point out that in this month's instalment will be found the original incidents of Charybdis and Scylla, which are often referred to by the world's best writers and orators to describe scenes and situations of great peril, or having to steer between grave dangers; and also another great peril, namely, being tempted to one's ruin by the sweet voiced siren, referred to in musical reading 226, a term which is now used to describe those women who seek by flattery and other means to enthrall the minds of men that they may make them their victims.

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

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.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—I regret to announce the passing on to spirit life, Mr. John Flanagan, on December 17th. Interred at Heaton Cemetery on December 21st.

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

My Dear Chums,—

Though the year may be a little advanced ere this page is read by some of our boys I want to wish a very happy year to all the boys in our movement. Though the fierceness of a Canadian winter may freeze the ink, it does not prevent a little British ink from flowing across the ocean to wish my chums in the land of lakes a jolly time. To the youngsters who live feet to feet with us on the other side of our earth I send a greeting that I hope will reach from soul to soul. To those who live in the land which was once the dumping-ground of England's derelicts when transportation was rife, but is now growing some of the most stalwart and best of the world's new thinkers, I shake my hand in friendship and wish the magnetic wave of kindred thought to bind us closer in our unified purpose that our movement affords.

I hope the boys in the bottom part of the once Dark Continent are enjoying themselves whether it be in the labyrinthal woods of Natal or the more scattered natural gardens of Cape-Colony. I once tried to carry these new year greetings and good wishes to the Lyceumists in the Transvaal, but I was unable to locate your place of meeting.

Good speed to the ships which carry these fraternal feelings from the home Lyceums. No matter how far you travel north or south, east or west, the influence and power of our keen and deep desire for your welfare and success, embraces you all within our thoughts and let me say to your elders, there is never a Conference happens, but we wish you could send you Delegates like we do. By your coming into the folds of the B.S.L.U. the next step must surely be an International S.L.U. How gladly the writer of this page would welcome a letter from a chum in the colonies or abroad. I feel sure there are Lyceumists in India, if we but knew. Wouldn't a letter from the land of tea and rice and elephants be nice for our page. Someday we shall perhaps be able to have an exchange of letters from boys abroad. Suppose we had a few lines from a Spiritualist boy in Iceland. He would be able to tell us how small they were and how a little further towards the north pole lived the Eskimoes, who lived by making holes in the sea-ice and catching seals; how they have three months of perpetual darkness and three months of light. This boy would be able to tell us, the Eskimo-boys have for toffee a stick of frozen tallow, like a candle without the wick. The fat keeps the boys warm and they enjoy it just as much as we enjoy our toffee.

In my good wishes, I must not forget the chums at home. Hearty greetings to you all in this time of new resolutions. I once had a fortune wheel; written on the rim opposite every spoke was a pearl to guide human conduct. There was a various number of colours at the hub. I often wondered what was the symbol of those colours and I believe I at last found their true meaning. An inspiration came to me that boys were born to make life for the boys who follow on easier and happier. I have placed in the hub of life's fortune wheel, "That the mission and cause

of our existence is to improve the conditions of life through natural resources, in such a way that our presence and effort in human advancement shall be missed and valued when we leave any sphere of life to take up some new task in the cosmic scheme of progressive enlightenment." This is the motto I offer my chums as a hardy annual.

As I write these lines in my home on the bank of a rivulet, two pictures present themselves to me. Time was, and not a very long time ago, when this stream wended its circuitous way over a bed of pebbles, little crystal stones and shining water; oxen, lambs and hares were the moving life which lived upon its banks. The birds sang merrily overhead. The trees nodded acquaintance with their reflection in the sparkling water. The wayfarer from the town could lie upon the banks half-buried in the tall grasses, and whistling a plaintive air could draw the fishes to his playful presence. 'Twas here the youths and maidens of a former time wended their way to a great lake at the foot of the Pennine Chain or climbed the hill to give a mental handshake to the broad acres of Yorkshire.

In the span of years what see I now. With black thin lines stretching from pole to pole, outlined against the hazy sky, the telephone lines stretch from town to town. A railway bridge of many arches spans the valley, taking the place of the one-times trees, making one of the links in the chains of commerce. A reflection of dirty bricks is depicted on the surface of the stream, one cannot see the bottom of it for muddy dye-stained water from the great factories which now abut its banks at intervals along its course. The only fish we ever hope to find are fossil ones, and all is sombre black and drear. A view of many, many chimney pots dot out the distant end of a one-time lovely valley. The songs of many-tinted feathered friends are exchanged for the chirp of an occasional drab-coloured shepster or tiny sparrow begging frantically for a few crumbs in depths of winter risking their lives at the claws of a cat in their eagerness for food. I felt quite pleased when, last Sunday, through talking to the cook, she opened the oven-door to discover the Yorkshire-pudding would not cook properly because we had been talking to her and she forgot to put the eggs in when making it. "Never mind," she said, "Its an ill wind that blows nobody good." When it was cool, the cook placed the spoiled pudding on the yard-wall. I wish you could have seen the birds, as many boys and girls did see, between the visits of the cats, the hungry little birds devouring the spoiled pudding and carrying pieces away in their beaks to feed the young in the nests built in the sheltered corners of the buildings.

Between these two pictures, something has happened. Most people have laboured for reward, a few good people have worked, like Robert Owen of Scotland, just to mention one name, for the benefit of the whole people, and obtained more than they gave, because they will live through the value of their lives to others and are much missed by the people who knew them ere they passed hence. Spiritualism comes with the message of these good workers still helping us onward to new truths by the inspired help and inspiration they give to mortals from their advanced stage of existence.

We have still many pretty valleys and lovely places wherein to enjoy life in our leisure. The intro-

duction of steam-power and electricity has caused men to turn their thoughts to the introduction and invention of machinery till the one thought of our age seems to have been produce, produce, and the higher produce of life has now been neglected. In the turn of life's wheel I want you, boys, to look at the hub and find there the inspiration for your efforts. We shall not then, find in England and in other countries, warehouses and granaries crammed with the produce of the world and little children short of food and clothing. We shall then be able and willing to produce for use and not for profit. When we are ready to see every boy and girl is fed, clothed and housed in good conditions, we shall have paved the way for a deeper study of the other forces in life conducive to our welfare. We shall have strong bodies in which to develop mental power to transit more universally the sweet influence of spirit-power and teachings throughout this world of ours. We shall feel our place in the music of life, walk with the rythum of the stream, dance with the music of the birds and bask in the shadow of the tree of knowledge under the health-giving rays of a radiant sun. Then when the moon appears and the philosophers brain is most active, we shall receive through their divine impulses, scrolls of manuscript and sweetness of speech, with nature's revelations of truth for their watchword, the necessary thoughts for the accomplishment of a heavenly condition upon earth. Such is my message to the boys of our movement for the new-year, 1913.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND, 1912.

1912 Contributions continued.

Woolwich and Plumstead Lyceum, 5/-; Bethel Street, Leeds 2/6; Regent Hall, Rochdale 5/-; Maskell Street Lyceum, Manchester 5/-; Lancaster 5/-; Wakefield Lyceum 4/6; Abbey Road Lyceum, Barrow-in-Furness 5/-; Gladstone Hall Lyceum, Nottingham 5/-; Raven Street Lyceum, Halifax 10/-; Keighley Lyceum 10/-; Hyde Lyceum 5/-; Bradford Street Lyceum, Bolton 5/-; New Shildon Lyceum 10/-; Byron Street Lyceum, Hollinwood 10/-; Harpurhey Lyceum, Manchester 7/6; Hammer-ton Street Lyceum, Burnley 10/-; Mr. Coupe 2/6; Mrs. Harwood 2/6; Blackpool Lyceum 10/-; Shipley Lyceum 2/6; Rawtenstall Lyceum 5/-; Miss Mortimer 2/6; Mr. and Mrs. Law 2/6; Mr. G. Uttley, New Liskeard, Ontario, Canada 5/-; Great Harwood Lyceum 2/6; Heeley Lyceum, Sheffield 9/2; (1d. per member); Princess Hall Lyceum, Manchester 10/-; Macclesfield Lyceum 6/-; Wigan Lyceum 5/-; Colne Lyceum 5/-; Clarkes Yard Lyceum, Preston, 3/-; Armley, 5/-; Coventry, 5/-; Ulverston, 2/6.

I am delighted with the quick and generous response to the annual appeal, and hope all Lyceums will try to do something for the Fund.

MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD,

Ashleigh, *Hon. Secretary.*
Hebden Bridge.

BRADFORD, WEST BOWLING.—We held our Open Sessions on December 1st, when we had a good attendance, but regret that more interest is not taken by our scholars in the Open Session, and I take this opportunity, through the medium of the BANNER, to give the scholars a little reminder of what is required of them as Lyceumists. The following helped to make our session a success:—Messrs. A. Ward, H. Thornton, Miss Garth, Miss M. Tempest, and Mrs. Ramsden gave a reading. Master N. Haley also recited, and the whole helped to make up a successful day.—A. E. Carter.

FRIENDSHIP.

An Essay by MISS LENA SMITH, Hull, Holborn St. Lyceum.

Friendship is a feeling of love and affection which human beings have for each other. Friendship is very much akin to love, for love should, and true love will, emerge triumphant through disgrace, shame, dishonour, or any other stigma which may become attached to the one you love. This feeling of friendship emanates from intimate acquaintance with anyone. We must be able to love our friends with all their faults. We may be able to help them to remedy these, and we then also know where to look for flaws in our own characters. Daniel de Foe said, "Friends are good; good if well chosen." It is good to have good friends, but not to be dominated too much or too long by their example. When we have learned to imitate the best, we must learn to do for ourselves. I once read that: "False friends are like autumn leaves, found everywhere."

"True friends are like diamonds, precious and rare,

And this is true. For, as diamonds are precious and rare, so are the friends that will remain true and never desert us in the hour of need and sorrow. As it says in the *Manual*, "Pure friendship is like gold passed through the refiner's furnace; trials and difficulties bring out its true worth. It feels a brother's sigh, and with him bears a part; in the period of prosperity it is not envious, but rejoiceth to see its friend happy, and joy flows from heart to heart." Before striking up a friendship with anyone, we should first ascertain what sort of people they are, for we should

"Choose not friends from outward show,
Feathers fly high, pearls lie low."

One person may say, "What a lot of friends I have," but if they looked round they would find them to be, not friends, but merely acquaintances. Even among children this bond of friendship is to be found, and they are often more faithful to each other than adults. As an example:—The other week a fire occurred in a cinematograph theatre and some children got burned; one little girl seeing her friend's flimsy dress was in flames, rushed to her and tried to put them out with her own hands. As a result she got terribly burned and afterwards succumbed to her injuries. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." Perhaps we cannot all show our love for our friends by doing some brave deed for them, but even a child can prove its love by having a kind word ready, or letting the other share when playing with toys. Where friendship is found, no harsh words are uttered, no hurtful, unfeeling, or unkind actions are done. Some of us do not value this friendship enough and then when we find that they are no longer in their accustomed places, it comes as a sudden and bitter pain that we did not show our love for them enough. There is an added pain of remorse that we did not appreciate the treasure we possessed. We received their love and kindnesses with thoughtlessness. If only we had not been so cold and selfish to them. The great poet, Lord Tennyson, bore his friend a very great and deep love, but he passed away many years before the poet himself. His grief was so great, that to try and console himself for the loss of his friend he poured out his feelings on paper, in the shape of his great masterpiece, "In Memoriam." In this are the lines

"I hold it dear, whate'er befall,
I feel it when I sorrow most,
'Tis better to have loved and lost,
Than never to have love at all."

So that even if we have loved a friend dearly and then lost them, it is far better than never having known the joy of having a friend. But we have the great and grand consolation, that though they cannot always be with us in the body, we can have their spirit presence near, which are far more radiant than the physical covering which they had when on this mundane sphere. It is grand to know that we can claim such friends in the Summerland who will encourage and urge us onward in the good work we have to accomplish. We have Angel friends with us whom we have never known when they had a place upon this earth, but who will make their presence known to us, that we may never be afraid when we know that they are watching over us, and guiding us in the paths of righteousness and truth. In the daily battle of life a man's "best and truest friend is God and His holy angels who will never desert, betray, or weary of him. Through all the vicissitudes and trials of earthly life they will bear him company to the end; and in his darkest hours of adversity they will stand the closer to him. At his birth into the Higher Life they will accord him a welcome most sweet to his soul, because of his struggles for the Right and True." In conclusion I will quote a pearl out of the LYCEUM BANNER by J.

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

CHARITY.

AN ESSAY by MISS E. CORKING, South Shields, King Street, Lyceum.

"Charity never faileth." It is true St. Paul puts it on the same pedestal with Faith and Hope. These abide, but have what might be called a personal limited range and field of use. They strengthen a man's own hold on God's laws and help. They cheer his course and brighten his life. But Charity concerns our relation to others; it is shown in the way we carry ourselves towards our fellow men, and it is especially in regard to its power that I wish you to notice how it never faileth. What is this grace? We can hardly say it is the same as love, it means also that deliberate consideration and forbearance which we can exercise in dealing with those for whom we cannot entertain a tenderness prompted by what we commonly call love.

True Charity involves many efforts. Love, as generally understood, requires no pressure for its application, it acts spontaneously, and does not need to be explained; indeed, it cannot be explained. "It suffereth long and is kind, and not easily provoked. It rejoiceth not in iniquity, but in truth." Love is thus believing and hopeful when we are under its influence and carry ourselves tenderly towards those for whom we cannot help feeling affection. But Charity can be exercised in bearing, hoping, and enduring under circumstances which do not compel us to show kindness, when, on the contrary, we are tempted to yield to provocation, or to become weary in well-doing. We may now see that manifold grace which gives its excellence to Charity, is in chief measure, by the use of this that we can find how it never faileth, not merely as abiding when other things cease, vanish, or are done away with, but as giving us the greatest power in bearing what has to be borne or done. Life is crowded with duties and trials, great or small. We can hardly pass a day without being moved by something which tests our endurance or influence, in meeting which we want strength. This need is felt on many occasions. Many of the occasions, however, which prove our ability to endure or influence arise in our dealings with our friends. Here the power of Charity is seen when everything else is found wanting. Its strength also appears in our dealings with the sick, who are sometimes peevish, inconsiderate, and inappreciative, however wise and well intentioned the efforts to relieve them may be. Charity gives power to our purpose. The very term, "Sister of Charity," accorded to those who supplement the physician in ministering to such as are bodily distressed, suggests the use of that power which never faileth. Considerate and attentive kindness then works wonders which no reasoning or expostulation can bring about. Also, in dealing with the young, we know that the prospect or fear of some unpleasant alternative will sometimes produce a salutary result in the case where obstinacy has to be overcome. But again and again wise teachers have found that an influence on the lines of Charity St. Paul speaks of will succeed when all other methods of treatment have failed. This can break down the barrier, dissolve the young but stubborn tenacity with which a child occasionally tries to hold a position of resentment towards its parent or instructor.

So, also, when we are confronted, not with the peevishness of the sick, or forwardness of the young, but have to bring some end with opinionated or sullen people, who doggedly refuse to listen to the clearest reasons, or even to be moved by considerations which appeals to their best interests. Then Charity ignores motives. It applies an inducement quite apart from other direct methods which have been found to have an unexpected effect. They say that when a stable is on fire it is almost impossible to drag a horse from the approaching flames, but if in the midst of uproar and alarm you simply and quietly put the saddle on its back, it is dislodged from the attitude of resistance and suffers itself to be quietly led out. So in the case of urgent importance, when methods of compulsion or impression which most naturally suggest themselves have been used in vain with a seemingly immovable mind. Then the application of Charity, if it cannot be said to bring obstinate people to their senses, it takes them and leads them to results which are desired. The dullest souls and hardest hearts have thus been reached. "Charity never faileth."

So, too, Charity prevails when we have to meet deliberate provocations and survive hindrances purposely thrown in our way. Charity, also, discerns the best in adversaries, and if an opening should come it does not use it in leaping on a careless foe, but abstains from recrimination and reproach. "Charity never faileth," at least, the failure is not that of Charity itself. Its treasure house of influence is not empty

because its stores are rejected. It does not shrink back feeling that a mistake has been made, but "rejoiceth in the truth," though the true way may have been scorned.

National Peace Society.

MEETING HELD AT SOUTH PLACE
INSTITUTE, LONDON, DEC. 3rd, 1912.

To consider the Relations of England and Germany.

*Specially reported for the LYCEUM BANNER by Mr.
John R. Latham.*

Mrs. Bradlaugh-Bonner (presiding), in opening the meeting, commented on the small attendance. Letters were read from the absentees. During her remarks she said, in reference to Germany's increased armaments, that this was not because the Germans were a war-like nation, so much as because of the great amount of power those who manufacture armaments have in the country.

Mr. J. A. Hobson, M.A., moved the following resolution:—

"This meeting welcomes the signs of improved relations between Great Britain and Germany, and trusts that this improvement will develop an *entente* between the two countries which will put an end to their various race armaments and free the world from the danger which their mutual suspicion has caused; and at the same time this meeting strongly condemns the attempts made by Lord Roberts and others to foster and increase international suspicion and enmity."

In speaking to the resolution, Mr. Hobson referred to the forces at work to create public opinion in favour of war. It was not so much an eagerness for war with and hatred for Germany, as the influencing of the public mind by certain evil powers. He referred to Lord Roberts as having a great amount of sympathy from people in general, as a fighter and country saviour, etc., and he tells those people under his influence that war is soon to come, and asks if they are ready for it, and goes so far as to ask for conscription. This view of affairs not only requires Lord Roberts for its achievement, but villains. Lord Roberts is not a specialist in the arts of peace, but of war.

Mr. Charles Bradlaugh-Bonner, in seconding the resolution, spoke of a recent visit he had paid to Germany, during which he had come into contact with many schoolmasters and students. He had received a cordial welcome, and was given every opportunity to acquaint himself with the German system of education, which he greatly admired, and considered it far in advance of our English system. He was astonished at the great amount of knowledge the ordinary school boy and girl displayed with respect to England, English customs, and English history.

Mr. Green, in the course of his remarks, said that so far as he could judge, the only reason why England should fight Germany is that we have never fought her, and in accordance with the national instinct, we want to make sure that we are undoubtedly masters and able to conquer all comers. He also referred to Lord Roberts as a great agitator for war. But, in spite of all this, there is an amiable feeling existing between the two countries. He noted the excellent and friendly manner in which each of the

two countries received the others' deputations, etc., etc. He disagreed with the system of having special friendship between certain governments. He asked for universal friendship.

Mr. Charles Weiss, an Anglo-German, educated first in Germany and afterwards in an English University, endorsed the experience of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh-Bonner. "Germany," he said, "is a peaceful nation, although the Germans are generally supposed to be of a war-like nature. For something like a century they have never deliberately made war on any one; they have just simply fought in self-defence. During the last forty years of peace in Germany, they have had opportunity for progress, great improvement being evident, especially in commerce and education, and it is in the commercial world that Germany is the rival of England." He drew attention to the fact that School Cadets, and Boy Scouts, etc., all tend to form a military feeling. In Germany, boys are given an athletic training, purely as drill for the good of the body, but unlike English public schools, never a rifle is seen.

Mr. E. G. Smith (Secretary of the National Peace Society) commented upon the great individual responsibility of each person with respect to peace, there being many influences continually at work to create public opinion in certain directions, and these influences are to be opposed. Although Lord Roberts is doing a great amount of mischief, he did not blame him so much as the clique of which he is the servant, or medium between the clique and public whom they want to influence. He appealed to each one to do all he can to check the influence that is trying to create hatred against Germany.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

A CHILD'S PRAYER.

Father God, both good and kind,
Who will not our failings mind,
Listen to my simple prayer
While angels guard with loving care.

Teach me to live that I may be
From every sin and sorrow free.
Teach me the ways of truth to know
That I each day may brighter grow.

Bless all my friends where'er they be,
Bless father, mother, and bless me.
Bless *all* thy people, black or white,
Keep them safe from morn till night.

Help each one, oh, Father God,
To tread the path bright angels trod,
And when at last our task is o'er
To meet them on a brighter shore.

E. MOULT.

Correspondence.

LYCEUM AND PLATFORM.

Dear Sir,—In your issue for December I am surprised to find your correspondent, Mr. J. R. Latham, affirming, in reply to my letter, that "Scientific proof is not contained in the giving of full data for facts recorded, so much as explaining how the manifestation takes place." I think it will be generally conceded by all intelligent readers that science may be briefly defined as "systematized knowledge of any kind." Now, with all due deference to Mr. J. R. Latham, I think that any one who undertakes to criticise the writings of our best thinkers, and dub their writings as being too "void of tangible proof" to place in the hands of enquirers, should himself be very careful of the selection of his words, or he

himself may be in for a fall. I also beg to submit that "scientific proof is contained in the giving of full data for facts recorded." When a scientist is fully assured of the data of the facts presented to him he begins to seek for a working hypothesis in accordance with the nature of the facts. Mr. Latham seeks to reverse the natural order of scientific procedure by placing the *modus operandi* of how spirit manifestations are produced before he has given or submitted *bona fide* phenomena.

The closing sentence of his letter in your issue for October, to which I referred as cutting the ground from under his own feet, was as follows: "And above all, a realisation in the minds of all that *personal* proof of spirit manifestation is of no use whatever to any one else inasmuch as their belief is concerned." If other people's testimony is of no use to the enquirer, then I submit it is not a question of books, but personal research. When by research they have obtained facts for themselves, then is the time to discuss how the manifestations are produced, and not before. A STUDENT, LEEDS.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

The officers and members of the Executive Council of the above Union will hold their next quarterly meeting at the Victoria Hall, Cheetham Street, Hebdon Bridge, on Saturday, January 11th, 1913, when all applications for membership, invitations for quarterly meetings, etc., etc., will be considered. Tea, social and dance will be held in honour of the visit. Tea at 4-30, social and dance at 7. Tickets 8d. Social and dance only 6d.

Open Sessions will be held on Sunday, January 12th, at 10-30 a.m., and 2-30 p.m. Hymn sheets Nos. 4 and 2, respectively, provided. Tea will be provided at 6d. each.

A Grand Public Meeting will be held at 6 p.m., presided over by Mr. J. Venables, Mayor of Walsall, accompanied by the Mayoress of Walsall, supported by the officers and members of the Executive, who will also address the meeting. Come early and secure a good seat.

ALFRED KITSON, General Secretary.

BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council, held at Radcliffe, on Saturday, November 30th, Mr. Batten, President, presiding over a moderate attendance of delegates. After the minutes of the previous meetings had been confirmed, the D.V.'s and Delegate's report of the U.D.C. were accepted.

The Secretary was instructed to notify all Lyceums in the District two clear Sundays before the Council Meeting, the agenda stating the business for the same meeting.

Resolved—That the marching and calisthenics competition be left on the table till the annual meeting in March.

An interesting discussion took place on marching and calisthenics. That uniformity be obtained and that more variety be introduced. That marching and calisthenics be divided into three series, one taken each Sunday.

It was reported that Platt Bridge Lyceum had closed, there being no officers. It was decided to ask them to re-open, the following offering their services to conduct in turn until they can manage for themselves:—Messrs. J. Shaw, J. Hope, Woodward and Gough.

It was decided that our President convey to Mr. Walsh, our Secretary (who was in the Bolton Infirmary, having gone through an operation), the Council's deepest sympathy, and its earnest prayer that he may soon recover health and strength.

The annual meeting to take place on March 29th, 1913, at Bradford Street, Bolton.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed unanimously to our Radcliffe friends for the hospitable way they provided for us. At the Sunday's meeting Mr. Batten and Mr. Knight were the speakers.

MR. KNIGHT, Secretary, pro. tem.

CORRECTED REPORT OF 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, and Huddersfield, N.E. Lancashire, Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool and Rochdale. 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 report, which showed 9/6 expenditure.

It was decided the 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 "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) It was resolved "That no paper be read until the Conference Agenda is finished at future B.S.L.U. Conferences."

(c) "That any D.C. requesting a special meeting of the U.D.C. shall obtain the support of at least two other D.C.'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 office on E.C. of 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.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Sec.

[NOTE.—The report appearing in last month's issue was printed as supplied.—Ed.]

BRADFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of the above Council was held at Gate Street, Bradford, on Sunday, December 8th, 1912. Our President, Miss Pollard, in the chair. It was decided that our offer to Cleckheaton remain open until a date can be put forward. Halifax and Huddersfield L.D.C. suggested a united field day, consisting of Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield, and Leeds L.D.C.'s, but we decided not to fall in with the suggestion, as we are anticipating one of our own. Mr. Baker was elected as our examiner for our 1913 Lyceum examinations.

It was resolved to support Mr. Rau for the B.S.L.U. E.C. and Mr. Tinker for President. The Secretary was elected delegate to the Annual Conference.

Miss Pollard will represent our D.C. at the next U.D.C. meeting. The annual meeting will be held at Keighley, on Sunday, March 2nd, 1913, and the quarterly meeting at Dudley Hill, on June 8th, 1913.

H. BIRDSALL.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD D.C.

The next meeting of the above Council will be held at Sowerby Bridge on Sunday, January 19th, 1913. Business meeting 10-30 a.m. Afternoon, Open Session. Business of vital interest to all Lyceums will be dealt with, therefore see to your Lyceum being fully represented.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Ossett, on December 15th.

A good number of Delegates and Associate Members were present, business being gone through with a genial spirit.

The old visiting plan is now reinstated, and it is hoped that all Lyceums will work together for the good of the whole, and the success of the plan in general.

Mr. Beety was elected as Council representative to the Conference of 1913.

It was resolved (a) That we have one neutral judge for our forthcoming competition. (b) That a silver bell be competed for, the same to be used by the winning Lyceum during the year of supremacy. (c) That the bell become the property of the Lyceum winning it three years in succession. (d) That we accept the invitation given by Halifax and Huddersfield Council to hold a joint Field Day and Demonstration during 1913. (e) That Mr. Lee and Mr. Beety be delegates from the Council to the *Messenger Guild* Conference. (f) That Lyceums take up a special collection before the end of January for the benefit of Council Funds. (g) That the next meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, March 1st.

The Lyceum Open Session was conducted by Mr. Lee, assisted by delegates to the Council. Short addresses were given in the evening by Messrs. Lee, Fawcett, Colbeck, Sykes, France (H. & H.D.C.), Mrs. Thornes and Miss Hesp.

A. HESP, Secretary.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A social, held on Saturday, November 30th, at Food Reform Hall, Furnival Street, Holborn, was a decided success. W. Brooking acted as M.C. The artistes were the Misses Barnes and E. Glennie, Mr. Rand and W. Brooking, who obliged with songs; Mr. Alcock Rush with comic stories; and recitations from the Misses D. Steel and Doris Richmond; also a few

words from our President, Mr. Smyth, and Mr. Tayler Gwynn. Mr. Barrington considerably helped us by acting as Marshall of Stewards, and as stated before it was a decided success. We think this a grand opportunity of bringing Lyceums together, it was well represented by many London Lyceums, and we hope to have another social before the end of the season.

On December 15th we held our quarterly meeting at 84, Stockwell Park Road, when there were present Mr. Smyth, Mr. and Mrs. Clegg, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ashley, of Fulham, Mr. Watthey, of Plumstead, and two friends from Chester.

In the afternoon the marching and calisthenics were good. We had good pearls and recitations, and also good solos and duets, and altogether a splendid and harmonious session.

In the evening we had addresses from several speakers on Lyceum Work. One discordant note was struck when it was announced with regret that owing to circumstances of the lease having expired, it was not possible for the moment to carry on the good work that has been going on during the last three years. But it is hoped to be reconstituted in the New Year. Wishing all our friends and co-workers the season's greeting.

ALEX. BROOKING.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held in Vernon Street Temple, Nelson, on Saturday, December 14th. Mr. H. Hargreaves, President of the Council, presided, and pointed out several features of the work that we had in hand in our District. The minutes of previous meeting were accepted as a correct record. The Secretary's report, the Treasurer's report, and the D.V. and Assistant D.V.'s reports were all accepted. A letter was read from Mr. Kitson *re* the closing of Salford Lyceum, Blackburn, and it was decided that a deputation from the E.C. pay them a visit. (Mr. Higham, the District Secretary, was deputed, and he paid them a visit and reported to the D.V.) Messrs. Higham and Hargreaves gave the report of the U.D.C. Meeting, held at Rochdale, which created a good discussion.

The balance sheet of the Southport Demonstration was accepted. The question of transferring the Camp Scheme Fund was deferred for three months. The Credential Committee reported that there were present—Delegates 25, Associates 3, Visitors 13, E.C. Members 4, total 45.

Mrs. Stables, Nelson; Mr. T. Chadwick, Nelson; and Mr. T. Edwards, Blackburn, were appointed Assistant District Visitors for the quarter. Messrs. Higham and Hargreaves were appointed delegates to next U.D.C. meeting at Sheffield. The question of how to celebrate the forthcoming Jubilee of the Lyceum movement was then discussed, and it was decided that each Lyceum in our district should hold an Open Jubilee Session on Sunday, January 26th, 1913, and that a collection be taken at such session on behalf of the District Council Funds. The E.C. were empowered to prepare a suitable programme for same. The Adjudicator's report, as printed in the BANNER, was accepted. It was decided that we continue the Shield Competition next year, and that Mr. Elliott should again be the adjudicator. Messrs. Hargreaves and Latham were selected as suitable candidates to be nominated for the E.C. of the B.S.L.U. On the question of the publication of a new Hymn Sheet it was resolved that the delegates take the matter back to their respective Lyceums and report the result to the Secretary within a month. The question of a National Examination was deferred for further consideration.

The following notice of motion for next Conference was passed, viz., "That we, the North-East Lancashire District Council, are of opinion that the time has come for the Permanent Secretary Fund to be abolished." Hammerton Street, Burnley, was selected for holding our next Council Meeting in March, and Earby was selected for our June meeting. It was decided that we hold a special meeting of the District Council before the Conference, to discuss the question of the legalisation of the B.S.L.U. Time and place to be left in the hands of the E.C.

Votes of thanks to our Nelson friends for kind invitation and entertainment brought a heavy business meeting to a close. The following Lyceums were represented:—Rawtenstall; North Street, Burnley; Earby; Hammerton Street, Burnley; Colne; St. Peter Street, Blackburn; Rishton; Nelson; Great Harwood; Padiham; Brierfield; Northgate, Blackburn; and Blackpool. 13 Lyceums represented.

GEO. C. HIGHAM, Secretary.

ROCHDALE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Bacup on Saturday, December 14th, Mr. G. F. Knott, President, in the chair. Minutes and correspondence were confirmed. The various reports, Auditor's, United District Council's, Presentation to Mr. A. Taylor, and District Visitor's, were adopted.

We regretted the resignation of one of our Auditors, Mr. Cockcroft (Royton). It was decided to send Mr. Knott as our representative to U.D.C. Sheffield meeting in February. Also that Secretary write U.D.C. secretary, calling attention to the omission of the R.D.C. notice of motion passed at the November meeting, "That no paper be read until the Conference agenda is finished at future Conferences of the B.S.L.U., in his report to the December BANNER. That our delegate oppose any scheme of National Examinations to be brought up for consideration at the next U.D.C. meeting. Royton, who celebrate their coming of age next year, applied for the 1913 Demonstration, but there being a feeling amongst some of the delegates in favour of the abolition of this annual gathering, and having no mandate from the Lyceums for such a course of action, it was decided to refer the matter back to the separate Lyceums for their serious consideration, and will be dealt with at the next quarterly meeting in March. Date and place to be named later. Decided to ask Mr. Fallas (Oldham, Union Street) to take up the vacant position of Auditor.

Subsequent to the meeting, some of the delegates returned to the Hall, in Market Street, and enjoyed the social that was proceeding there. During the time the delegates were partaking tea, one of the youngest members of the Bacup Lyceum, Miss Gladys May Holmes, prettily recited "An Ode of Welcome to the Delegates," composed for the occasion by one of the Lyceum officers, which was much appreciated. Mr. H. Buckley attended as a prospective delegate for Oldham, Coronation Street, when they have joined the B.S.L.U.

AMOS HARRIS, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council held its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 8th, in the Balaclava Road Rooms. Mr. R. Bowmer was elected to the chair, in the absence of the President, Mr. Nelson.

Mr. E. Vickers, our D.V., was asked to stand as candidate for E.C. of B.S.L.U., to be put up for election next Conference. Mr. Vickers intimated to us that he is a willing candidate.

U.D.C. report was given, and accepted with thanks. Will Lyceums in or out of the Sheffield District take notice of the following motion in regard to the Education Scheme:—"That monies and names be in by the end of February, and date for examination be April 3rd, 7-30 to 9-30 (Thursday)." For those who don't understand what is meant by monies, each sitter in the examination must pay 6d. to defray expenses of printing, etc.

The Council spent a very enjoyable time with the Balaclava Road Lyceum and friends.

I am pleased to mention that we all felt quite at home and welcome.

The next meeting of the Council will be at Attercliffe. Date later.

C. H. SAXELBY.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL EDUCATION SCHEME.

I have been requested by my Council to make a few statements regarding the above.

Classes are being held at a few Lyceums in the district, lectures being given weekly in conjunction with the pamphlet, "Useful Information for Lyceumists." The examination will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, 1913, and the last day for entrance is February 28th.

Will all Lyceums in the district kindly forward names of candidates and fees not later than the above date, as the S.D.C. cannot bind themselves to accept any further application after February.

Entrance fee 6d. each. Certificates will be given upon results. 75 per cent. and over, first class; 50 per cent. and under 75 per cent., second class. Centres and time of examination will be published later.

Any Lyceum, apart from Sheffield, who are desirous that their Lyceumists should sit for the examination, will be supplied with all the necessary papers, and certificates given as per Sheffield Lyceums. Lyceum committees making the necessary arrangements for holding the examination.

Now is the opportunity for all Lyceumists who are desirous of improving themselves. Are you going to miss it? If not commence at once and study, and in the end the reward of your exertions will be that you will have a better idea of the value of the Lyceum and Spiritualist movements. Furthermore, you may rise to be fit and capable exponents of our glorious science and religion.

We understand that education is the "unfoldment of the faculties." If this is so, are you going to delay at least one part in the unfoldment of your personality? If you realise your responsibility we feel assured that you will commence at once in the attempt to understand the truths of life.

We hope, therefore, that you will earnestly consider this appeal and do your best in the matter.

We are, yours very sincerely,

Organiser—ERNEST VICKERS.

Secretary—GEORGE MAGNESS.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

RULE 1.—Reports must be written on one side of the paper only. Commence the Report by stating the name of your Lyceum, and sign your name at the end.

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after December 24th.

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, Jan. 22nd, to ensure insertion in the February issue.

BACUP.—On Saturday, December 14th, the Delegates of the R.D.C. were present with us, and Miss Gladys Holme gave a welcome to them for the Lyceum. A party and social were held and was fairly enjoyed. On Sunday, December 22nd, we held our election of officers.—Conductor, Mary Ellen Brine; Assistant, Mrs. Friend; Secretary, William Nixon; Treasurer, Amos Harris; Guardian, Olivia Martin; Assistant, William Holmes; Librarian, Gerty Hallam; Assistant, Nellie Martin; Captain of Guards, Amos Harris; *pro tem* Lady Captain, Hetty Martin; Delegates, Secretary and Treasurer.—William Nixon, Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMSBURY (Crawford Street).—On Sunday, December 22nd, the election of officers took place for the coming year, the following being elected: Mr. W. H. Shergold, Conductor; Mr. H. Bromage, Secretary; Miss Elsie Phipps, Assistant Secretary; Miss Ada Priestnall, Librarian; Mr. W. Page, Treasurer; Mr. J. J. Thompson, Musical Conductor; Mr. A. Keay, Guardian; Miss Maud Ashford and Master W. Page, Guards. This Lyceum have returned to their old times, viz., 3 p.m.—Vera Marshall, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL.—December 8th was election of officers:—Conductor, Mr. Swan; Assistants, Mr. Eaton and Miss Stott; Secretary, Fred Bird; Guardian, Tom Meadows; Librarian, Fred Bird; Captain of Guards, Mr. Shufflebotham; Guards, Messrs. Hopwood and Wrigley; Leaders, Mesdames Hulme, Shufflebotham and Dixon, Messrs. Eaton and Shufflebotham; Visiting Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Shufflebotham, Misses Stott and Bird. Wednesday, we held a Social and Dance, for the benefit of an old pioneer now in Canada, who met with a serious accident. Very amusing was the Waxwork Show, Lyceumists as models, with Mrs. Dixon as Showwoman. Songs by Misses Needham, Warton, Parker and Ackroyd, Messrs. Stott and Clayton; recitation, Mr. Ackroyd; dialogue, Misses Howe and Fox. A beauty competition aroused much enthusiasm.—Fred Bird, Secretary.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On Saturday, December 7th, the Lyceumists held a social evening. Songs were well rendered by Miss Doris McGreaves and Messrs. Dowling and Isherwood. Dancing and games were also indulged in. We held our half-yearly meeting on December 8th, for the election of officers for 1913. Conductor, Miss Metcalfe; Assistant Conductor, Miss A. Davenport; Secretary, Wm. Smith; Musical Conductors, Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Ridings; Marching and Calisthenics, Mr. J. Flanagan; Guardian, Mr. Davenport; Guards, H. Speakman and Wm. Green; Treasurer, Mrs. McGreaves.—Wm. Smith, Secretary.

BRADFORD, LITTLE HORTON (Gage Street).—On Sunday, December 8th, the morning session was devoted to District Council business. In the afternoon the following recited:—H. Robinson, V. Snarey and Mrs. A. Bell. Solos by Misses G. Pammerton, A. Green, Master V. Snarey, Mr. W. Robinson and H. Birdsall. Readings, Mrs. Plumb and Mrs. A. Pammerton. Two prizes were awarded, one to V. Snarey for reciting, and one to Miss G. Pammerton for singing. Mr. Barnes, the judge, also gave one to Miss H. Robinson for marching. Miss K. Ramsden officiated at the piano and Mr. Barnes conducted. A pleasant day was spent.—W. Robinson, Secretary.

BRIERFIELD.—In connection with the Lyceum "At Homes" were held on Friday and Saturday, November 29th and 30th. On the Friday the guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves, of Nelson. Mr. J. E. Elliott presided, and the Opener was Mr. H. Crossley. On the Saturday the guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Latham, of Burnley. Mr. S. Stephenson presided, and Mrs. Lizzie Nurse, of Rochdale, was the Opener. Considering that there were all classes and denominations there, we hope it will be the means of creating a greater interest in our movement.—Clement Bannister, Lyceum Secretary.

BURNLEY (Hammerton Street).—On Sunday, December 1st, we held our usual Open Session, Mr. Rickard being Conductor. Recitations were given by Misses W. Thompson and E. Parkington. Readings by Miss C. Smith and Miss Baldwin. Songs by Miss A. Broadley and S. Hoole. Afterwards a pleasant duty was performed by Mrs. Rhodes, of Brierfield, in the naming of a child belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Davis. A short address was then given by Mr. Davis, of Bradford, the speaker for the day. Altogether we had a very good session.—Harry Bannister, Secretary.

BURNLEY (North Street).—On Sunday, December 8th, we held our half-yearly meeting. The election of officers was as follows:—Conductors, Mr. Wm. Brooks and Mrs. M. E. Pickles; Secretary, Mr. John C. Y. Laycock; Leaders of Liberty Group, Mrs. Poppleton and Mr. H. E. Laycock; Calisthenics Leaders, Misses A. J. Howsin and B. Griffin; Captain of Guards, Mr. J. South; Guards, Mr. G. Wilkinson and Miss B. Griffin; Flower Guild, Misses F. Wallwork and D. Love. It was decided that the classes should be disbanded for six months, as an experiment, and the Lyceum shall close at 11 o'clock. The discussion class will be held from 11 till 12.—John C. Y. Laycock, Secretary.

CHADDERTON (off Brook Street).—On December 1st we held our quarterly session. In the afternoon we had a pleasant session, consisting of readings, marching and calisthenics, a recitation by Grace Rogers, "My birthday," and "The Wreck of the Titanic" by Willie Dixon; "The hero of a slum," Miss E. Thornton. Solos were rendered by Florrie Evans, May Evans, Hannah Rogers and Mrs. Oldfield. Mr. Oldfield conducted the marching, calisthenics, C. P. Ingham, C. Worrall and L. Hamer. Friends present from Hudson Street, Hollinwood.—Mrs. M. Oldfield, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—We held our usual Open Session on Sunday, December 8th, when the following items were much appreciated:—Recitations by Ethel Wale, Lily Marriott, Florrie Smith, Edith Woodyer, Alice Smith, Evelyn Elliott, Willie Latham, George Smith and George Roberts. A dialogue by Edith Herrot and Evelyn Philpot, and a violin solo by Ernest Hobster. We should like to extend the heartiest season's greetings to all Lyceumists at home and abroad for a prosperous and progressive New Year.—Edwin H. Widdowson, Secretary.

EARBY.—On Sunday, December 1st, we held our Open Session. A moderate attendance of Lyceumists and friends. Miss Mary Wilkinson gave an essay on "The Balkan War." Mr. G. Bradley also gave a paper on "South Africa," sent to him by a Lyceum scholar who is out there. Misses A. Benbridge, Ward and W. Warrington recited from the *Manual*. Songs and duets were rendered by M. England, R. Ward, M. Ward and S. Hogkinson. Taking the session on the whole, it was very instructive and educational.—J. W. Clark, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkeley Street).—We held our annual Social and Dance on Friday, December 20th. Mr. Stewart, our esteemed Conductor, presided. Accompanying him on the platform were Mr. Knox (South Africa), Mr. Scott, Mr. Galloway and Mr. Wright. Several songs and sketches were rendered during the evening by Lyceumists and friends. The evening all over was a most enjoyable one. The Literary Society in connection with our Lyceum is proving a great success, one night being devoted to a "Municipal Election." There was great amusement as the different candidates aired their views, expressing what he or she would do if returned by the electors at the poll. The ladies displayed great enthusiasm on this particular night.—C. S. Rothead, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, December 1st. The silver chain was led by Mrs. Groves. The musical reading by Miss M. A. Holt, Fred Hindle and Wilfred Taylor. The golden chain by Mrs. Holt. Recitations were rendered by Alfred Ainsworth, Will Thornley and Walter Taylor, followed by a solo by Miss M. A. Holt, and a duet by Wilfred Taylor and Fred Hindle. Our Lyceum has taken on the working of the church, and I trust that the elders who have been chosen for the church committee will be more interested in the responsibility of their office, that they may be able to show by their efforts a great success.—Mr. R. Baxter, Secretary.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street).—On Saturday, November 23rd, we held a Tea and Concert. After tea a grand programme was rendered by the Lyceumists, which consisted of songs, part-song, recitations, duets, and a good dialogue, which was well rendered, entitled "A domineering wife." On Dec. 15th the election of officers took place, when the following were elected:—Conductors, Miss L. Adams and Elkins; Marching conductor, Mr. Gough; Leaders, Miss Kate Robson and A. Hayward; Librarians, Alice Fernihough and Emily Hayward; Treasurer, Miss Adams; Secretary, R. Frost. There is a falling off in the Lyceum. An earnest appeal is being made to build up the Lyceum again.—R. Frost, Secretary.

HUDDERSFIELD (Ramsden Street).—On Saturday, Dec. 14th, we held an "At Home" to mark the occasion of the marriage (which took place in October) of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Peel, née Miss H. Jessop, our Conductor. Our good friend Mr. Briggs, president of the Society, presented the happy pair with a visible token of their good wishes and high esteem, which consisted of a beautiful tea service, with tea pot and hot water jug. Good words were spoken by the recipients, expressing their deep feeling for friendship truly formed. I am pleased to say that we still have them with us as active workers. A most enjoyable evening was spent.—Tom Ellis, Secretary.

KEIGHLEY (Heber Street).—We held our usual monthly Open Session on December 1st. Miss Fossey conducted the session in her admirable manner. The silver chain readings, Nos. 8 and 9, were taken by Mr. E. Shackleton. Miss G. Hughill sweetly rendered No. 213. A duet was sung by Misses E. Smith and C. Eckroyd. Miss Olive Teal gave two short recitations. Mr. A. Midgley gave a reading, entitled "A poor man's wish." Mrs. Ruth Darby, of Birkenhead, spoke a few encouraging words. Mr. Summer, who took charge of the marching, put the Lyceumists through in an excellent way, which seems to put a new life into everyone of them. It was a pleasure to see a few elders present.—E. Shackleton.

LANCASTER (Collegian Rooms).—Wet weather spoiled our Open Session, not many being able to attend, but the best was made under the conditions. Mrs. Preston and John Kirk opened with a duet. Mr. Clarkson's trio suitably responded. Lizzie Askew gave a solo. Recitations were as follow:—Mr. A. Bleasdale and J. Thompson. Many important items will be overcome, I hope, before the new year dawns, but it will need the energy of all leaders and friends to make for success. The children are looking forward to their Prize Distribution, which takes place the first Sunday in the New Year, where the service of song seems to be enjoyed by all. Here is a chance for local talent.—J. Kirk.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—I am pleased to report that we have had no further decrease in our numbers since my last report. We have made several new members, and we hope to reach our normal standard before the new year has advanced far. We trust that each and every one have had a most enjoyable and happy Christmas, and will experience a bright and prosperous new year. A number of our Lyceumists are promoting a sketch party, which they contemplate performing ere long. I am sure we wish them success in their efforts.—J. C. Butler, Secretary.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—On Sunday, December 1st, we held our Open Session, about 60 Lyceumists taking part. Good explanations were given of the silver and golden chain recitations. Pearls were also very good. Recitations were given by the following:—Misses Blackshaw, Woodward, Martin, and Masters Seddon and Gill. The third series were taken in the calisthenics for the first time in our Lyceum, and all seemed to go with a swing. The evening service was conducted by Lyceumists only. Mr. Massey, Woodward and Stirrup gave short addresses, Miss Gregory taking the chair. Mr. Walley gave clairvoyance at the 8 o'clock service.—J. Hurdus, Sec.

LONDON, CAMBERWELL.—On December 1st we had Mr. Barton at our Lyceum, who gave the invocation. During the session we had the election of officers for the following year:—Mr. Richards, was elected Conductor; Mr. Williams, Assistant Conductor, resigning his post as Leader of the Liberty Group; Mr. Stott as Guardian; Mr. Nutcutt as Treasurer; Mrs. Draxler being elected as leader of the Liberty Group. Afterwards the Liberty Group adjourned to the small room and Mr. Barton addressed them on "The Christ of the Soul, and the larger Christ of the Cosmo," following with a discussion from the members of the Liberty Group, who felt greatly benefited by the address.—J. J. Draxler, Secretary.

NORTH LONDON, HOLLOWAY.—During the month pearls, recitations and solos have been beautifully rendered. Our Assistant Conductor, Miss M. Hall, and our Guardian, Miss N. C. Whorlow, presented the Lyceum with a beautiful banner, embracing the B.S.L.U.'s objects, and with the year 1863 in the centre of a rising sun and brilliant rays of our

truth's emanating from it. The words, "For God, for Brotherhood and the Angels" handsomely worked in silk. We are proud and value this token of our glorious cause. On the 22nd our ever-welcome friends, Mr. G. R. Symons and his wife, visited us and addressed the Lyceumists appropriately on this festive season, emphasising the act of forgiveness and charity, a beautiful lesson being taught.—J. Forsyth, Conductor.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—We are to have a Tea and Christmas Tree on January 8th and are looking forward to a most enjoyable time. Our old friend and worker, Mr. Croft, has sent his greetings and cheering message from Ireland, for which we are truly grateful. On December 18th, our co-worker, Mr. Selge, gave a Lantern-Entertainment, which was very much enjoyed by the scholars present, and a good programme was gone through. One surprise was the pictures, thrown on the screen, of the Groups of Lyceumists present at our Annual Outing and the spirit painting presented by Mrs. Blanche Petz, which were heartily applauded. We are pleased to report bright sessions and good attendance.—H. Watthey, Secretary.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—During the month the sessions have been well attended, but I must say that the response to the recitations has not been supported very much just lately. Now, I hope the children will look to this and give as many as possible in future, so that the report will be better next month. On Saturday, December 21st, we held a social in aid of the Lyceum funds, and we are pleased to say it was well appreciated. We now take the opportunity of thanking all who came to take part in any way to make the social such a success.—H. Hislop, Assistant Conductor and Secretary.

MANCHESTER, HARPURHEY (Mitford Street).—Annual election of officers, December 8th. Conductor, Miss Elliott; Sub-Conductor, Miss E. Smith; Treasurer, Mr. Frith; Secretary, W. Robins; Guardian, Miss Walton; Calisthenics Conductor, W. Robins; Assistant, Miss H. Farrer; Musical Director, Master George Smith, assisted by Miss L. Smith; Captain of Guards, Mr. H. Moss. I regret to announce the passing away of one of our dearest Lyceumists, after a long and weary illness, Miss Cissie Smith, on December 16th (in her 27th year). Having been brought up in the Lyceum Cause. We sadly miss her material presence, but have consolation in the knowledge that her spiritual presence will be known in our Lyceum, as her heart and soul was in Lyceum work amongst the children.—Walter Robins, Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Our Lyceum Anniversary was held on Sunday, November 24th, when there was a very good attendance. Recitations were given by the following:—Annie Bessant, Queenie Abbot, Edward Nellist, Minnie Bessant, Geo. Nellist, Violet Edmunds, W. Nellist, Muriel Pattison, Ruth Nellist and Ethel Nellist. The first three mentioned were the recipients of prizes for their recitations. A solo was given by Jennie Mattock, entitled "Nazareth," and Mr. Sedgwick read the musical reading.—Harry S. Linton, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, BENWELL (Co-op. Hall).—On Sunday, December 1st, we held our Open Sessions. The usual programme was gone through. We had for our speaker on this occasion Miss Mary Brown, who addressed the Lyceum on the Three Rules. The address was an interesting one, and attentively listened to. Our sister, in her remarks, dwelt mainly on the necessity of living up to the third of these rules, to "return good for evil," whenever the opportunity presented itself. On Wednesday, the 4th, we held a Social and Dance, in aid of funds. During the past month there has been a slackness in attendance, due in some cases to sickness.—Wm. Stock, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON.—On Sunday, Dec. 1st, we held our Open Session and had a very successful time. Recitations were given by Beatrice Eke, Cora Gay, Doris Edminson, Lily Taylor, Lily Scorer, Mabel Blair, Edith Forster, Ralph Eke, Fred Eke, J. W. Ronaldson and Ralph Blair. On Sunday, the 8th inst., we had a visit from Mr. Taylor, District Visitor. We are anticipating a good time at the children's treat on December 26th.—J. Ronaldson, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (Rutherford Street).—On Dec. 1st, we held our Open Session when there was a fairly good attendance. Solos were ably rendered by Misses E. Elnor, E. Chambers and Blanche McFadden and Master E. Curtis. Recitations were given by Miss Katie Hall and Dorothy Brinklow. A reading was also given from the *Lyceum Manual* by Miss Taylor, and Mr. Brinklow; and Pearls were given by many of the younger Lyceumists. A most successful and enjoyable session was spent by all.—E. T. Secretary.

OLDHAM (Union Street).—We held our Lyceum Social on December 14th, which was a very enjoyable one, as all our Socials are. On Sunday, December 15th, we had the pleasure of having with us our District Visitor, Mr. Chisnall, who is one of our old Lyceumists, and I am sure he was interested in the lecture on "Home Influences," which was given in the

Liberty Group, by Mr. Adlam. Our Lyceum is making good headway. So you see, dear readers, Oldham (Central) is not dead yet, and by the time this report appears, I hope you will have had a Bright and Jolly Christmas.—George W. Wilson, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—On Saturday, December 21st., we held our first Annual Tea Party, Entertainment and Distribution of Prizes since its reformation. About 150 Lyceumists and friends sat down to an enjoyable tea. At 7 o'clock the Prizes were distributed by our Conductor, Mr. Seanor, who was ably supported by our Assistant Conductor, Mr. Lingard. There were about 36 Prizes distributed, and Mr. Seanor spoke words of encouragement to each recipient. A lengthy Programme was afterwards gone through by a number of our Lyceumists, consisting of songs and recitations, etc., and a dialogue by eight of the elder Lyceumists. Mr. Lingard presided and made appropriate remarks on each item. All credit it due to those who helped to make it such a successful day.—Mary Taylor, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—On December 7th, we had our Lyceum Tea Party and Distribution of Prizes, and a very good entertainment was given by the scholars. The first was a Cantata, entitled "The White Garland." An action song was given, entitled "The Donkey," which was much appreciated. Great praise being due to Mrs. Lizzie Nurse and Mr. J. Farrow for their time and patience in training the children. A dialogue entitled, "The Outcast" was given by four of the elder scholars which had a very good moral tone. Much amusement was caused by the Minstrels and a "stump speech." Recitations and songs were also given, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Nurse distributed the prizes, and A. Hudson presided.—John Firth (Senior).

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Thursday, November 21st, our Dramatic Club gave a concert in aid of the society building fund. We were able to hand over a very good profit. On Sunday, December 1st we held our usual Open Session when a good number of Lyceumists were present. Recitations were given by Cyril Truelove, Frances Evans, Nora Hampson, Doris Helliwell, Evelyn Wainwright, Joe Hopkins, Thomas Hopkins, Nellie Bearde, Ada Whatmore, James Porter and Flo Verni. A very good session was held under the conductorship of our Assistant Conductor, Miss Thickett. We, the members of Heeley Lyceum send our best wishes for a prosperous New Year to all Lyceumists.—George Hy. Magness, Secretary.

SHILDON (Newlands Avenue).—On Saturday, December 14th, a grand concert was given by the Lyceum, consisting of glees, action songs, comic songs, duets and quartettes, and a very laughable sketch entitled "Sally's Peppermint." The concert was a good success, and very much enjoyed. Great credit is due to Mrs. Weirs and Mrs. Hunter for the able manner in which they conducted, and all those who took part. The chairmanship was very ably carried out by Mr. J. Howe, of Etherby. We were also favoured with a recitation from an old Lyceumist of Spennymoor, entitled "War."—J. Wilson, Sec.

SHIPLEY.—We held our annual members' meeting on Sunday, December 8th, for the election of officers for the year 1913, a good number being present. The following were elected: Conductor, Mr. Oldfield; Assistants, Mr. Hutchinson, Miss L. Clark, Miss S. Holdsworth, Miss M. Winterbottom, and Master H. Cloughton; Treasurer, Miss L. Clarke; Secretary, Mr. E. H. Coles; Musical Conductor, Mr. E. H. Coles; Assistant, Miss H. Oldfield; Guardian, Miss S. Holdsworth; Assistant, Master H. Cloughton; Leaders, Miss E. A. Clarke and Master T. Oldfield; Librarians, Sarah and Alice Robinson.—E. H. Coles, Secretary.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—On December 1st, we had an Open Session, which, I am sorry to say, was very poorly attended. A beautiful frosty morning which no doubt kept some of the Lyceumists away. But I hope that when the New Year comes in, there will be more enthusiasm in our Lyceums. I hope that the motto we have, will be taken to heart and that is, "The workers win." I am very sorry to say that our musical Conductor, Mr. Christopher, has had the misfortune to have his arm broken, but all wish him a speedy recovery.—H. W. Westbrook, Secretary.

WINNIPEG (Polson Avenue).—I have great pleasure in reporting that on Sunday, December 8th, we opened our Lyceum, in the new Church we have just built on Polson Avenue, and although our Lyceum is only small in numbers we are hoping that in the near future we shall be one of the strongholds of our movement in Canada. We had a very pleasant session, and considering that we have had no marching for over four months we did very well. Our Conductor, and several others spoke words of encouragement, and appealed to all to try and make the Lyceum a success. I hope and trust that good will and harmony will ever prevail in our new sphere of labour.—John Parkinson, Secretary (late of Burnley).