

THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XXIII. No. 265.

FEBRUARY, 1913.

ONE PENNY.

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

CHAPTER XV (Continued).

"He has had experience, Mrs. Blake, he has known the needs of the death-hour, and if he forgets he entails upon himself a second trial."

"And so you really have found peace at last, Mr. Mackenzie."

"Yes, my dear Mrs. Blake; and now if you will be kind enough to advise *her*—her people are bigoted on other subjects beside religion."

I understood the gentleman perfectly well, giving him a promise to do many favours for Hope.

"All's well that ends well," he gaily said when he bade me good day.

When he had gone I sat down to reflect upon the strange ways of this strange world. Cutty came in presently bringing her books, and we enjoyed two hours of quiet chat, during which I rehearsed Mr. Mackenzie's experience, to the great delight of my darling. Clapping her hands she exclaimed:

"Oh, if Lizzie Holt had only been with the Deacon!"

CHAPTER XVI.

Down comes the first snow-flakes of the season. And I sit calmly musing about my precious Cecil! Hush! I hear his voice and feel his gentle touch upon my cheek—and with him comes another one. Charlie! Oh, why did I not know him? There seems wafted across me a breath fragrant and soft; my breathing is easy; the body grows restful, while the soul calmly is filling itself with a restful aura. I seem to realise that the body is no necessary part of the true self.

Charlie says, "Annie, it is well with me. 'Death is,' as you said, 'an archway crowned with flowers.' The knell, the shroud, the bier, the tomb, and worms, are the foolish terrors of the living. Do you remember, dear sister, when I stood by Cecil's grave, I denounced the monster Death? I thought him a conqueror; but now I know he hath no power only to lead us to the real birth-place of the soul. I thank God that our spirits are made too big for earth. Oh, Annie! Cecil and I can tell you the setting of life's sun is full of music; but the people of earth mistake and believe it dawneth at the birth. I pity those who live, and have lived all their days dreading death, and who never look above the fear of dying; enshrouded by that uncertainty which attends even him who has preached heaven and faith. You think of spirit as a formless vapour, a smoke, a steam. I tell you when your eyes shall be opened, you shall find no perfect thing ever existed in the realm of matter. When you behold the spiritual body you will know homely manifestation of it has been the physical body. When friends die, do not

mourn or sigh, but as you gaze on them think of them as having emerged into real, joyous, bounteous life. You will miss them—aye, for this the eyelashes must be heavily weighted with tears—but do not grieve the departed soul by undue mourning; it deters its upward march. Through magnetic sympathy the spiritual eye turneth itself and resteth with sadness on the mourner. When you have taught yourselves to hold death in its proper place, then shall the sorrow of the departed be submerged in joy. We watch for your coming; we note each incident and accident in your lives.

"Time is less with us than with you. We make ready a home, we plant the vine, and sow the seed of flowers like those which blossomed around our earthly homes. We can work with glad hearts, for we behold that your earth-life is wise and true."

"Tears and groans! We have none to keep us away from our Father's business. Your smiles cheer us. Write to Agnes, my dear wife, and tell her I so much like that cross and wreath of immortals, also the unique stone. Tell her I was there with her last Thursday, and could but smile with the conversation she held with our precious Gertrude. Give the child her father's love, and tell her to remember my request 'not to cry.' Cecil holds my hand, and now we must go and work upon our beautiful home, lest it be not ready for you; for we have other duties that cannot be neglected."

I moved—my eyes were not shut. I gazed around me. The voice had ceased. I held my hands to my ears. What was it? Ah! no miracle—no! I had seen and heard. I had been in the true normal state—in converse with the dear departed. The heavens will open to the pure in spirit. By natural unfoldment we denude ourselves of earthly grossness, forgetting materiality, we open wide the doors of the soul for spiritual influx.

What! snowing still? I had forgotten—what time is it? Ah! here comes my adopted daughter. "Cutty, dear, how long have I been sitting here?"

She laughingly exclaimed, "Oh, dear mother! I came up an hour ago and found you so peaceful—scarcely breathing, and you looked so happy! I only peeped in—I knew Cecil must be here; was he?"

"Yes, Cutty; and Charlie too."

"Have they?" she exclaimed; and added, "Oh! I shall be so happy when I learn how to hold communication with mother, father, and Johnny!"

I heard a light tap at the door and the next instant Jennie entered with the information that Lizzie Holt had come home.

"Is she ill?" I asked.

"No, ma'am, their man who had just called said she'd been sent home."

"Will it do for me to go over and call upon her?" ask Cutty.

"Not quite yet, dear," I replied.

Cutty passed a restless night. She said, "Lizzie Holt so near, and I cannot see her! it makes me exceedingly nervous."

(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.]

THE PHYSICAL BODY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS AS SEEN BY SPIRIT PEOPLE.

A further surprise awaits the new born spirits when they visit their late earthly home and inmates, for they look upon the scene with their spiritual vision which enables them to see that every object in the home has its spirit duplicate. Thus the chairs, tables, sofas, etc., and the inmates have a real appearance and a shadowy one, and strange to say that which appeared to be so real and solid to them when in earth-life, now appears to be transparent and unreal, while the invisible spiritual counterpart becomes the real, and substantial. Similarly the physical bodies and their clothing appear shadowy, while their spiritual counterparts are the real. These counterparts are not separated but are interblended, which causes them to be one inseparable substance so long as the spiritual tie is maintained. When, by the death of the physical body, the spiritual counterpart becomes separated from it, it continues to exist as already described.

The newly born spirit may approach those it has left. It is very sensible of their grief at its apparent death, and will approach them in its own familiar way to comfort them. It may speak, and they do not hear; it tries to touch them, and they do not feel; it stands in front of them, and they do not see it. Then it begins to understand the limits of the senses of the physical body, those dear ones living in them are deaf, dumb, and blind to the presence of those they mourn as dead.

You may imagine what a sore disappointment this is to the arisen spirit who feels drawn to the side of those it has loved, by their grief and sorrow on its account, and it will turn to the kind spirit friends who have drawn near to help if possible, and they will teach them how to wait till the minds of the mourners are calm and passive, and then speak close to their ear when the words of the spirit may slowly enter the brain as comforting thoughts, though they do not know where they come from, and so assume they are their own.

So you see the physical body is like a machine, controlled and kept in order by the indwelling spirit which sees and feels through the body, and is under the delusion that there is no other existence except that of the world it is living in. From this mistaken idea has arisen the materialism of the past ages, which has been shared by the spiritual teachers or pastors of the various religious persuasions, who have assumed that a resurrection of the physical was absolutely necessary for the soul to dwell in. They were not aware that the soul, during its earth life, had prepared for itself a superior, spiritual body, as its habitation.

Another matter of surprise to the spirit is that it is not only able to hear all that is said, and see all that is done without being seen and heard itself, but it also hears the unspoken thoughts. The thoughts and muttered speeches of people in the flesh, are often very disagreeable to listen to, even when coming from some of the best men and women,

and are often of such a disagreeable nature as to shock their spirit friends. It is often very unpleasant to have to listen to the remarks that friends and relatives, and strangers make about one another, and the vile and wicked things people think about; it is quite refreshing to meet a pure minded man and woman. We know that even pure-minded people cannot always keep evil thoughts from coming into their heads, but if they knew, as we know, how they affect them they would strive to banish them at once instead of harbouring them. This is one reason why advanced spirit people do not care to be much in the company of earth people because their thoughts are too often about unworthy or impure things.

The arisen spirit is often surprised to find some bright guardian spirit with people whose speech and thoughts are unworthy of the society or companionship of a spirit so pure and bright, and they soon learn they are on a mission of love to inspire them to perform some important work, resist some serious temptation to evil, or give them fortitude to withstand some crisis, which, if left to themselves, might wreck their lives.

They attend them with loving compassion engendered by the thought that they, themselves, when in earth-life, were subjected to such trials and temptations and difficulties, and not realising their danger, often erred and learned wisdom through much suffering, which has fitted them to act as guardian angels of earth people in similar circumstances and conditions. Love is the great redeeming force in spirit, as well as in earth, life.

(To be continued.)

Extracts from Important Letters bearing Evidence of Communications from Andrew Jackson Davis.

[We are indebted to Mr. A. H. Dakin, Nottingham, for his permission to make the following extracts from letters bearing evidence of communications from our beloved founder of the Lyceum system, which our readers will deeply appreciate.—Ed.]

Seeing that on the 26th of January, 1913, the Lyceum movement is to celebrate the Jubilee of the adoption of the mode of teaching given by A. J. Davis, as seen by him in his visions of the Summerland, I think the following may be of interest to your many readers.

If you will kindly look up the LYCEUM BANNER for December 4th, 1910, you will find on page 188, under the title "A Vision of A. J. Davis," a letter from myself, which, if you will kindly read, will prepare you for the sequel as follows:

Although I did not know any person living in Belper, on April 13th, 1912, I received a letter from a gentleman living there which read as follows:

"Dear Sir.—I am a perfect stranger to you, and probably you will wonder why I write to you. At the Spiritualist Church in Belper we have a Wednesday night Communion Service. The second night in the month we make it an "open night" for earnest thinkers. Now last Wednesday we had about 50 attended, and one of our local mediums in charge, who was controlled by Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis. He gave us your name and address, also as being the Mechanics' Hall Lyceum conductor. He wished to be kindly remembered to you, Mrs. Dakin, and a Miss

Willoughby, thanking you for all kindnesses. He also said he was making a visit to all Lyceums in turn. He hoped to meet you all very soon. He asked me to write you to prove his *bona fide*. Will you kindly reply so that I may have your letter for Sunday evening, etc.—*John Smith*.

I replied April 13th, 1912.

"Dear Sir.—I have just received your letter and am replying at once, but I am deeply conscious of my inability to adequately express my wonder and gratitude for this striking proof of the work of friends in the Spirit World. Although I scarcely know where to begin to explain the matter to you, I think I must go back to a little time after Mr. Davis' transition when he made himself known to my wife by showing himself to her. Also a most beautiful scene depicting his entrance into the Spirit World, and his state reception by a number of spirit children. A most convincing and beautiful experience for us at the time. He also gave us some messages, one being to the effect that he intended going round to all the Lyceums in this country, not alone that he should be seen, but that he might see some of the fruits of his labours by personally seeing how his work progressed, and also give tests of his presence and continued interest and effort in the Lyceum cause. At that particular time I was Conductor of the Nottingham Mechanics' Hall Lyceum, and I gave that Lyceum all the details. You have got our name and address all right. I may add that I have seen Mr. Davis by the side of Miss A. Broadley, of Padiham, when she was taking one of our Lyceum services, and described him to her. I am not now Conductor, having resigned in order to take up a wider range of work. . . ."

Yours fraternally,

A. H. DAKIN.

In a subsequent letter from Mr. Smith, of Belper, he said that Mr. Davis again controlled their medium, who is an uneducated factory girl, and desired him to remind Mrs. Dakin that on the morning of her vision she awoke rather early, and on looking round saw Mr. Davis, as if coming across a field, and she said to him, "Are you lost?" If that is true can any one deny the continuity of life and that we are as much alive on the other side as on this?

I may add it was strange how I met Miss Willoughby, of whose presence in Nottingham I was ignorant.

Soon after receiving the first letter I was impressed to visit the Spiritualist Hall in Bentick Road and took the letter with me. I was invited to give a short address, during which I referred to the letter recently received from Belper, and expressed a wish to find Miss Willoughby so that I might deliver Mr. Davis' message to her. Imagine my surprise when a young lady in the audience rose and declared herself to be the party I was desiring to see. It appeared that she had intended visiting the Gladstone Hall Spiritualist Society, but meeting a friend who wished to visit the Hall in Bentick Road, had kindly consented to show her the way and bear her company. Thus was I able to deliver the message that had been sent to me by our esteemed and venerable Andrew Jackson Davis, who is evidently visiting the English Lyceums according to his expressed intention.

Yours fraternally,

A. H. DAKIN.

26, Woolmer Road, Nottingham.

Girls' Own Corner.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

FEBRUARY, 1913.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
FEB. 2	328	95	242	106	390
" 9	386	79	241	140	375
" 16	370	384	239	138	357
" 23	359	264	236	135	351

PEARLS.

FEB. 2—"The man who cannot wonder, who does not habitually wonder, and worship . . . is but a pair of spectacles, behind which there is no eyes."

Carlyle. Sartor Resartus.

FEB. 9—"It's well we should feel as life's a reckoning we can't make twice over; there's no real making amends in this world any more than you can mend a wrong subtraction by doing your addition right."

George Eliot.

FEB. 16—"If time be of all things the most precious, wasting of time must be the greatest prodigality."

Benjamin Franklin.

FEB. 23—"The man who minds his own business has constant employment."

Cicero.

My mind has been drawn to the Musical Reading "Help your fallen Brother," the commencing lines of which are:—

"We go our way in life too much alone;

We hold ourselves too much from all our kind;

Too often are we deaf to sigh or moan,

Too often to the weak and helpless blind;

Too often, where distress and want abide

We turn, and pass upon the other side."

How difficult it is to think that misfortune is not associated with crime and folly; that no one need be poor if they "took care" when they were in work; that women are thriftless on purpose; men idle from choice; that all the misery and sordid conditions of many thousand homes could easily be remedied by government if *we* were only there. It is mind racking to see it all and feel powerless to help. The majority of the well-fed, well-housed and comfortable, jostle the miserably ill-fed and ill-clothed with but a passing glance of ill-concealed disdain; whilst others wonder how they live, and if they really are the wicked beings so often described in police court scenes and city life generally? If such were to be suddenly changed from wealth and comfort to absolute poverty, with loss of energy, spirit, and outlook, how would they deal with the altered conditions? It is rarely one can take such a mental somersault, because an experience can only yield its own lesson which, once learned, gives the student the power to understand another's position in a like condition, hence the difficulty of gauging the other man or woman's life.

Perhaps the woman's mind and heart could solve the difficult, and make a way for better chances; but she is handicapped and lacks training in national administrative ability, but in other qualities her human sympathies are quick to respond to the lonely cry of her sisters in distress, her ear needs but the call of the sufferer to arrest attention and give help.

This spirit of human pity and tender concern on a larger scale adopted to larger issues, points the way to remedies not yet apparent, but dimly prophetic of future days when all families shall live a fuller, freer life.

There are many women in all walks of life who live too much alone. Nothing outside their little round-a-bout life is thought of, and every day brings its regular duties of cleaning the house, the steps, the doorbell and brass, the getting of meals, the novel and fancy work, the church services, etc. Girls keep out of that rut! Keep a lively interest in all that is passing socially, religiously, and morally, in other words, don't get frozen, but let your human sympathies be alert to detect the other woman who is longing for a handshake; a friend to know in whom to confide; one who is thoroughly lonely. Sometimes I feel I am the recipient of half the woes and troubles, joys and sundry domestic experiences of half the town and why? I cannot say, except that I love to be of service. Other women I could name are filling up each hour with what will last," which means to me at least, that the lonely woman need not cry in vain, its echo is being heard by many and girls and women are encouraged, to live nearer purity, cleanliness, and womanliness. Many of us have not the slightest idea of the lonely lives of girls living-in in the big establishments of our cities, and when the tale is told by some daring soul who knows the evil, we women feel ashamed of the very clothes on our backs if they have come through those departments. Mothers! if your own daughters had been forced into similar places how would you have felt? Then feel for those who are there and do all in your power to get such conditions of labour altered. Loneliness is an awful feeling. It can be felt when surrounded by people, in the midst of city life, in your home, even when an unkind brute of a husband sits at the same table and you are as opposite as the poles; but most of all when your very own beloved has gone, whose love was your stay and support, the memory of which springs upon you in a hundred surprises making the heart cry out for a renewal of that love. "God understands!" I want to interest you girls in other girls, and don't be selfish with your love-power.

I read the following in "*The Girls' Own Paper and Womans' Magazine*," an admirable journal for women, which expresses far better than I can the feelings of a lonely woman:—

"THE PRAYER OF THE LONELY WOMAN IN THE CITY." "All day, O God, I have looked at the multitude, and no eye met mine in understanding, no life touched mine in help, no hand clasped mine in Fellowship. In a thousand companions, I have found no companionship. A myriad of hearts go by, but none stop to beat in time with my heart. I am hungry for friendship, starved for human cheer. I come to Thee, here solitary in my little room in its pitiful stillness, and I come not with vain request for things; I do not ask Thee for spiritual ecstasies; I come for comradeship, to feel that some One is living on with me, though in silence.

"Water the loneliness that dries my heart. Warm my being that is chilled by isolation. Abide with me, dear God!

"Could I but feel Thy presence, the loveless eyes of the many would not so oppress me.

"And guide some friends to me. I know them not. Surely somewhere in the press mine own await

me, lives that are akin to mine, laughter tuned to mine, spirits fit to struggle shoulder to shoulder with me against the push of desolation. Some people are so rich in fellowship. Their days are feasts of friends. O God, I ask but the crumbs of human feeling that fall from their table. Thou who guidest souls through the chartless sea of life, steer some women's soul my way, bring me the cheering convoy of honest men, and let little children find me.

"Keep me warm and human that they may know me when they find me. Keep me wise and prudent that no pirate in the seas of love may deceive me. Infinite, great spirit, reveal Thyself to me as a Friend to the Maker of friends.

"Do this, O God, to keep me human." . . . Is it not a beautiful prayer and yet, think what prompted it, isolation! utter loneliness! Oh, sisters!

"Humanity is calling each and all

In tender accents, born of grief and tears

God bids you listen to the thrilling call

You cannot in your cold and selfish pride,
Pass guiltless by upon the other side."

The Peace Brigade.

CONDUCTED BY C. W. M.

My dear comrades and friends,

For the past eighteen months we have been trying to propagate the principles of peace amongst you; trying to persuade you to raise your voices against the wholesale murder that has gone on in the past and is going on in the present; and which—unless society (or in other words the people), protests against these cruel, outrageous crimes—is likely to go on in the future. To say that our efforts have been successful, so far as actual membership is concerned, would not be strictly true. On the registers of the Lyceums in Great Britain there are nearly 10,000 (ten thousand!) names of members; and in the ranks of the Peace Brigade we have not reached 500 (five hundred!) What are the conclusions to be drawn from such results. Either the rules of membership are too hard, or you object to the principles of peace. Perhaps there are other conclusions, but these are the two which show themselves at the time of writing.

Take the last first. Can you imagine any person, male or female, who has had any Lyceum education at all, being opposed to the principles of peace? For the life of me I cannot; and I absolutely refuse to believe that the desire for peace is not within all of you. (Should there be any, dare they declare themselves?)

Very well then, let us examine the other statement, viz., that you cannot conform to the rules of membership. They are as follows:

I promise faithfully—

I. To use all my influence and put forth all my efforts to forward the cause of universal peace.

II. Never to use arms of any kind against any fellow-creature.

III. To be kind to every form of life, never inflicting needless suffering.

IV. To be a brother (or sister) to all, and in the spirit of such to help anyone anytime in any way possible.

V. To be obedient to the rules of my Branch of the Peace Brigade Movement.

There is no doubt that they are drastic in their

nature, and had it been possible to have a Conference, represented by all Lyceums and Societies in this country, we may have been able to frame a better set; although to me there is not one of the present rules that does not represent *Spiritualism in practice*.

One more word and then the fate of the movement is in your hands (every one of you who reads these lines.) I want you to discuss the matter with your chums (both those within and those without the Lyceum), bring it up at your committee meetings, find out what is wrong with the movement—whether it be rules or anything else—and then write me the result of your deliberations. Everyone doing so shall be answered through next month's BANNER if the letters are sent to C.W.M., c/o "Banner" Office, 17, Bromley Road. Now, boys and girls of all ages, I am waiting for that letter.

Yours very sincerely,
C.W.M.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

(Contributions for 1912 continued).

Walsall, 20/-; Barnsley, 3/6; Collyhurst Lyceum, Manchester, 5/-; Heywood, 12/6; Liverpool C.P.L., No. 1, 10/6; Darlington Lyceum, 5/-; Leicester Lyceum, Queen Street, 3/-; South Shields, King Street Lyceum, 1/8; Chesterfield Lyceum, 5/-; Ashington Lyceum, 2/6; Reading Lyceum, 2/6; Glasgow Lyceum, 20/-; Hull, No. 1 Lyceum, 10/-; Dudley Hill Lyceum, Bradford, 5/-; Bacup Lyceum, 5/-; Dundee Lyceum, 5/-; Toronto Lyceum, 10/-; Gateshead Lyceum, 5/-.

I trust all who intend to send subscriptions will do so at once in order to get the books made up for the auditors. All donors are heartily thanked for their generous help to the B.S.L.U.

MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD,
Hon. Secretary.

Ashleigh, Fairfield, Hebden Bridge.

Bluebell Guild.

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

MY DEAR BLUEBELLS,

As this is the season of pantomimes, such delightful nursery stories as Old Mother Hubbard; or Old Mother Goose; Babes in the Wood; Cinderella; Jack the Giant Killer; or Aladdin, with his wonderful lamp, are being produced in your town, giving joy and pleasure, not only to boys and girls, for whose delight these stories are thought to be specially produced, but to our fathers and mothers, who are by those nursery stories reminded of their happy childhood days.

No doubt many of my readers have often wished they could find a wonderful lamp, with a powerful Genii as its slave who was forced to serve those who possessed the treasure. But have you thought how you would feel when you saw the big powerful Genii appear at your side, like a monster Giant ready to eat you up? If not I would advise you to do so, and remember that all gifts have their drawbacks.

There is a story connected with Sindbad the Sailor that I would like to relate to you, as it may prove not only entertaining and amusing, but also helpful. Perhaps some of my young readers have heard of

THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA.

He was a funny fellow whom Sindbad the sailor discovered after being shipwrecked during his fifth voyage. It happened in this way.

When his ship went down, he caught hold of a piece of the wreck, and swimming, sometimes with one hand and sometimes with the other, but always holding fast to the plank, the wind and the tide favouring him, he came to an island and got safely ashore.

He sat down upon the grass to recover himself from his fatigue, after which he took a walk into the island to see what it was like. It seemed to be like a big garden, with plenty of fruit trees bearing delicious fruit, and streams of fresh pure water. He ate of the fruit and drank of the water, which refreshed him.

When he walked a little further he saw an old man, who appeared very weak and infirm. He was sitting on the bank of a stream, and at first Sindbad thought he was one of the shipwrecked people. So he went to him and saluted him, but the old man only bowed his head. Sindbad was puzzled, and asked him why he sat so still; but instead of answering him he merely made a sign for Sindbad to take him upon his back, and carry him over the brook. Sindbad, being a kind hearted fellow, and believing him to be in need of assistance, took him upon his back, and having carried him over, he bent down and asked him to get off; but instead of doing so, the old man, who had appeared to be quite feeble, threw his legs quite nimbly about Sindbad's neck. He sat astride his shoulders, and held him by the throat so tightly, that Sindbad thought he would be strangled to death, and fainted away.

The ill-natured old fellow kept his crooked legs firmly twisted round Sindbad's neck. And when the latter recovered consciousness, the old man struck and kicked him till he got up, and then made Sindbad carry him under the trees so that he might pluck the fruit and eat. The mean old fellow never once left his place on Sindbad's shoulders all that day; and when, wearied out with his burden, he lay down to rest at night, the old man lay down with him, still holding fast about his neck. In the morning he pinched Sindbad to make him get up, and commenced his weary task of carrying him wherever he wished to go. This went on for quite a time.

One day Sindbad found some dry calabashes,—a large fruit shaped something like a melon—that had fallen from a tree. He selected a large one, and after cleansing the shell, he pressed into it some juice of grapes, which grew on the island, until it was full of grape juice. He put the vessel in a safe place, without letting the old man drink it. He visited it in the course of a few days, and tasting it, found it turned into a strong, rich wine, which seemed to give him new life and vigour, so that he began to sing and dance as he carried the old man on his shoulders.

The old man seeing the wonderful effect of the liquid in the calabash had on Sindbad wanted to taste of it, and when he had done so, he liked it so well that he drank it off. He soon began to sing and move about from side to side as he sat on Sindbad's shoulders, and by degrees to loosen his legs from about Sindbad's neck. Finding that the old man's grip

on him was being loosened Sindbad managed to throw him off, and he lay motionless on the ground. And so Sindbad escaped from the heavy burden he had had to carry on his shoulders so long. His experience made him very careful not to take on burdens that might become his master and make him their slaves.

I wish to warn my boys and girls that what the Old Man of the Sea was to Sindbad the Sailor, so evil habits are to those who adopt them. So be careful if you do not wish to be their slave.

Next month I hope to tell you the story of Baba Abdalla.

Your loving sister,
FLORA BELLE.

Spiritualist Mottoes.

DECORATE YOUR HALLS AND CHURCHES WITH
SPIRITUALIST MOTTOES.

These Mottoes are printed in bright colours, with fancy floral border.

Any of the following Mottoes printed:—

ANGELS LEAD MY FOOTSTEPS.
THE WORKERS WIN.
STAND FOR THE RIGHT.
WE ALL MIGHT DO GOOD.
DO GOOD, AND BE GOOD.
CHERISH FAITH IN ONE ANOTHER.
THERE IS NO DEATH.
WE DO NOT DIE.
SPIRITUALISM IS TRUE.

These Mottoes vary in lengths from 3 yards and upwards.
Price 5/6 each, post free.

Orders to be sent to—

HERBERT BUCKLEY, Artistic Designer,
211, Oldham Road,
LONGSIGHT, OLDHAM.

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

"Hello! Joe," said a boy as he met one of his comrades last Saturday, "are you going to the party?" "Yes," said Joe, "come along." After walking together a little while their Lyceum teacher's home was reached. The teacher had invited his class to have a little tea-party at his house. The two boys entered a room full of merry youngsters. After a jolly tea the time passed quickly playing games and doing puzzles. Then they had a general romp. Some of the weaker boys were getting tired. One of them suggested the teacher should tell them a tale. The teacher, seeing some were tired, drew the boys around the fire, and seating himself in a big arm-chair commenced the following story:

"Now, boys the tale I am going to tell you has been told many times for a good many years to children and grown-ups in every civilised land on the earth. It is a real ghost story, and was thought so true and so very important that the man in charge of the Law Courts Library in Rochester has said a history of the town would not be complete without an account of this ghost or spirit who caused these happenings to take place.

There was a house in this city of Rochester which belonged to a man called Mr. A. W. Hyde. It was rented from him by a man who said he heard very peculiar noises which he could not explain. A girl, Lucretia Pulver, who resided with the family in this house called Hydesville also said she heard poundings and other noises for which she could not account. One day Lucretia got some friends to stay with her all night, and they too heard noises which sounded like the footsteps of a person passing from the bedroom to the pantry, then down the cellar stairs where a few steps were taken, then the noise suddenly ceased. The wife of the tenant many times would say to the servant that she was sick of her life because she so often heard the footsteps of a man walking about the house all night. These people let the house.

The next tenant was Mr. Michael Weekman. His story was that he heard strange noises on different occasions. One evening about nine o'clock he heard someone rapping on the outside door. When he went to see who was there he could not see anybody. The rapping was repeated many times, and though Mr. Weekman opened the door instantly he heard the raps no one was to be seen. He could hear the heavy blows, feel the jar of the door, but could find no person to cause it. His little daughter became so frightened he too left the house, and yet if they had only understood who and what caused the noises there would have been no cause for fear, as you will soon see if you will listen attentively to my story.

Mr. John D. Fox was the next tenant, and moved in on 11th December, 1847. He brought with him Mrs. Fox and their two younger daughters, Margaretta, aged twelve years, and Catherine, aged nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Fox were good, honest people, respected by those who knew them and members of the Methodist Church. They were told about the noises, but neither were afraid, as they did not believe in haunted houses and ghosts. The very first night the family of Mr. Fox spent in the house strange and unaccountable noise were heard, which alarmed Mrs. Fox and the children. The father at first quieted them by saying it was the shoemaker across the way pounding leather, but when the noise seemed to be nearer and in the house he said it must be rats. The sounds continued and were heard nearly every night. Then the noises seemed to come from the table and chairs and Mr. Fox thought the children were teasing him. When he saw the children were pale and trembling and he also heard the noises on the wall away from the children, the father gave up the idea the girls were teasing him. All that month, the next month, and for two months after that the sounds came. Sometimes there was a noise like sawing wood, another time groans, another like the sound of a heavy body being drawn across the floor and down the cellar steps, to be followed by a noise like shovelling. None of them could understand it, and the parents prayed to be released from this affliction that they may live in peace.

One Friday night, on the 31st March, 1848, the family, completely worn out by the disturbances, went to bed early. The children could not sleep and left their beds to be nearer their parents. Catherine, or Kate, as she was generally called, had got used to the noises and was not very frightened

when with her parents in a lighted room. This evening the mother noticed she was different to usual and called out to the invisible disturbers, as the family now called them, "Here, Mr. Splitfoot! do as I do," and the girl snapped her fingers. Instantly the invisible rapper sounded the number of times the girl snapped her fingers. She made other motions and the number was immediately sounded by raps. At length the little girl losing all her fear cried out, "Look, mother, look! it can see as well as hear." Mrs. Fox did look, and thought that what could see and hear and intelligently answer must be something like a human being. She said to the unseen intelligence, "count ten." There were ten raps. She asked the age of her children and the answer came correctly. Other and more difficult questions were asked, and as rapidly answered. Then Mrs. Fox asked, "are you a man?" No response came. "Are you a spirit?" Loud and distinct raps came in answer. "Will you rap if the neighbours are called in?" Loud and prolonged raps were taken to mean yes, and Mrs. Radford was brought but she could not explain it.

Amongst other neighbours came a Mr. Duesler, who tried that night and the three following days to solve the mystery. There were twenty-two others helping him, and they printed forty pages of their experiences. Loud raps were taken to mean yes, and no raps meant no. The alphabet was used to interpret the messages. The responses indicated that the rapper was the spirit of a man who was a pedlar. He had been killed for his money and was buried in the cellar. The men dug up the cellar but found nothing. During the summer the digging was resumed. A plank was discovered, beneath which was a space containing broken crockery, supposed to be parts of a wash bowl, some charcoal, quick lime, human hair, and part of a human skull. The pedlar had said his name was Charles B. Rosna. It was quite true a pedlar had disappeared from the district about the time stated. The man who lived in the house at the time of the supposed crime came forward with a good character, and nothing further was done to find out the cause of the skull, etc. The house is now in ruins. Some years ago children were playing in the old cellar, which is now open to the elements, when a portion of the wall gave way, revealing a cavity in which was found the remains of the skeleton, which are thought to be the bones of the missing pedlar.

Mrs. Leah Fish, a married daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fox, hearing of the strange happenings at her parents' home in Hydesville, felt sorry for the distress of her parents, and resolved to visit them to see if there was any truth in the report. She therefore left Rochester and went to Hydesville, in Arcadia, in Wayne County. Mrs. Fish heard the noises and commenced an investigation, but could not account for them. She thought, however, that she had made some discoveries in regard to the time when the noises seemed to be most distinctly heard, and the responses to questions most accurate. It was when the family met at meal times and the presence of Margaretta and Catherine were necessary for the most positive manifestations. She felt there was no fraud and no conscious effort on the part of the girls. The proceedings must be stopped, and a request was made to Mrs. Fox to separate the girls and take them away to separate places that the knockings should cease and the family return to their peaceful undisturbed life. Margaretta was therefore

sent to a friend's home in Auburn, and Mrs. Fish set off with Catherine to her own home in Rochester. Thus she complimented herself was the best method to relieve the family from trouble and would put an end to the troublesome noises for ever.

(To be concluded.)

Correspondence.

THE LYCEUM AND PLATFORM.

Dear Sir.—When 'student' dwells throughout the whole letter discussing what is scientific proof, I feel somewhat sorry that the student had totally overlooked the chief object of my correspondence, namely, to discuss the 'Lyceum and Platform.'

However, with respect to the aspect of 'student's' letter, if he or she is perfectly satisfied that scientific proof is contained in the giving of full data for facts recorded, I have no wish to convince him or her otherwise, I just simply beg to say that this form of scientific proof is of no use from a study point of view; it does not convince sceptics.

Spiritual phenomena is subject to scepticism, and these sceptics, along with numerous spiritualists, as Mr. Elliot suggests in his letter, get more than sufficient sentimental phenomena, not enough theory.

This aspect, 'student' does not consider, and when I make a perfectly legitimate and serious criticism on our mediums and books from the same point of view, rather than discuss the substance of my argument, he or she merely expresses surprise that such criticism should be made.

Mr. Elliot in his letter, suggests a remedy, an excellent one if the movement had a better financial outlook. A national college would present itself as a continuation of a systematised Lyceum training, be a means of raising the standard of our mediums and speakers, and would ensure us having suitable matter placed before us from our platforms.

Sincerely Yours,

J. R. LATHAM.

WANTED! A NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

Dear Sir.—I shall be very much obliged if you will allow me a little more space in the "BANNER." While looking through my morning paper for Jan. 11th, I came across the report of the speech made by Lord Haldane at the Manchester Reform Club upon the Government's Educational Policy. It is the most interesting announcement the Government has made for some time, and one that ought to claim the attention of all Spiritualists. It is quite evident that the Government intend to treat Education in a much more comprehensive manner than has been the case in the past.

For instance he said "Education must be an affair of the spirit, and the Government were going to endeavour to raise the level intellectually, morally and Spiritually." They must break down in the system of Education that barrier which separated class from class. Comparatively speaking, there were few who could attain the highest points in education, but there was no reason why these few should be drawn exclusively from the ranks of the wealthy classes." Then again, "It was necessary, firstly, that the child should be made fit to receive the education offered to it. A great step forward in

(Continued on page 25).

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

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

Twelve copies, 10¹/₂d.; 18 copies, 1s. 4d.; 24 copies, 1s. 9d.; 36 copies, 2s. 7¹/₂d.; 42 copies, 3s.; 48 copies, 3s. 4d. All orders for four dozen copies and upwards are supplied at 10d. per dozen. All parcels sent post free. Accounts due Quarterly: March, June, September, and December.

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

Annual subscription, post free, 1s. 6d. To Canada and the United States, 40c. U.S. currency or postage stamps taken.

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

FEBRUARY, 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 report of the Executive Council at Hebden Bridge will be of more than usual interest to our readers. Among other things, it will be noticed that a new rule to those heading and governing the reports of Lyceum Sessions, was decided on to enable Lyceums in Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, and other places to have their reports inserted, so that the Lyceumists of those distant lands may still feel they are working shoulder to shoulder with their English comrades.

We often wonder how many of the Lyceum Secretaries read those Rules; or reading them, take the trouble to *count the number* of words contained in their reports to see that they conform to Rule 3, before posting to the BANNER OFFICE? We are sorry to add that month after month the majority of the reports that reach us contain nearer 170 words than 120. This means that the Editor has either to re-write and condense them, or leave out important items. Once more we appeal to Secretaries to observe this important rule, or enclose payment for the extra words and have their reports inserted under the head of SPECIAL REPORTS.

As there are over forty new secretaries elected, who will be strange to their duties, perhaps a few words of advice on how to get the most news into the 120 words allowed free of charge will be welcomed. In order to save repetition of words secretaries, when writing their reports, should bring all their recitations into one group by saying, "The following gave recitations," and then record the names of all who recited. Next, group all the songs, solos, and readings in the same way. If a number of young ladies sing or recite, instead of writing "Miss" before each name, as "Miss Brown," "Miss Jones," "Miss Smith," "Miss Green," write "Misses" Brown, Jones, Smith and Green, which is not only better form, but saves you three words, and so enables you to get more matter into your report.

Then please remember that a duet is a piece sung in *two parts*, such as treble and alto, or treble and tenor;

and a trio is a piece sung in *three parts*, such as treble, alto, and tenor; and a quartette is sung in all its *four parts*, as treble, alto, tenor, and bass. When two or more scholars sing a piece, unless they sing the different parts as stated above, they should be reported as singing in *unison*. By paying attention to the above hints on reporting the items of the Lyceum session, or Open Session, and studying the different reports as they appear month by month in the BANNER, the newly appointed Lyceum secretaries will have acquired the ability to write a report to the local press before his or her term of office is over. In conclusion let me advise you to count the words in your report before sending it for publication.

The "*Hebden Bridge District News*, for Friday, January 17th, gave a fair report of the Sunday evening meeting of the Executive Council. A fair summary of each speakers' address, filling two-thirds of a column, is sure to do good amongst its many thousands of readers.

We desire to draw our readers' attention to the pointed remarks of C.W.M., the esteemed conductor of the Peace Brigade Department. We, as a movement, either believe in our teaching "Thou shalt not kill," or we do not. Which of the two is it? It would appear from the Socialist movement as expressed in England, France, Germany, etc., that it is going to do more to secure the Peace of all civilised nations that all the religious denominations and Spiritualistic organisations put together. Is this state of things as it ought to be? We say NO, a thousand times NO!!

A new service of song entitled, "Spirit Return," by Mr. George Frederick Knott, Rochdale, has just been published by the Lyceum Union, price 2d., by post, 3d., or 1/6 per dozen, post free. Lyceums will find it very serviceable, as it not only deals with spirit control, but with teachings contained in the *Lyceum Manual* concerning death and after life. All the music is contained in the *Spiritual Songster*. We prophesy for it a wide and extensive sale.

We learn with regret that the Lyceum meeting at Gate Street, Bradford, has had to close on account of the Society not meeting with sufficient support to warrant it in retaining possession of the splendid hall in which the services were held.

Will Lyceum secretaries see that their contributions are promptly paid, and by so doing put themselves in order to be represented at the forthcoming Lyceum Conference, and also to be supplied with *Lyceum Manuals*, etc., at members' prices.

We regret to learn of the passing on of Mr. William Chritchley, Manchester. He has been connected with the Lyceum movement in Manchester for a good number of years. In 1887 he formed one of a party of three to visit the Lyceum Conference at Leeds, in order to learn something about the Lyceum system. He, and his comrades, Messrs. Boardman and Stewart, spent the Sunday with the friends at Batley Carr, where they had the pleasure of seeing the Lyceum in practical operation. They were delighted and returned home resolved to start Lyceums.

[We regret that four pages of matter are crowded out of this issue].

(Correspondence continued).

this direction had been made in the attention paid to the health of the child in school—we must enlarge our idea of Education, and these principles must be brought to bear right through the educational hierarchy." If they set out upon a national system large and comprehensive enough to make education a matter for enthusiasm he believed they would take the religious question at the stride, if they tried to deal with the religious aspect of the question in the abstract they would find themselves against fixed bayonets on every side. They must go for what were recognised as essentials in the interests of the nation. I am not speaking altogether in the air, for we have been busy with the experts for some time. We are able to undertake this great problem because we know we have the country still with us."

Now sir, the question arises, "What is our attitude as a National Body towards Education?" Whether we agree with the general policy of the Government or not, I think we ought to welcome the opportunity of discussing the Education question, surely there is not one amongst us that disagrees with the general outlines of the Government's scheme. *First* of all we believe that Education should be an affair of the spirit. *Second*, that we should break down that barrier that separates class from class. *Third*, that the child should be made fit to receive the education offered to it; *Fourth*, we must enlarge our idea of Education and apply the principles.

Since we are in sympathy with these general principles it rests with us to interpret them in our own way, and tell the Government what we want. There is no doubt that we shall have no difficulty in coming to an agreement with the Government on the Secular side of the Education question, but upon the Religious side "or the affair of the spirit," we shall have a difficulty in agreeing, especially if their Religious teaching includes the acceptance of Jesus Christ as an especial saviour. We are just the people (or ought to be) to teach the Government something upon "the affairs of the spirit," and show them how very necessary it is to have proper material conditions before the spirit can manifest itself, whether embodied or dis-embodied. I do hope something will be done in this direction nationally; don't let us be backward in these matters, and above all don't let us decide to oppose the scheme before we have seen a draft of the Bill, as the Rochdale D.C. has decided to oppose the Sheffield D.C.'s Educational Scheme before it has seen daylight.

Hoping that something will be done, and that more interest be taken in these matters in the future by all Lyceumists.

I remain, yours very sincerely,

J. E. ELLIOTT.

Secretary of the N.E.L. Education Committee.
264, Leeds Road, Nelson.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Executive Council of the above Union held its quarterly meeting in the Victoria Hall, Cheetham Street, Hebden Bridge, on January 11th; all the members being present with the exception of Messrs. Johnson and Keeling; a note from the latter expressed regret at inability to be present on account of health.

There was much business demanding the attention of the Executive, the following being a few of the items dealt with.

The special binding of the *Lyceum Manual*, for presentation to the Union's Presidents, was finally decided on.

It was decided to print an edition of 3,000 copies of a new service of song, entitled "SPIRIT RETURN," by Mr. Geo. Fred Knott, to be sold at 2d. each, 3d. by post, or 1/6 per dozen.

The amended copy of the nomination form to be issued to Lyceums was finally approved of.

It was decided that District Visitors, whether attached to Lyceum District Councils, or otherwise, shall come under the same rules as Lyceum Delegates, and that they be given the chance to apply for their own Credentials in the time specified for Lyceum Delegates.

It was also decided that the Annual Reports, Balance Sheets, Statistical Returns, etc., be issued in pamphlet form as last year.

The General Secretary was elected to represent the Lyceum Union at the Good Friday Celebration at Manchester.

Credentials were ordered to be given to Miss Miriam Pollard, Keighley, who is shortly to sail for Melbourne, Australia.

A new rule to be called No. 5, was ordered to be drafted governing colonial Lyceum Reports for the LYCEUM BANNER, in response to the request from the Toronto Lyceum.

It was decided that a formal notice should appear in the LYCEUM BANNER for April, to the effect "that Legislation be dealt with at next Conference."

Applications for membership from the following Lyceums were considered and ordered to be placed on the Roll:—Durban, New Bedford (U.S.A.), Littleborough, Oldham (Coronation Street), Oswaldtwistle, and Peckham (London).

A Tea and Social was held in honour of the Executive's Visit, which was well attended considering the very wintry weather that prevailed, a number of friends from Sowerby Bridge being present.

A tea was also provided on the Sunday, which was enjoyed by locals and visitors from Sowerby Bridge.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The high hills surrounding Hebden Bridge looked grand and majestic in their snowy mantle. The grand sight they presented was well worth the inconvenience of travelling. The Lyceum session was conducted by the President, Mr. Latham. The chain recitations, etc., drew forth comments, some of them amusing, and others thoughtful. Mr. Rau made an earnest appeal to the officers to build up a strong Lyceum.

A more representative session was held in the afternoon, Mrs. Greenwood conducting. Pearls were given, and speeches made, bearing on points raised in the chain recitations.

Mr. Houston ably conducted the marching and calisthenics. In the afternoon he marched the scholars very prettily, so that they formed A.J.D., being the initials of Andrew Jackson Davies. A mild thrill went through the Lyceum when Mrs. Greenwood stepped forward and pronounced the full name as a greeting to the arisen Founder. This was a fitting climax to the afternoon's session.

EVENING MEETING.

Mr. John Venables, the Mayor of Walsall, presided over the evening meeting, which was opened with the appropriate hymn "Open the door for the children." After the invocation Miss Ward sang "The beautiful prayer."

The chairman in his opening remarks explained the purpose of the Executive's visit on that occasion, and set forth the aims and objects of the Lyceum teachings as being to "effect a perfect at-one-ment and unison of man with God, till every action and thought of man is in perfect harmony with the Divine Will." He dwelt on the importance of Spiritualists living and their Spiritualism. They should also associate themselves with the various social reforms, and by their conduct compel attention and respect.

After the singing of "Seeds of Promise," Mr. Owen commented on the approaching celebration of the Lyceum Jubilee, and what it meant to the world's progressive thought. He could not agree with those men and women who sought to excuse themselves for not supporting the Lyceum on the plea they had left childhood years so far behind that they were out of touch with all that related to them, and were at the same time patronising the pantomimes because the stories reminded them of their childhood.

Miss Mariam Greenwood sweetly rendered "The Singer."

Miss Hesp expressed her pleasure with her first visit to Hebden Bridge. She then proceeded to refer to the persecutions of the past workers in the movement, and the liberties the present generation were enjoying as the result of the efforts of those pioneers. She then proceeded to claim that clairvoyance, or seeing spirit people was natural, until the church, by its creeds and dogmas, and materialistic tendencies, had choked up the avenues of spirit communication. She pleaded with the fathers and mothers to keep their children away from the baleful effect of creeds that crush the natural spiritual faculties. Let them live their natural lives, and all would be the happier.

After the singing of the hymn, "Hold fast," Mr. Rau addressed the meeting on God as being the source of all life and being; and claimed that the earliest human beings had evidenced some knowledge of the source of their life, from which religion had been evolved. His advice was to teach the children the beauties of the religion of Spiritualism, which they will cherish when they grow up to be men and women.

Mrs. Nurse said she was proud to bear her testimony to the value of the teachings of Spiritualism. She also touched on the evil effect of parents thwarting the natural aspirations and desires of their children, and cited a case she was intimately acquainted with, the effect of which on the youth's mind took her and others working with her four years to remedy.

Miss Mariam Greenwood then sang "The Rosery," after which Mr. Kitson addressed the meeting, pointing out how Spiritualism solved some of the most difficult problems of the mysteries of life.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.

Observation and its uses.

DELIVERED AT MANCHESTER PRINCESS HALL
LIBERTY GROUP, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1912.

BY ALBERT E. JONES.

The subject which I wish to submit for your consideration this afternoon is that of "Observation and its Uses."

I might say just here that the subject is so vast and comprehensive in its scope that in the time at my disposal I can give to you but a fractional part. However, if I have awakened or stimulated your thoughts on the subject then something will have been achieved, and your time will not have been wasted.

Having said so much by way of introduction, let us see what the word "Observation" means.

The verb "To observe" means "to see," to take note of, or to be aware of, and "observation" would be then the results of things observed. In speaking of the various parts of the human cranium, phrenologists tell us that different localities contain the organs of veneration, language, observation, and so on.

This organ, or, as I should say, "faculty" of observation has helped humanity to the position it occupies in the world, and to its mastery over all things beneath it. Observation has enabled mankind to harness the forces of nature whereby distance is annihilated. Man's thoughts can flash to the uttermost parts of the earth in an incredible space of time. He can cross the seas in face of fierce storms, measure the distance of the stars, tell their substance; he can drive through rock and over hill, lift ponderous weights, and perform many prodigious mechanical feats.

We are indebted to the painstaking students of Nature's laws for all the progress achieved; the laborious experiments observed and verified time after time, so that no flaw should occur in the chain of reasoning. As a result we have the various scientific formulae such as "Force always travels along the line of great resistance," "Force is that which tends to move a body from one position to another." The law of conservation of energy, law of inverse squares, indestructibility of matter, and many others in the various branches of science.

In teaching a science master demands from his pupils the utmost care in the experiments which are made, whether it be weighing or measuring, or testing the strength of a machine. Accuracy in calculations is required, and not slipshod "near enough" results. The pupil must be able to show how he came by his results, and if in error, goes over the experiment again. By these means the student uses his powers of observation consciously, and if persisted in, it becomes habitual as time goes on. A good story is told of a Professor in Chemistry on the value of observation. He had placed before his class a number of vessels containing some dark liquid. "Now gentlemen," said he, "it is very necessary to observe closely the effects of different chemicals. We should, besides knowing them by other means, know them by taste. I shall dip my finger into this vessel and place it in my mouth, and request you to do the same." He apparently did so, and the students dipped their fingers into the liquid and placed them in their mouths. The liquid which was of an acrid and bitter nature caused them to pull very wry faces. Whereupon the Professor with a smile said, "No, gentlemen, you did not observe me closely, for whilst I put my second finger in the liquid it was the first finger I put in my mouth."

There are two methods of reasoning employed by scientists in arriving at their conclusions, the inductive and the deductive.

The first starts from a cause and works to an effect. Let us try and make this more clear. A quantity of sulphur, salt-peter, and charcoal, is brought together in certain proportions; heat is applied in the form of fire or electricity, and an ex-

plosion takes place. The sulphur, etc., was the cause, the explosion the effect. Again, take a pail of water and some coloured dye, put the dye into the water and the effect is seen by the water being tinged or coloured by the dye. The deductive method is the opposite to the inductive, as it starts with effects, and works back to causes. If we take the pail of water and evaporate it we shall find the dye left, and we should know what was the substance which had caused the water to be coloured. If we were able to understand the substance which caused an explosion we could examine the effects and by analysis find out what was the cause. I do not pretend to be scientific enough to give you a technical explanation of all these points, but so far as I am able I endeavour to give you some little explanation of the two processes of reasoning.

The student then, who uses his powers of observation on life around him can learn much. Nature has many marvels awaiting to be studied; the results of which will broaden and deepen the student's admiration for her methods of working. Look at Nature in the winter and we see the trees bare, the ground with struggling patches of the autumn's growth; everything has a desolate look. But when the Spring comes, the bursting buds make way for leaf and blossom, the birds sing, all nature is joyous she carpets the earth with a living green, everything proclaiming the fact that "there is no death."

In developing this faculty, the sympathies are awakened, the mind is broadened in all directions. The observant man through his broadmindedness learns the value of tolerance, a rare virtue. He sees that all humanity, in its varied shades, is striving, often unconsciously, upward to goodness. The optimistic spirit is bred in him, giving him a hopeful feeling and faith in the goodness of the Divine.

The range of subjects for thought and study around him are such that he need never be short of something for his mind to turn to.

Observation enables one to see both sides of a case. The best friend or judge is he who is observant. Through his breadth of mind and his studies in human nature, he realises the motives which govern actions, and would probably pity rather than blame.

It is the ignorant and narrow-minded person whom one should avoid, when sympathy is desired or confidence required. These individuals are nothing if not conventional, they say and do things because others do, go to church or chapel because it is expected of them. They would strive to limit one's vision to their own narrow view; they are never original, lack imagination, follow set rules, and often try to make up in cunning what they are devoid of in real knowledge.

In following out the study of observation, you will find that certain ideas become related to others, and so we have the law of association. A story is told of a lad working for a farmer, who was encouraged to associate things together and so save time and trouble. For instance, if the farmer said "John, bring my hat," the lad would bring his master's stick or other requisites. One day the farmer was very sick, and so he told John to bring the doctor. The lad went, and associating one thing with another, he thought to save trouble, he would call upon the parson, the sexton, and the undertaker, to the discomfiture of his master, who never pushed the association of ideas to extremes again.

But you will have observed that a particular song will affect you in a particular way. It will remind you of the singer, the place where it was sung, &c. The smell of peat will bring to the mental eye the countryside. A note of music, a line of poetry, a quotation, each will call up some ideas that have become associated with them. This will show you that in the cultivation of observation memory is deepened.

If we as Spiritualists will apply this faculty to our philosophy and phenomena, carefully going through the evidence and reasons for our belief, observation becomes extremely valuable. We can obtain a grasp of the facts, which will enable us to give to the world some cogent reasons for the faith that is in us. Have you not come across those in our movement who confess the fact that they could not give an intelligent reason for being a Spiritualist. They would not know how to tell to an outsider what Spiritualism stands for, what its aim and object is?

While modern Spiritualism has done much to change religious and also materialistic thought, yet humanity is still asking for answers to the "Why, whence and whither of existence." So then there is still work for us to do in grounding ourselves in such knowledge as we can obtain appertaining to our Ism, and so if we cannot bring others in, at least they will treat us with respect and not ridicule us, as has been too often in the past.

Have you noticed the fact that after a certain age (earlier in some cases and later in others) individuals have a great difficulty in assimilating new ideas? Try how they will, it seems as so much Greek to them, and they shake their heads, but do not comprehend.

If the mind and brain are not kept thoroughly active, and open to the reception of new thoughts and opinions, there seems to come about a condition of ossification, as if the brain, outside of its active sphere, tends to harden or become bone-like, through lack of use. In some races (the blacks in certain parts of Africa) this condition occurs at or about the age of 15 years. Doctors who have studied this peculiarity say, if they could keep the mentality of these black children active to this age, it may be possible in a generation or two to widen the mental horizon of the race.

However, the point I wish to draw your notice to, is, to keep your mutual activities alert, read, mark, and learn, from all sources of life. Make Truth your object in all things, follow where she leads, though sorrow may come, the heart ache, yet she always compensates, and the experience gained is worth the pain. Nothing of real value and lasting worth ever came without some trouble, its price had to be paid, and in proportion to the trouble evolved so the value you put on your possession. That which can be had for nothing is as valuable as its price, and as such is held. God gives you nothing for nothing, but you appreciate His goodness in the result of your labours, and in that sense you fully appreciate his blessings at their true value.

Hard earned rest is sweetest. A holiday is appreciated because of the labour which has earned it, the looking forward and afterwards to reflect in the mind the pleasant memories left. So then in using our powers of observation, we shall see that in all life there is much for us to know and learn; beauty, grandeur, goodness everywhere. The grandest book possible is open to us, The Book of Nature, without flaw, error, lie, or interpolation, true now, and ever true, because written by the Divine Himself, in whom is all truth. In this we have an inexhaustible store, and we can find, as in the words of the exiled Duke in "As you like it":

"Tongues in trees,
Books in the running brooks, sermons in stone, and good
in everything."

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.

On Thursday morning, January 2nd, the spirit of one of our oldest members left its mortal frame to dwell with those whom he knew would be waiting to receive him in their midst.

Mr. Lawton has been one of the chief members of the Abbey Road Spiritual Church since its foundation and has for twenty years worked incessantly for the advancement of the cause he loved so well.

It is but natural that we who have worked with him shall miss such an ardent worker.

R. Dobson, Secretary.

COLLYHURST LYCEUM, MANCHESTER.—It is with deepest feelings of regret that we announce the transition of Mr. William Crutchley, the founder of the above Lyceum, on January 17th. His body was cremated on the 21st inst, at the Southern Cemetery, Mr. Rooke officiating. Mr. Crutchley founded Collyhurst Lyceum 26 years ago, he, along with Mr. Boardman, of Openshaw, being the pioneers of Lyceum work in Manchester, and although he has always been a many-sided man, interested in various movements to elevate mankind, there is no doubt that his greatest interest and his best work has always been given to the Lyceum cause.—M. Jessop, Secretary.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—On December 30th one of our little Lyceumists, Nellie Turner, age 6 years, passed to her spirit home.—J. Hurdus, Secretary.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

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

DURBAN (NATAL) CHILDREN'S PROGRESSIVE LYCEUM.—This Lyceum has now entered upon its seventh year of existence, the anniversary services in memory of its birthday having been held in the Alexandra Hall on Sunday, 1st December. There was a good attendance. An attractive programme of sacred and spiritual songs, recitations, and marching, and an address by

Mrs. M. J. Veary, who is at present occupying the local Spiritualists' platform, but who leaves for the "Homeland" at the end of the month. She is an ardent Lyceumist and is always welcome at our meetings.

The annual election of officers took place on Sunday, the 8th December, when Mr. J. A. McLaren, the chief officer during the past two years, re-assumed the conductorship for another year.

The annual social and distribution of prizes took place in the Alexandra Hall on the evening of Monday, 23rd December, when the attendance appeared to be the largest ever assembled at a Lyceum function. The meeting, however, was really a combination of forces between the Lyceum and Society, and was intended as a Farewell Social to Mrs. Veary, and a re-welcome to Mr. Isherwood, who is about to enter upon his third mission in Durban, this time for two months.

The whole of the proceedings (the Conductor, who is also the President of the Society, being in the chair), gave the utmost pleasure to one and all. Assuredly the children appreciated their prizes and awards. Ilma Summers and Edith Gibbins were the successful candidates for the gold locket and medal (kindly presented by Messrs. Smith and Barry) in the written essay competition on "The advantages to be gained by regular attendance at the Lyceum."

The Lyceum continues to make progress; the services are well attended; the leading members are enthusiastic, and generally the prospects are good.

Amongst the good wishes read and expressed at the anniversary service was a kindly letter from the former conductor and co-founder, now on a protracted visit to the Old Country.

The Lyceum sends hearty greetings for the New Year to all kindred associations.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The Quarterly Meeting of the above Council was held at Sowerby Bridge on Sunday, January 19th, at 10-30 a.m. Mr. W. Burrows presided over a good muster of delegates, all Lyceums excepting Elland being represented. The minutes were passed as a correct record. The Treasurer's statement, statistical returns, D.V. and U.D.C. reports, were accepted with thanks. It was resolved (a) "That we nominate Mr. T. H. Wright, of Sowerby Bridge, for the Presidency of the B.S.L.U., and Mr. Fred France for the E.C. of the B.S.L.U."

"That owing to Bradford D.C. not participating, and lack of support in our own Council, and time being so short, we do not hold a united demonstration (which Leeds D.C. had decided to join in) this year."

(c) "That Lyceums in the Council consider the holding of a Council Demonstration at Halifax in July, 1913."

(d) "That Mr. W. Burrows and Mr. Fred France be delegates to the second Guild Conference of the Yorkshire Union at Leeds on March 9th."

(e) "That March 15th be the last day of acceptance of nominations for office of the D.C. by the Secretary."

"That our heartiest thanks be tendered to our Sowerby Bridge friends for their excellent catering for the delegates' welfare." Carried unanimously.

In the afternoon a splendid open session was held, in which some of the delegates took active parts, the

others doing their share at the evening mass meeting over which Mr. W. Burrows presided.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Secretary.

THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL EDUCATION SCHEME.

Owing to a great demand from a number of Lyceumists below the Liberty Group, under fifteen years of age, to sit for the Examination, we have arranged to hold a Preliminary Grade, and an Ordinary Grade for those in Liberty Group.

The Examination Paper for the Preliminary Grade will be set on the following:—The Lives of Religious Reformers and Philosophers; the Lyceum and Spiritualist Movement; the Origin of the Lyceum Movement, by A. J. Davis; the Origin of Modern Spiritualism, by the Fox Family; the Spiritual Faculties and Methods adopted by Spirit People to prove their existence.

We hope that parents will give their children every facility to progress in this direction, realising that their success in the future largely depends upon the knowledge gained whilst young.

Will all Lyceum Secretaries forward candidates' names and ages not later than February 28th, 1913.

Hoping all Lyceumists will avail themselves of this opportunity and thus fall in line with the object of A. J. Davis, to cultivate the intellectual part of our being in Philosophy, Art and Science, etc.

We are, yours very sincerely,

ERNEST VICKERS, *Organiser.*

GEORGE MAGNESS, *Secretary.*

120, Duchess Road, Sheffield.

UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICTS COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the above Council will be held at Heeley, Sheffield, on Saturday, February 8th, at 6 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. at the Lyceum, Temperance Hall, 379, Bramall Lane, Heeley.

Business:—1. Elect chairman. 2. Minutes. 3. Correspondence. 4. Motions (a) "That we ask the B.S.L.U. to hold an annual examination, in conjunction with classes organised by District Councils, certificates being given upon results."—Sheffield, D.C. (b) "That we, the U.D.C., are of opinion that the best interests of the movement will be served by legislation through the S.N.U."—N.E. Lancashire, D.C. 5. D.C. nominations for office or E.C. of the B.S.L.U. 6. Open Council. 7. Votes of thanks.

SUNDAY.—I understand our Sheffield friends are making special efforts for a record time by advertising and taking a larger hall. Therefore I hope delegates will endeavour to stay overnight and do their best towards making our visit a success.

Afternoon, Open Session, all delegates present. Evening, Mass Meeting, addresses, etc., by the delegates.

FRED FRANCE, Hon. Sec.

SPECIAL NOTE.—Will Delegates attending the U.D.C. Meetings on Saturday and Sunday, February 8th and 9th, who require billeting on Saturday, please communicate with Mr. G. H. Magness, 120, Duchess Road, Sheffield, on or before February 4th.—G. MAGNESS.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council will hold its quarterly meeting in the Attercliffe Spiritual Church (Bold Street, bottom of Bradford Street, close by Carbrook Board Schools), on Sunday, March 2nd. Will Lyceums in district please note the above date and send along one or two delegates.

Should like this meeting to be one that will be remembered as a success.

There is an important agenda to discuss. Also it is the end of our year, so election of officers will take place.

Any Lyceum that has got any subject or motions for the agenda let me know as soon as possible. C. H. SAXELBY.

JOINT CONFERENCE OF LYCEUMS AND SOCIETIES.

A joint meeting, representing Lyceums and Societies in the Yorkshire area was held in the Armley Spiritualist Church, on Sunday, January 12th, 1913. Twenty-one Lyceums and District Councils sent representatives, and there were a large number of Societies also represented by delegates. Mr. T. H. Wright conveyed fraternal greetings from B.S.L.U.E.C., assembled at Hebden Bridge, wishing every success to the Messenger Guild. The following resolution was moved as a basis of discussion, "That this Conference of delegates, representing the Lyceums and Societies in the Yorkshire Area, consider that the time is opportune for an amalgamation of our forces,

forming a basis for future co-operative working for the concentration of our powers in the development of the spiritual and intellectual life of the movement, and that we consider the Messenger Guild provides the means to attain these desirable ends." A good discussion on the resolution followed, lasting two hours, and on being put to the meeting it was carried unanimously. A sub-committee was elected to draw up an agenda for the Conference to be held at the Psycho, Leeds, in March. Lyceum representatives, Mr. S. Ackroyd, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Carter. Sheffield D.C., Mr. Webster; Yorkshire Union, Messrs. Yates and Gush. Much enthusiasm was manifested, and it is hoped that co-operation and unity will be the outcome.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after January 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, February 19th, to ensure insertion in the March issue.

RULE 5.—Colonial Reports, if posted to the Lyceum Banner within 7 days after the events reported, will be inserted in the next issue after receipt at the Banner Office.

ASHINGTON.—On Saturday, the 28th December, 1912, we gave a free tea and social to Lyceum children, which was well attended by the children and adults of the parent Society. On Sunday, the 29th December, the election of officers took place for the coming year, the following being elected: Conductor, M. Redpath; Assistant Conductor, A. Wilson; Treasurer, John Carter, re-elected; Secretary, H. Barton; Librarian, Thos. Dance; Guard, Caroline Arkle; Leader of Groups, Mamie Robinson; Musical Conductor, Thos. Minto; Senior Captain of Guards, Thos. Minto, Jr. A very happy day was spent, and each one enjoyed the session.—Henry Barton, Secretary.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith Street).—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our usual Open Session, when a very enjoyable afternoon was spent. Recitations were nicely rendered by Eleanor Procter, Polly Baxter, and May Phizacklea. Songs were also rendered by Nellie Baxter, Florrie Nock and John Baxter. There was a good attendance on this, our first session in the New Year, which I sincerely hope may continue.—Mrs. Wallace, Secretary.

BIRKENHEAD (Hamilton).—Sunday January 5th. Election of officers. Result: Guardian and Librarian, Mr. Taylor; Treasurer, Mr. Pearson; Secretary, Geo. Robb; Musical Conductor and Assistant, Mr. Wilkinson and Miss Alice McCallum; Assistant Conductor, and Marching and Calisthenics Conductor, Mr. Roberts; Captain of Guards, Master Harry Edwards; Guards, Master Willie Beckett, and Miss Jane Leighton; Leaders, all officers and Miss W. Wilkinson; Auditors Miss W. Wilkinson and Mr. Taylor; Conductor (elected in October, 1912), Mr. F. George. At above meeting Miss Alice McCallum described spirit form of old gentleman. In dress and age, etc., like A. J. Davies. He wrote the following in flowers, "Give my love to all." He could not stay, as he had other Lyceums to visit.—Geo. Robb, Secretary.

BLACKBURN, NORTHGATE.—Christmas Day was again made the occasion for the Lyceum Annual Tea Party and Christmas Tree. Prizes were distributed for regular attendance, and each scholar on the register received a useful present from off the Christmas Tree. The officials for current year are: Conductor, Mr. E. McKeveit; Assistant Conductors, Mr. Hollinshead, and Mr. Ingham; Treasurer, Mr. Harper; Secretary, Mr. A. Stott. We trust Lyceumists will rally round the officials, and help to make the Lyceum a medium for the

spreading of the grand and glorious gospel of Spiritualism.—A. Stott, Secretary.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On January 4th, we held our New Year's Tea Party, Social and Prize Distribution. After tea we were entertained by a troupe of little Dutch Girls and Boys, whose singing and dancing was greatly enjoyed. A Dutch duet was sung by Doris McGreaves and Thomas Hurst. They were a great success and did great credit to Miss Webster, who trained them. Prizes were then given to the Lyceumists (for regular attendance), by Mr. Batten. The rest of the evening was spent in dancing. On January 11th, a concert was held for the benefit of Mrs. Flanagan, widow of the late John Flanagan. We heartily thank all artistes who gave their services and made it a grand success.—Wm. Smith, Secretary.

BOLTON (Commission Street).—We held our annual meeting on Sunday, December 1st, and looking back regret to say that many of our old Lyceumists have gone abroad, but new members are joining, so we are hoping to have a successful year. The following are the officers: Conductor, Mr. Winder; Assistant, Miss Nield; Treasurer, Miss Mayoh; Secretary, Miss Hadfield; Musical Conductor, Miss Pilkington; Guardian, Miss Howard; Marching and Calisthenics, Mr. Robinson and Miss Nield; Group Leaders, Mr. Winder and Miss Mayoh.—Miss A. Hadfield, Secretary.

BRADFORD (Otley Road).—We held our usual Open Session on Sunday afternoon, January 5th, 1913, Mr. Hale being conductor. The following items were very much appreciated:—Mr. Hale gave a reading out of the LYCEUM BANNER, "After death, What?" and also explained it to the scholars. A duet was ably rendered by Miss Edith Flatt and James Crabtree, "Summer Land." Trios were then given by Miss Eva Ripley, Miss N. Jones and Miss G. Cuthbert, "There's rest for thee at home," and also one by W. Hale, J. W. Hale and J. Crabtree, "Waiting on the other side." We closed a short, but good session by singing hymn No. 407 in the *Manual*, "Waiting for us."—Walter Hale, Secretary.

BRIERFIELD.—On Sunday, December 29th, our Lyceum paid a visit to North Street, Burnley, where we received a hearty welcome (characteristic of North Street), which was responded to by making ourselves "at home," and entering into the spirit which the occasion demanded. We hope that such visits will be annual. On Sunday, January 5th, we held our usual Open Session. Recitations were given by Misses Etherington and E. and A. Hudson. Song by Miss F. Hudson (our Conductor), and duet by Messrs. Bannister and Foster.

BRIGHTON (Manchester Street).—During the month the sessions have been fairly well attended, and the efforts shew marked improvement under the care and direction of Mrs. Meikle, who is our newly-elected Musical Conductor, who takes a deep interest in both vocal and instrumental efforts. We all have to thank Mrs. Clarke for her continued astrological addresses, which are exceedingly interesting and attract many visitors. We held our Annual Meeting on Monday, January 13th, it being the anniversary of the opening of the Lyceum, when a start was made with 13, and it was decided to have a joint conductorship for the ensuing year of three of our oldest scholars, Miss W. Schofield and Misses Edith and Annie Scoggins.—Herbert Everett, Hon. Secretary.

BURTON-ON-TRENT (Station Street).—New Year's Tea and Social. A good number of children sat down to tea. The room was daintily arranged; also large Christmas Tree full of toys. After tea, fun and frolic, with usual Christmas games. Towards the close Mr. Horace Brownhall, Lyceum Conductor, 1912, gave the children their prizes and gifts from the tree. Mrs. Brownhall, Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Knight and Mr. Goodhead and Mr. H. Brownhall assisted, also W. Harvey entertained the children dressed as Father Christmas.

CHADDERTON (off Brook Street).—On January 5th we had our election of officers for the half year. Conductor, Mr. A. Taylor; Assistant Conductor, Mr. Rodgers and Miss Hattrick; Leaders, W. Davies and Miss Thornton; Calisthenic Conductor, Cecil Worrall and Leonard Hamer; Guardians, Willie Dixon and Ethel Ashworth; Teachers, W. Dixon and Eva Urmsen; Librarian, George Dixon; Musical Conductor, Peter Ingham; Treasurer, Mr. Oldfield. Our Conductor and Lady Leader have taken the children in hand, and we hope to get good results in our Lyceum this year.—Mrs. M. Oldfield, late Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Saturday, January 5th, we held our annual election of officers, when the following were elected: Conductor, Mrs. Widdowson; Assistants, Mr. Cowell and Joseph Hobster; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Widdowson; Guardian, William Hand; Captain of Guards, Evelyn Elliott; Guards, Tom Hand, and Ernest Hobster; Musical Conductors, Dora Hand, Horace Cartledge, Joseph Hobster; Group Leaders: Liberty Group, Mr. Hobster;

Excelsior Group, Mr. Cowell; Stream Group, Mrs. Syddall; Fountain Group, Ernest Hobster; Banner Bearers, Florrie Smith, Annie Wale, Evelyn Elliott, Florrie Philpot, Edith Herrott, and William Hand. We have postponed our Open Session until the Jubilee Day.—Edwin H. Widdowson.

CLECKHEATON (Old Robin Street).—We held our half-yearly meeting, on Sunday, January 12th, and the election read as follows:—Conductors, Mr. H. Cocksedge and Miss Lizzie Thornton; Secretary, Miss Hilda Thornton; Treasurer, Miss Taylor; Leaders, Miss Amy Thornton, Miss Laura, Master James Moore and Master H. Cocksedge; Librarian, Miss Alice Thornton; Guardian, Agnes Dawson; Musical Conductor, Hilda Thornton.—Miss H. Thornton, Secretary.

CREWE (Mill Street).—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our first Open Session in 1913. Attendance, marching and pearls very good, calisthenics moderate. Mrs. Child, our speaker for the day, gave us encouraging and helpful remarks. Her motto being, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again," and we must act up to it, if we mean to climb the ladder of progress. Miss Florrie Wood gave her maiden pianoforte solo well. Solos were ably rendered by Gwennie Bagguley, Maggie Bagguley, Annie Smith and Gladys Mottram. Recitations were given by Ethel Reay, Kate Owen, Gladys Owen, and Harold Bradley. A most successful and enjoyable Session.—Mabel Martin, Secretary.

DAISY HILL.—On Christmas Day we had a tea party and entertainment, the ladies of the Society and Lyceum presiding at the tables. Songs, recitations, sketches, etc., were given by the Lyceumists. Mr. Thomasson ably presided at the concert. Altogether we had a splendid time. At our annual election of officers the following have accepted: Conductor, Mr. Woodward (No. 1), Miss Dora Clarke (No. 2); Secretary, Will H. Towers; Treasurer, E. Woodward; Guardians, Mr. Withington and Miss M. Aspden; Leaders, Alice Gaskell, Martha Woodward, Joseph Livesey and Jonathan Shepherd; Calisthenics, Annie Woodward; Librarian, Jessie Lilliv; Delegates, E. Woodward and J. Hope; Committee, Miss A. Clarke, Messrs. G. Taylor and W. Lee. We have lost a dozen Lyceumists through emigration, which has reduced our ranks.—Will H. Towers, Secretary.

EARBY.—On Sunday, January 5th, the election of officers for 1913 took place as follows: Conductor, Mr. George E. Bradley; Assistant, Miss A. Warrington; Secretary, John Wm. Clark; Librarian, E. Hodgson; Guardians, Miss A. Bradley and E. Maunder; Musical Conductor, Mr. J. T. Bradley; Assistant, Miss A. Bradley; Teachers, Miss Eastwood, E. Hodgson, N. Warrington, L. Standing and Mr. Brotherton. After the election, songs, recitations, readings, etc., were well rendered. We have altered time of Session from 1-30 to 1-45 p.m.—J. W. Clark.

EARLESTOWN (Wargrave Road).—Our Annual Tea was held on December 24th in the above rooms, when all Lyceumists and friends had a good tea; after which games were indulged in. Then the Christmas Tree, loaded with presents which our lady friends had subscribed for, was placed in the centre of the room and each Lyceumist received one of the presents from it. On December 26th, our Lyceumist and our Conductor, Mr. Brown, who had collected on cards enough money to provide a good, substantial tea for the poor little children in the town, about 80 in number. Then on New Year's Eve, Mr. Brown and members provided a potato pie supper and concert for the aged poor in the town.—C. Brammer, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkeley Street).—On January 5th, the Annual Business Meeting was held. The election of office bearers being as follows: Conductor, Mr. J. W. Stewart; Secretary, Mr. C. S. Roehead; Treasurer, Mr. B. Rainy; Guardian, Mr. H. Kerr. The full complement of officials were appointed, and we entertain the brightest hopes for a very successful year.—C. S. Roehead, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, January 5th. The silver chain was led by John Waterhouse. The musical reading by Alice Anderton, Rosie Leyland and Arthur Holt. The golden chain by Amy Bullin. Recitations were rendered by Will Thornby and Mrs. Groves. Solos were rendered by Mr. Baxter, Alice Anderton, Amy Bullin, Nora Wrigley, Herbert Baxter, Harry Hindle and Fred Hindle. We had also a pianoforte duet by Miss Ada Waterhouse and Richard Leaver. Taking all into consideration we had a very enjoyable session.—Mr. R. Baxter, Conductor.

HADFIELD.—On Christmas Day we held our Annual Coffee Party. The Lyceumists were given coffee and buns, apples and oranges and nuts, afterwards taking part in the games, etc. In the afternoon we held our Annual Christmas Tea and Concert, the programme being rendered by the Lyceumists, which consisted of songs, glees, recitations, read-

ings and pianoforte solos. On Sunday, we held our election of officers, and those elected were: Conductor, Miss M. H. Beeley; Guardian, Mr. P. Beeley; Captain of Guards, Mr. W. Chorley; Guard, Mr. R. Waterhouse; Treasurer, Miss M. E. Hinchliffe; Secretary, Mr. W. Chorley; Librarian, Mr. T. Ridgway; Musical Conductor, Miss C. Harris; Assistants also being elected. A Jubilee Open Session takes place on January 26th.—W. Chorley, Secretary.

HALIFAX (Alma Street).—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our monthly Open Session, when the following gave of their best: Recitations, Harry Speed, Misses C. Whiteley, A. Marshall, J. Sunderland, and I. Sutcliffe. Song by Miss D. Ackroyd. Duet by Miss L. Sunderland and Mr. Hy. Terrington. Pianoforte solo by Miss L. Thornton. On Jan. 18th, we held our annual prize distribution and tea. After tea a concert was given. The Lyceum scholars took part in the operetta, "Robin Hood." Miscellaneous items of brass quartettes, recitations, songs and mandoline duets were given by various members of the Lyceum and friends. The prizes presented by Mr. H. Burrows.—W. Burrows.

HALIFAX (Raven Street).—On Saturday, January 11th, we held our Annual Free Tea and Prize Distribution. There had been an excellent attendance during the year, nearly 50 prizes being distributed. The books chosen were of an high order, consisting of the best Spiritualist Classics." On this occasion we were highly favoured by the presence of Mrs. Venables, Mayoress of Walsall, who graciously presented the prizes. Mrs. Venables was also accompanied by Miss Greenwood, of Hedden Bridge. During the evening the Lyceumists rendered a pleasing Cantata entitled, "The Fairies Visit." Trained by Miss Shaw. The staging of this, with about 30 scholars, all in white, with their glittering Fairy Wands, was a beautiful picture, and brought forth a great ovation from the audience.—E. Baldwin, Secretary.

HOLLINWOOD (Byrom Street).—On Saturday, December 28th, a Children's Tea Party and Christmas Tree was arranged by one of our young ladies, who had been receiving subscriptions for it during the past year, in order to give the children a pleasant surprise. The Tree looked pretty hung with presents, and illuminated with fairy electric lamps. Mr. W. Taylor took the part of Father Christmas, drawn on a sleigh by the children. He then presented each child with a gift from the Tree. Miss V. Aspey gave a sketch entitled, "Christmas Memories," which was nicely performed by the children and herself. Games were played, followed by a distribution of oranges, sweets and mince-pies to the children.—W. Anderson, Secretary.

[Please observe Rule 3.—Ed.]

HYDE.—On Christmas Day we had our Annual Tea Party and Entertainment. About 150 Lyceumists and friends sat down to a good sandwich tea, we tender our sincere thanks to all who endeavoured to make that day a success. After tea action songs were given by the younger end of the Lyceum, and the Liberty Groups favoured us with two dialogues. Everyone present appeared to be merry and bright. We are endeavouring to make January 26th a red letter day in Hyde; it is our Lyceum day, the children will render special songs and recitations.—A. Wright, Secretary.

KEIGHLEY (Heber Street).—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our usual Open Session. Solo being given by Miss S. Kay, duets by Misses D. Hughill, N. Thistlethwaite, E. Smith, and C. Ecroyd; recitations by Miss M. Walker and Master J. Moss; readings by Miss L. Fossey, and Mr. J. Ellis. Mrs. Sunderland had the pleasure of naming a child of our register. Mr. J. Ellis, which she performed in her usual way. She was ably assisted by our Conductor, Miss Fossey. The marching was enjoyed by the persons who assembled and who we are hoping to see with us again.—E. Shackleton, Secretary.

LANCASTER (Collegian Rooms).—Our Anniversary and Prize Distribution took place on January 5th. Mr. Ball presented books for good attendance to the children. Friends interested in the building fund gave books to the children, who collected the most pennies. Fannie Kirk won the first, for collecting sixty pennies. Our Conductor, Mr. Kirk, gave a splendid reading. Two recitations (composed by Mr. Kirk) were given by Lizzie Kirk and Lizzie Askew. Annie Sayles recited, "The Collection Box," touching the hearts and pockets of the audience. Mrs. Preston and nine children rendered, "A Glad New Year," which was well appreciated. Mr. Clarkson sang "Pass it on," which was also appreciated. Thanks to the friends who helped to make our annual tea party a success.—R. Clarkson, Corr. Sec.

LEEDS, ARMLEY (Theaker Lane).—On January 9th, we held our half-yearly meeting, at which we had a fair attendance, when the following officers were elected: Conductor, Mrs. Roberts; Assistant Conductors, Mr. Lee, Master J.

Warrington; Secretary, Master J. Lister; Treasurer, Mrs. Smith; Register, Master C. Oddy; Librarian, Mrs. Oddy; Delegate, Mr. Sykes; Lyceum Visitor, Master J. Warrington; Captain of Guards, Mr. J. Lister; Guards, Mr. H. Hayland; Mr. A. Commers; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Whitaker; Musical Directors, Miss E. Lee, Miss J. Mallison, Miss E. Whitaker.—J. Lister, Sec.

LEEDS (Psycho) GROVE HOUSE LANE.—Sunday, January 10th, the election of officers took place for this half year as follows: Conductor, Miss Hesp; Assistant Conductors, Mr. Russell, Mr. Jordan; Secretary, Mr. H. Osborn; Registrar, Mr. Forsyth; Leaders, Miss Russell and Miss Pawson; Captain of Guards, Master A. Wildgoose; Guards, Miss Nellie Schew and Master James Gascoigne.—H. L. Osborn, Sec.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—December 29th, we had our election of officers and Leaders, when the following were elected: Conductor, Mr. W. Baldwin; Assistant Conductor, Miss Heath; Secretary, Mr. J. Wicks; Treasurer, Mr. W. Wright; Musical Conductor, Mr. L. Goldsmith; Marching Conductor, Miss Clark; Leaders, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Robinson, Miss Morgan, Miss Goldsmith, Mr. Morgan; Guardians, Masters Veary and Cartwright. On January 10th, we had our Open Session, when the following took part, solo by Miss Baldwin, (392 Manual); Miss Heath (404 Manual); duet by Misses Chater and Davies, (391 Manual); duet by Masters Cartwright and H. Moore, (403 Manual); Master Veary, (398 Manual). Recitations by Misses E. Hurst, E. Wicks, Master H. Wicks, and Mr. W. Robinson. We are pleased to report bright sessions, and good attendance.—John Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our Open Session. Master Veary sang a solo, Miss W. Harvey gave us a recitation; and Misses Harvey and Charter a duet, then we had the marching and calisthenics. We had a very pleasant afternoon. Conductor and Leaders gave a hearty welcome to all.—Miss E. Basthorpe, Secretary.

LEIGH (Brown Street).—On Wednesday, January 1st, we held a tea party and entertainment. About 160 sat down to tea. In the evening our younger members of the Lyceum gave an operetta entitled, "The Fairy Ring." Much credit is due to Mrs. Blackshaw for the admirable way in which she had trained the children, also for the tasteful arrangement of the costumes, which were very effective. After the children, nine elder members of the Lyceum gave a sketch entitled, "My wife's relations," which caused much amusement, and was well appreciated. At the close a vote of thanks was given to all who had helped to make the day such a great success.—J. Hurdus, Secretary.

NORTH LONDON, HOLLOWAY.—Splendid conditions and beautiful influences felt, many visits paid from our beloved angel friends, and have given the Conductor great encouragement. On the 12th January we had a visit from Mr. Horace Leaf, and he addressed the Lyceumists upon the improvement since his first visit, also Miss Angier in her remarks, regretted that she had not attended a Lyceum session before, she contrasted the school she attended and the methods we adopt, and we are delighted to report that she considers the Lyceum methods far superior to the orthodox methods. 19th, the Lyceum District Council held their quarterly meeting with us, and Mr. Percy Smith, Miss Morris, and Mr. Clegg took the evening service in the Church.—J. Forsyth, Con.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—Open Session, January 5th, we had songs from Connie Brown, Ivy Chambers; recitations from Victoria Beresford, Frank and Clifford Brown; also a pianoforte solo from John Chambers. Mr. Miles gave us a few hints for the New Year, and also gave us praise for the whole session. We had the pleasure of supplying the music at the evening service. Special solo being, "A New Year Greeting." We are looking forward to our first Jubilee. We held our New Year's Party, January 14th. After an excellent tea and games, Mrs. Bance presented the prizes. Katie Bowskill received a special prize for giving motherly love to a sick Lyceumist. Other prizes were books and our founder's badge.—Ivy Chambers.

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—On January 9th we held our Annual Party and Christmas Tree, there being a full attendance of Lyceumists. Many church members assisted the regular officers, which conducted to the pleasure of the evening. An ample "sweet" tea was provided, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The jollifications were an immense success. The prizes for regular and punctual attendance were many and good. The President, Mr. Brooks, offered a splendid volume, to be bestowed on the scholar that was best liked by the whole Lyceum, Leonard Harrison being the recipient. The Secretary and Mr. Hurrell supplemented the above with two additional volumes each. In January Mr. Clegg, D.V., favoured us with a visit.—Miss Harrison, Sec.

SOUTH LONDON, PECKHAM (Lausanne Road).—On Thursday, January 2nd, we held our Children's Tea Party, it being a very great success, everyone enjoying themselves. Mr. Wellsbourne distributed the toys to the children, in the garb of Santa Claus. During the evening we had dancing, singing and recitations. On January 5th we held our Lyceum sessions. Mr. Richards addressed us on the advantages of being punctual. Later on Miss E. Smith addressed the Liberty Group, the subject being "environment." We were greatly interested, so it was decided that we would continue with the subject for the next three Sundays. Mr. Stott spoke upon the subject. On January 12th and on January 26th Mr. Richards gave the final remarks upon the subject.—J. J. Draxler, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, CHEETHAM HILL (Crescent Road).—We held our New Year's Tea Party on January 1st. We had a very good attendance of both Lyceumists and friends. The tea was thoroughly enjoyed. After tea recitations and songs were rendered by Lyceumists. Then prizes were distributed for attendance. The evening concluded with games, etc., everybody having had a most enjoyable time. Wishing every Lyceum a Bright and Prosperous New Year.—Mrs. Hall, Sec.

MANCHESTER, HARPURHEY (Mitford Street).—On January 1st we held our Annual New Year's Party and Social, which was a grand success, about 200 Lyceumists and friends being present. The entertainment consisted of songs, recitations, dancing, etc. Also a sketch, entitled "A Quiet Family," very capably rendered by our Lyceumists, the whole being very well managed throughout and everyone heartily enjoying themselves all the evening. We finished up by distributing fruit amongst the children. Personally, I looked hard for the "Quiet Family" in our hall that day (without success), but a happier family it would be impossible to find, and I trust sincerely that we will remain so. Greetings from the Homeland to those who have crossed the herring pond.—Walter Robins, Secretary.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—On January 11th we held our Children's Annual Party. I am pleased to say it was well attended. Our Conductor, Mr. A. E. Jones, presented the prizes to the children, with a few words of encouragement to each. Also a special one, given by one of our Lyceumists to James Hern, for the most recitations during the year. During the evening we were favoured with a dialogue, entitled "April Fools," which was appreciated very much by old and young. Altogether it was a splendid success, and we thank all who came to take part in any way.—H. Hislop, Assistant Conductor and Secretary.

SOUTH MANCHESTER (Princess Road).—On Sunday, December 29th, we had our election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Aronovitch; Assistant, Mr. R. Gilbert; Treasurer, Mr. R. Gilbert; General Secretary, Mr. Hart; Financial Secretary, Miss Cartman; Musical Director, Miss V. Henley; Guard, Master C. Patter; Guardian, Miss D. Heathcote; Calisthenic Leader, Miss Hardcastle; Marching Conductor, Mr. Gilbert; Absentee Visitors, Miss E. Cliffe and Miss D. Heathcote; Sick Visitor, Miss D. Parker; Card Markers, Mr. Heathcote and Miss Hardcastle; Auditors, Mr. Henley and Mr. Chappell; Delegates, Mr. Aronovitch and Mr. Gilbert; Convenor, Miss Cartman; Trustees, Mr. Bentley and Mr. Chappell; Sick and Benevolent Fund Treasurer, Miss D. Parker. On New Year's Day we had our Annual Social and Prize Distribution.—Ernest Hart, Secretary.

MIDDLETON (Gilmour Street).—On January 12th we held our Open Session, Mr. Barrington, Senr., conducting. A good number of Lyceumists and friends were present. Pearls, solos, recitations were well rendered. As secretary, I do believe the spiritual work in our district is on the improve. In the evening of the same date we held a service of song, entitled "A True Briton," which was nicely rendered, the solos being taken by Miss B. Heywood, A. Wilkinson, and Mrs. J. Liddle, Mr. Whitehead, A. Wilkinson and Liddle. Reader, Miss Simpson. Accompanist, Miss P. Openshaw. Chairman, Mr. Barrington.—J. Liddle, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, BENWELL (Co-op. Hall).—On January 1st we held our Annual Tea, and a good time was spent by both Lyceumists and visitors. On Sunday, January 5th, we held our Open Session. There was a great revival in attendance, which we hope will continue throughout the year. Mr. Currie, of Benwell, addressed the Lyceum, taking for his subject the origination of modern Spiritualism, illustrating the various methods and places that the friends on the other side of life used in making their presence known. The subject was a very interesting one. The children have been lacking in recitations lately, very few responding to the Conductor's invitation. Pearls have been good lately and there is a decided improvement in marching.—Wm. Stocks, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, WALLSEND.—On Sunday, January 12th, we held our usual monthly Open Session. Recitations were given by Alice Jackson, Mary J. Pallis, Lily Adams, Gertie Innes, Alice McIntosh, Robertson Jackson and Ernest Finlay. Solos were also rendered by Elsie Carling, Alice Jackson, Katherine Carling, Arthur Emmerson and Adam Dixon. We have a good and regular attendance of children, but are in urgent need of more workers.—Miss A. Lawrence, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Bentick Road).—On Sunday, December 29th, we held our election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Miss Swaddon; Assistant, Mr. F. Jarvis; Secretary, Mr. A. H. Coles; Guardian, F. Stanley; Organist, Miss Read; Pianist, Mr. H. Llewellyn; Captain of Guards, Mr. A. Read; two Guards, F. Stowe and A. Hardy; Marching and Calisthenic Conductor, Mr. A. H. Coles; Musical Conductor, Mr. Thomas. On Sunday, January 5th, we had an Open Session, when our D.V., Mr. Ashworth, presented the 34 prizes to the successful scholars, which speaks well for the enthusiasm of the children, the Lyceum not being a year old till February.—A. H. Coles, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—On January 5th we held our Open Session and Prize Distribution. Attendance excellent, including a fair number of visitors. The programme consisted of solos by Edith Hickling; recitations by Kittie Hopkin and Hilda Hickling. Short addresses by Mrs. McCaig, Miss M. Hopkin, Mr. Cartwright and Mr. T. W. Marsters. The latter gentleman presented the awards, delighting all with his apt and witty remarks. On the 6th we had our New Year Tea, at which over 60 sat down, followed by a social evening. Mr. Marsters (on behalf of the members) presented the Secretary with a handsome volume, in recognition of past services. On the 12th, the half-yearly election of officers took place, with satisfaction to all concerned.—A. Shipley, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Coronation Street).—On Sunday, December 29th, we held our half-yearly meeting. The election of officers was as follows:—Conductor for songs and readings, Miss N. Bayliss; Assistant, Miss F. Bayliss; Conductor for Marching, Mr. B. Beaver; Assistant Conductor, Mr. C. Dunkerly; Calisthenic Conductors, Miss E. Frankland and Mr. W. Roberts; Guardians, Miss M. Roberts and Mr. J. Trippear; Librarians, Miss Pearl Frankland and Jack Frankland; Teachers, Miss C. Howarth, Miss L. Owen and Mr. H. Buckley; Musical Director, Mr. Reynor; Secretary, Mr. Herbert Buckley. We were pleased to have with us Mrs. Wallace, of the Barrow-in-Furness Lyceum. On Saturday, January 12th, was our Open Session, which was one of the best we have ever had.—H. Buckley, Secretary.

PENDLETON (Ford Lane).—I am pleased to say that our Lyceum is progressing very favourably. On Saturday, Dec. 28th, 1912, we held our usual Tea Party and Social, given to Lyceumists. It was a huge success. After tea they had a good romp in the room, playing games, etc. The dip tub caused great fun, and made every child happy. On going home they received oranges and nuts. Dancing was also indulged in by the elders, which brought a very pleasant evening to a close. On Sunday, December 29th, we had a letter from our late worker and president, Mr. Kenyon, from Australia, wishing us greater success in our Lyceum.—C. Lloyd, Secretary.

PRESTON (Clark's Yard).—On Saturday, January 4th, we held a Tea Party and Prize Distribution. The prizes were given out by our Conductor, Mrs. Wilson, who expressed the wish that we should work together for the happiness of all. Sunday morning, January 5th, was a very wet and dreary one. However, with the aid of big fires and cheerful hearts, our Open Session was most enjoyable. Recitations were given by Alice and Nelly Spencer, M. A. Margison, Mabel Cartmell, Annie Beetham, Lena Barber, Eunice Kay, Annie Parkinson and Willie Holt. Songs by Miss Moorby, Miss Savage and Mr. R. Cartmell. Our best wishes to those who have worked with us in the past, but are now in other lands.—Miss E. Savage, Secretary.

RISHTON.—At our last meeting we held our election of officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mrs. Green; Assistant, Meta Cunliffe; Calisthenic Conductor, Harriet A. Holden; Guardian, Mary F. Haughton; Librarian, R. Holden; with R. Cook, as rod conductor. We held our Open Session on Sunday, January 5th, and had a very nice time. The following gave recitations:—Mary F. Haughton, Elsie Cunliffe, Elizabeth English, Annie Green and Ormerod Edwards, and Amy Waddington sang for us. We also had a duet from Harriet A. Holden and Mary F. Haughton.—A. Haughton, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Askern Street).—On Saturday, December 28th,

a Free Tea was given to poor children. We had 76 sit down to tea. Afterwards more came, so 112 took part in games, etc. Refreshments were handed round at the interval. Some of the children sang and recited. Mr. G. Gibson also sang. Mr. R. Howarth, Askern Street, kindly came forward with a gramophone. At the close Christmas carols were sung and "God be with you till we meet again" was heartily sung altogether. Then the children gave three hearty cheers. As they were leaving, an orange and a bag of nuts were given to each. Altogether we had a grand tea party. The committee of the above fund wish to thank all subscribers.—John Wm. Sixsmith, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—On Sunday, December 29th, we held our quarterly Open Session in the evening. Owing to the absence of our Conductor, Mr. Leanor, through sickness, Mr. Lingard, our Assistant Conductor, conducted the session before a nice congregation. The silver chain recitation was conducted by Miss Mary Taylor. Musical readings by Miss Elsie Stewart and Master Willie Brown. The golden chain recitations were led by Mr. Lingard. Marching and calisthenics were afterwards gone through, ably led by Mr. Fred Wright and Mr. Ernest Berry respectively. The following Lyceumists contributed recitations, which were greatly enjoyed:—Misses Elsie Taylor and Annie Brown, and Master Harry Hudson, Ronald Lingard and Eric Berry. Mr. E. Sanderson proved an efficient accompanist. Thus terminated a successful session.—Mary Taylor, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—January 5th. In the morning we had a very impressive and harmonious session, on account of one of our members going away to Australia. Mrs. Lizzie Nurse presented a *Lyceum Manual* to Mr. Herbert Tattersall, who was given a hearty send off by the Lyceum. Mr. Tattersall responded, and thanked the Lyceum for the *Manual*. Afterwards the hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds," was sung, all the Lyceum joining hands together. In the evening we held our Open Session. Mrs. Nurse was the speaker, and she took for her subject, G.C. 104, "A Ladder of Light." Pearls, recitations and a solo were also given, and we closed the session by singing, "God be with you till we meet again," all joining hands together. Mr. Ned Lord, the Conductor, presided.—John Firth, Senr.

ROTHERHAM.—We held our Open Session on January 5th, when the officers for the year were elected. Conductor, Mr. Chappel; Assistant, Mr. Embley; Treasurer, Mrs. Bruce; Musical Conductor, Mr. Hunt; Guardian, Mr. Stocks; Captain of Guards, Mr. Bruce; Librarians, Boys, Master Bruce; Girls, Miss Chapman. We had a good session. A friend from Heeley rendered a dramatic poem in excellent style. Other good recitations were given by Master Bruce, Mr. Chappel and Mrs. Jones, who has been conducting Lyceum in the absence of our late Conductor, Mr. Papworth, who has had a severe illness, to whom we all extend our deepest sympathy at the recent loss of his wife, who passed to the higher life during Christmas holidays.—W. Rawlinson, Secretary.

SHAW (Lyon Street).—On Sunday, January 5th, we had our election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. James Heywood; Assistants, Miss C. Wright and R. Nuttall; Leaders, Miss V. Rawlinson and Master H. Hardman; Assistants, Miss A. Owen and Master W. M. Wormall; Guardians, Miss A. Wright and Master W. Chorlton; Musical Director, Master R. Wormall; Secretary, Mr. R. J. Savory.

SHEFFIELD, ATTERCLIFFE.—On New Year's Day we held our Annual Treat, when we gave about 120 Lyceumists a tea, to which they all did justice. Afterwards we all played games and the church rang with the shouts of merriment till 8-30, when, after singing "Never give up the right way," we all went home, a tired and happy band. On Saturday, January 4th, the officers had a social of their own, when one or two new members joined us. On Sunday, January 10th, a touching ceremony took place, when Mr. Martin presented a photograph of his daughter Minnie, who passed to the higher life a few months ago.—F. Whiteley.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Christmas Day we held a Concert and Social in aid of the Lyceum. Recitations, humorous songs, etc., were given, and also a sketch, entitled "The Outcast," by four members of the dramatic club. We also had a cake competition, in aid of the building fund, the cake being won by one of our Lyceumists. On Thursday, January 2nd, the officers of the Lyceum gave their annual tea and social to the Lyceum, about 120 children and parents sitting down to a good tea, all doing justice to it. During the evening the children were entertained with games, etc. We brought the evening to a close at ten o'clock by distributing sweets, fruit and toys from the Christmas Tree, all having spent a jolly evening.—G. H. Magness, Secretary.

SHILDON (Newlands Avenue).—On Sunday, January 12th,

we held our usual Session, which was fairly well attended considering the stormy weather. The Conductor answered several questions from the G.C.R. to the Lyceum, after which we had pearls and a solo from Annie Chappell, "Clap your hands for joy." There was the naming of a child belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Peacock, the name being Hilda Mary Peacock. Mr. Smith, Conductor, had the pleasure of naming the child, which was ably carried out. I hope it will be a future worker for our cause.—John Wilson, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—On the 5th inst. we held our usual Open Session, which commenced with the song, "A glad New Year to you we bring," followed with an excellent programme, consisting of solos, readings, recitals, etc. The Conductor (Mrs. Berry) delivered an address on "The utility and beneficent results accruing from physical culture." On the 12th January, Mr. G. Mathison attended in his official capacity as D.V. and addressed the assembly on "Personal Responsibility," and also highly complimented both officers and Lyceumists on the high state of efficiency in all departments. A fortnight hence we are holding a social.—Kitty Bolton, Secretary.

SOWERBY BRIDGE (Hollins Lane).—On New Year's day a successful whist drive, supper and dance was held. About fifty Lyceumists and friends attended. Our half-yearly election of officers resulted as follows:—Conductors, Thomas H. Wright and Fred Sutcliffe; Marching Calisthenics, Clement Clayton, Walter Wright; Musical Directors, Edith Wright Florence Booth and Clement Clayton; Leaders, Joe Steel, Cyril Sutcliffe, Edith Baker and May Copley; Sick Visitors, Martha Weir and Joe Steel; D.C. Delegates, Cissy Thorpe and Nellie Butterworth; Liberty Group, T. H. Wright; other Groups, Edith Baker, Martha Weir, Emily Thorpe, Kate Calvert, Walter Wright, Cyril Sutcliffe, Mrs. Lees, Joe Steel and Fred Sutcliffe; Guards, Irene Rowson, Albert Clegg, Guardian, Clement Clayton; Secretary, Joe Steel; Assistant Secretary, Cyril Sutcliffe.—Joe Steel, Secretary.

STALYBRIDGE (Bennett Street).—The annual party in connection with the Lyceum was held on Christmas Day in the Spiritual Schoolroom in Bennett Street. The building was prettily decorated. After tea, Mr. J. Croasdale presided, and he extended the usual Christmas greetings. The programme consisted of songs by Miss Hilda Cook, Miss Kiddle, Miss Jones, and Miss Barrowclough; violin, piano and mandoline trios by Miss Jones, Mr. James Swife and Mr. Durban Jones; recitations by Misses Nora Wrigley, Hilda Cook, Bertha Cook, Mabel Miles, — Jones, Phoebe Young, Hilda Ingham, Faith Sidebottom, and Mr. Hinchliffe. Short addresses were given by Mr. Robt. Cook, Mr. Hencky, and Mr. Hudson. The whole of the proceedings were very much enjoyed.—J. Croasdale.

TODMORDEN SPIRITUAL LYCEUM.—We held our Open Session on January 5th and had the following programme:—Song, 341, *Manual*, Mrs. Wilson; recitation, "Lost pussy cat," Jack Howorth; reading, No. 77, *Manual*, Annie Marshall and Evelyn Eastwood; recitation, "A child's prayer," Harold Firth; song, "Jingle bells," Jack Howorth; song, "Lullaby," Mr. Wilson; duet, 382, *Manual*, Lavinia Sutcliffe and Mabel Howorth; song, 423, *Manual*, Geo. Johnson; recitation, "Guy's signal," Annie Lee; recitation from "Hamlet," Evelyn Eastwood; recitation, "The three bears," Harold Howorth; duet, 386, *Manual*, Bertha Lee and Sarah Ridgeway; song, 337, *Manual*, B. A. Crossley.—Frank Pratt.

TORONTO (Van Horne and Dover Court).—On Sunday, January 5th, we held our Open Session. We had a very interesting session, with about 50 scholars present. Mrs. Cardy gave a solo, entitled "Count your blessings"; Mr. F. Brooke sang "Scatter the gems of the beautiful"; "A glad New Year" was rendered by the Choir; and a quartette, consisting of Mrs. Hobson, Miss Hobson, Mr. H. Brett and Mr. D. Abbott, sang "Speed away." Mr. Wilson was present with us and spoke of "The progress of Lyceum work in Toronto." On Christmas and New Year's eve the Choir and others went out carol singing to the homes of Lyceumists.—D. Abbott, Sec.

WINNIPEG LYCEUM.—I have to report that the result of our election of officers at the half-yearly meeting was:—Conductor, Mr. Stevenson; Assistant Conductor, Mr. Higley; Secretary, J. Parkinson; Treasurer, Mr. Birch; Organist, Mr. Vernon; Guardian, Mr. Cartmann; Captain of Guards, Master Higley; Guards, Miss V. Vernon and Miss I. Higley. On Sunday, January 6th, our Lyceum gave a service of song, entitled "Rest at Last," before the church members, and it was given with credit to the Lyceumists, and it augurs well for future occasions. The soloists were Mrs. Higley, Mrs. W. Vernon and Mr. J. Parkinson. Reader, Mr. Birch. We have instituted the pearl system into our Lyceum, and it behoves all Lyceumists to make it a benefit to each and everyone.—John Parkinson, Secretary.