

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. 271.

AUGUST, 1913.

ONE PENNY.

INTUITION.

By Mrs. FRANCES KINGMAN.

It was a lovely sunset. The west was filled with rainbow colours, and the departing sun lent his rays to paint the tree-tops with that soft shade which seems to temper the hearts of all which gaze thereon.

Mr. Holt's man came suddenly round the corner of the house, breathless, and pale as marble. He said, "Please, they want you quick, ma'am."

I gave Cutty one glance and we hastened to obey. Entering the hall we heard Mrs. Holt weeping violently and her husband striving to soothe her. Upon seeing me she rushed into my arms, straining me to her bosom in convulsive agony, and said, in a voice I shall never forget:

"Oh! Mrs. Holt, my darling Lizzie is dying."

Caressing the poor woman's head, I answered, "No, no, she is just commencing life. Oh, Mrs. Holt, you will not distress her last moments; do, I implore you, be calm, and see what a beautiful passing away it will be. So soon an angel! Your precious little girl safe in such loving arms. Promise me you will not embitter her journey."

She dropped on her knees, rocked to and fro, wrung her hands, pulled at her hair, and gazing upward in agony, she hoarsely whispered, "O God! help, help me!"

Lizzie had asked to see Mr. Blaisdell, Mr. James, and Miss Duane. They had been sent for, and directly made their appearance. I placed my arm around Mrs. Holt's waist and soothingly said: "Now, be strong and calm; we are going to see an angel going to heaven—that's all—where she will be so safe—and only a little while and you will see her again. Come now, do not, O do not cause her to go in sorrow." Bent with her great sorrow, I led her in.

"Mrs. Blake, I'm so glad—mother, dear mother—Cutty—don't cry any more, dear, darling mother."

Mrs. Holt shook like a forest-tree battling in a storm; her teeth chattered in her head, she clung to my hand with a grip that was painful. Lizzie motioned for the minister.

"Pray, Mr. Blaisdell, for mother, father, all of 'em, and forgive Lizzie Holt any naughty thing she ever said or did."

The man of God, with trembling voice, offered a brief petition. Then she called Mr. James, and of him also she asked pardon, saying in the sweetest voice:

"Oh! please, Mr. James, teach little children 'God is love?'"

She kissed Miss Duane, and said smilingly, "I was naughty, very naughty—when I frightened you that night. I am sorry. Will you forgive me?"

Miss Duane looked a little annoyed, but answered, "Yes, Lizzie, I will." She glanced at Mr. James and took her seat.

Then Lizzie said, "Lift the curtain, Cutty, please—'tis so beautiful to journey by the setting sun—and when I get up a little higher it will be brighter. I have thought all day I should be called to-night."

Mrs. Holt sobbed aloud.

"Mother, dear mother, you are doing splendidly, don't cry now."

Lizzie asked her father to move her a little. "A little higher, dear papa. Mrs. Blake, I have got all my messages—every one—and I shall surely tell Cecil—and I have got yours, Cutty—and—mother, please take hold of my hand—here, papa—here's the other—come right here, all of you, where I can see you—kiss me, mother—papa—Oh! the beautiful hills—it's a long way over there—I cannot go alone—Oh! smell the violets, Cutty?—it's growing dark—and the beautiful hills are so high."

The little one was quiet for a moment, and she murmured, "I'm so tired—so tired—and it is so dark."

"Are you afraid, Lizzie?" I whispered near her ear.

"Oh, no, Mrs. Blake, it's getting lighter—the *figurative* is all going away—Oh! somebody with a lace dress and—beautiful hair—smell the roses, Cutty?—he's coming—he's holding his staff hard, because he's so tired."

"Who, Lizzie?"

"The old man I taught to read when at school—and he's coming—Aunt Sarah told him I was sick."

The soft evening breeze lifted the lace draperies and refreshed the breath of the journeying little one.

"Mother, kiss your Lizzie—and papa." The liquid brilliance of her gaze met ours in the last flickering sun rays. The mother drew her daughter close to her bosom, and their lips met.

"O my child—my darling, I have lost the whole world! Oh! Father in heaven, how can I live?"

"It is weary—for you—for a little while, dear mother—but so bright for me. You do not want—to keep me. He crowns me, but smites you."

I saw Mrs. Holt raise her hands to her head, and I again whispered in her ear, "Oh, do not commit an act you will regret ever after. Courage."

"Help me, O my God," was her fervent petition.

At the moment, Lizzie's whisper caught my ear, "His kiss, quick—Mrs. Blake—he's come—his hands are stretched out for me—Oh, Cecil—he points upwards towards the beautiful hill-top—Oh! the violets

—Cutty's kiss, quick—'tis true—Oh! 'tis true, mother—for I see them—her father and mother—and Johnny—."

The blue eyes had slowly closed themselves—the smile lingered—the last ray of the sun glorified her face—and precious Lizzie Holt had joined the angels.

Mr. Blaisdell sat with bowed head, Mr. James and Mr. Holt bore the fainting mother away, Miss Duane sat weeping, Cutty laid her face close to the marble brow, and smilingly said, "Oh, isn't it blessed to die!"

The night had come, the house was still, the servants passed through the halls with noiseless footsteps, the *white* crape fluttered at the door knob, for Lizzie had asked me not to allow any signs of mourning in or about the mansion—and I treasured all her desires regarding the funeral and her mother's wardrobe. Cutty and I remained all night with Mrs. Holt, we had several letters to write, and telegrams to dictate. We had robed our little Lizzie's form and laid it to rest in the parlour. It was a beautiful form. Smiling, straight, the flaxen hair wreathed in the flowers we had brought her in the day, the waxen fingers held roses and violets to the nostrils, as though she still scented those heavenly blossoms. Her tiny feet were encased in white slippers—Oh! those dear patterings! how they came back to me as I gazed upon her when our work was finished.

CHAPTER XX.

A place was made in the funeral procession for Suky Black, Belle Orcut, who had been sent for, and many of the village poor. Very noticeable in the fifth carriage was an infirm old man; he carried a staff, and his white hair blew in long, thin tresses. He, whom her spiritual eyes had seen journeying over the road, had arrived, and was permitted to lay beside her smiling face, wild blossoms he had gathered on his way. Aunt Sarah had, indeed, told him Lizzie Holt was sick, and he could not resist his desire to see his little teacher. The village had something for gossip:—Mrs. Holt dressed in pure white because her happy child had requested it.

Lizzie said to me a few days before her death, "Mrs. Blake, it is the beautiful Summer-time, and I am going to the beautiful Summer-land, and I want mother to wear white at the funeral and all the time till cold weather comes. She mustn't put on black, because God has been so good as to make me an angel."

Mr. Blaisdell spoke well at the grave. He came to see me the afternoon before the funeral, and asked me a few questions, which I readily answered, and then asked him a few, one of which was:—

"Do you think Lizzie Holt has gone to heaven?" He rubbed his forehead, hummed, drew on his gloves, then answered:—

"Yes, I have not a *doubt* of it."

Mr. James walked at the head of the scholars of the Sunday School, in the funeral procession, and Miss Duane's class sang at the grave:

"We shall know her there! We shall know her there,
By the shining folds of her wavy hair;
By her faultless form and its airy grace
That an angel's pen might fail to trace;
By the holy smile her lips will wear,
When we meet above we shall know her there."

Each member of the class laid a white rose-bud upon the casket as they looked their last on Lizzie's earthly form, and I could but bear in mind the smiling face of the angel-child watching to behold if her desires had been regarded. I believe she was pleased.

A year has passed by. Another summer is blossoming around us. Another June's roses deck dear Lizzie's grave. It is a cheerful spot. No cypress or willow, no mourning statue in marble, but instead, gay blossoms, a plain cross, inscribed with her dear name, a rustic seat, where sits often a woman greatly changed from her former self. She is meek, good to Lizzie's poor, she has forgotten her belief in total depravity and election, has little fear of making heaven a material place of pearly gates, jasper walls, and golden streets, but recalls a life of angelic sweetness, and from memory selects her example. There are heights and depths, good and evil, joy and sorrow. Reason has now taught her to shun the one and reach upward to God, and outward to do His will, "loving our neighbour as ourselves." She mourns, not Lizzie's absence, for she has taught herself to live near her, and regards Death as an archway crowned with flowers." Cutty is still at Madame Royale's School, progressing rapidly in her studies, and I live on, with Cecil never very far away, for I am able intuitively to hold converse with him.

"A drowsiness is stealing over me,
Which is not sleep; for though I close mine eyes,
I am awake and in another world."

Longfellow.

THE END.

Questions and Answers.

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

Question:—Will you please inform me in the next BANNER as to whether I can be a Spiritualist and a Christian combined, or not, with any creed and dogma.—Mr. Quarmby, Heybrook.

Answer:—Assuming that by the term "Christian" is meant the belief in the story taught in Genesis of the Creation, and Fall, thereby necessitating a Redeemer to bear the sins of the transgressor; and also assuming that by the term "Spiritualist," is meant one who holds, and believes in the teachings of spirit people concerning the salvation of the soul, our answer can only be, that the two are not compatible, seeing that spirit people teach that each man and woman is personally responsible for their own sins, that no one can save them from the consequences. Or in other words, a Spiritualist believes, not only in spirit return and communion, but personal responsibility, with compensation and retribution hereafter for all the good or evil deeds done here, and a path of eternal progress open to every human soul that wills to tread it by the path of eternal good; whilst a Christian believes in vicarious atonement. But some of Jesus' principles for life here are very similar to our own.

Girls' Own Corner.

By
Mrs. JESSY
GREENWOOD



SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
Aug. 3	322	323	210	101	408
Aug. 10	407	400	*344	149	406
Aug. 17	306	19	216	108	415
Aug. 24	391	69	*392	147	403
Aug. 31	379	68	227	146	396

*Impromptu Readings by selected Lyceumists.

Pearls.

AUGUST 3—"Trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle."—*Michael Angelo.*

AUGUST 10—"The wise and active conquer difficulties by daring to attempt them."—*Rowe.*

AUGUST 17—"Prune thou thy words, the thoughts control

That o'er thee swell and throng;
They will condense within thy soul,
And change to purpose strong."—*J. H. Newman.*

AUGUST 24—"I learnt how to obtain the best I could, when I could not obtain everything; instead of being indignant or dispirited, because I could not have entirely my own way, to be pleased and encouraged when I could have the smallest part of it; and when even that could not be, to bear with complete equanimity the being overruled altogether—*John Stuart Mill.*

AUGUST 31—"It is a sign of true courage to stand for the Right when right is miscalled wrong, and maintain the Truth when the weak contend with the powerful."—*A. Kitson.*

This month I want to tell the girls about a big function at which I was present at Walsall on July 11th, when two old gentlemen—one 84 years of age and the other 91—were presented with the Freedom of the Borough of Walsall. It was an interesting affair and one but seldom witnessed, because such honours are not often bestowed, and only then to men, who, for special service to the town are

deemed eligible by the burgesses for such a gift; e.g., for instance, gifts of money to various public bodies, spending time gratuitously (as most public offices demand) on committees, on the town council, or Educational boards, or Poor Law work. Municipal duties generally—the whole of which is done for the advancement of the town, trade, and civic life.

Both gentlemen were natives, and one had been prominently identified with the town all his 91 years, and had represented Walsall in Parliament. His present activity seemed wonderful, and almost weird when he spoke so fluently, without notes, of events happening many years before I was thought of.

The Mayor of Walsall—our own Mr. Venables—along with the Mayoress—Mrs. Venables—were the chief personages. The platform was decorated with plants, palms, and ferns; and a beautiful archway of smilax and big white lilies was erected near the entrance, under which the Mayor and Mayoress walked together to the front where seats were arranged for the notabilities of the event. As all the people rose to welcome them it was a magnificent sight. The organ pealed out lovely music, the room was festooned with flags, and together with the dresses of the ladies, and the old time livery of the Mace bearers, and the bright crimson robe of the Mayor, were distinctly striking, but the most noticeable figure of all was the Mayoress; as girls love to read about dress I must try to picture the lady as she was gowned. A lovely pearl grey Charmeuse, veiled by ninon de soi of the same colour, trimmed with pearl and steel bugle passementerie, which came down the front and round the train, whilst diamanta gave a pretty finish to the front panel. A black tulle hat with large white feathers completed the toilet. She wore the magnificent chain the ladies of Walsall have had made for her, and future Mayoresses, to wear this last year, as well as a miniature one, the exact replica of the official chain which is a personal gift to Mrs. Venables by the same ladies. She looked lovely! But this pen picture is not half what the real picture was.

Their was exhibited a quiet dignity and demeanour as to the manner born, and every inch a lady, an excellent Consort in the high position she holds, and above all, the high esteem shown on every side for both Mr. and Mrs. Venables made me glad, because as Spiritualists they have upheld the honour of our cause in high places, and are honoured thereby. I wonder who among my girl readers will reach this position in the town in which they were born and reared, and be as willing to give a hand to every good cause that needs assistance. Your Manual is a guide always! Your spiritualism the sheet anchor for you in all experiences, as it has been to our late Treasurer and his wife—Mr. and Mrs. Venables.

It is probable a picture of both in their Mayoral robes and insignia will be in a future issue of the Banner. I wonder how many girls will want one to keep? The Picture Gallery Mr. Kitson spoke of, is foreshadowed already.

The scrolls of vellum fixed on red satin and contained in two golden caskets were presented to each gentleman in turn by Mr. Venables on behalf of the burgesses. He did so, making excellent speeches which were responded to by the recipients of the honour—Sir E. Smith and Mr. Frank James.

Bouquets to two ladies were given by two little

girls (girls generally get the nice jobs). The National Anthem sung as a solo first, and afterwards by the company, brought a red letter day for the town to a close.

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

MY DEAR CHUMS,

The third principle of our Religion is: "The immortality of the soul and its personal characteristics." Let me tell you something I know about this very important part of Spiritualism.

There was once a boy who lived in Manchester with his brothers and sisters. One night, when he was washing his hands and face ready for bed, the boy heard his big brothers and sisters were going to remove to Oldham, a town seven miles away. Next day the boy bid good-bye to all his little playmates and ran home to help with the packing of pots and furniture ready for the time when a big removing van should call to carry all the things away. The van came, all the furniture was packed within, and the carter, who was a jolly man, placed his ladder against the top of the van. "Up you go!" said the carter to the two youngest boys, and up the ladder the boys climbed in glee, carrying with them a large bottle of herb-beer and some bread and cheese. When they reached the top of the van, the carter threw up some horse-rugs and told the boys to enjoy themselves, but be very careful not to fall off the top, because they were going for a very, very long ride. With a "Gee-up" to the horses, off they started, the younger boy's playmates watching their chum on the top of the van until a bend in the road hid him from their sight.

The youngest boy felt like one of the many travellers he had read about on the top of his caravan. Using his hands like a telescope, no passing tramcar or waggonette or distant view missed his vision, as he threw his telescope in various directions. When they had gone some miles a very long pole stood straight up in an open space. The people who lived about the pole would sometimes have a lot of fun with this pole. A leg-of-mutton would be hung at the top and then the pole was made very greasy with fat and soft-soap. Anyone able to climb up the pole could have the leg-of-mutton as a prize. The boys laughed heartily when the carter told them this tale, along with others about the people in the districts they passed through.

When a few days had passed after reaching Oldham, an uncle came to see the youngest boy. As he was thirteen years of age, the uncle said the boy ought to go to some kind of work, and so a week afterwards found the boy in a workshop. After a time the boy commenced to work next to a man who had a boy of the same age in another workshop. Finding the lad to be an orphan, Mark Sutcliffe, as the man was called, took an interest in the boy and told the lad how he had wandered about the country drinking and gambling and neglecting his family, even going abroad three times in his wandering spirit. It was not until nearly fifty years of age, when his own children were growing up, that he

thought of the awful example he was giving his children. From that time, up to meeting the orphan lad, he had been a steady, industrious man, good to his wife and children, and now took a fancy to the young boy who worked beside him. Many a time the lad was invited to the home of Mark Sutcliffe, and many happy hours were spent in Mark's little workshop. Together they would repair wringing machines, make ornaments for the fire side, boil toffee, and many other things of interest to man and boy.

One day Mark was absent from his work. The boy missed his chum. Many days passed, and still he did not come. The message came that the man had got a cold whilst in his little workshop, which he had neglected. Inflammation of the lungs had followed, and Mark became delirious and started rambling. He was constantly fancying Frank, the orphan lad, was with him. The anxious wife of Mark wished to pacify him, so Frank was brought to see the sick man. He was much quieter after, and Frank went again. At the second visit Mark Sutcliffe was much worse, and shortly after passed away. Frank was asked to go, and went to the funeral, and he never forgot the friend of his boyhood.

Many years afterwards found Frank working in another town, but at the same trade. He was living with some people who were Spiritualists. The lady of the house was a medium. One night, on reaching his home, the lady said she could see a spirit who had come home with him. She told what his face was like, and told what clothes he wore. The lady also said the name of the spirit was Mark Sutcliffe, and he had come to help Frank with his work.

Frank had never mentioned about Mark to anybody in that town, and only thought of him as a sweet memory. The young man, as he now was, thought a great deal about this strange happening. When, shortly afterwards, he changed his situation and obtained better work and higher wages, the spirit came again, and said he was still interested in his orphan lad, and also that he had redeemed his promise made through the mediumship of the lady.

Boys, when you are told about "immortality of the soul, and its personal characteristics," it means we shall all some day be as Mark Sutcliffe is now. Even though we are supposed to be dead we are not really so. When we see a caterpillar and then a butterfly, we can hardly believe that the butterfly has passed part of its life as a caterpillar, yet it is quite true. Every bee was once like a little short worm. Every spirit we hear about was once like us. I know a little girl who used to see the spirits of little children who were thought by their parents to have died. Yet this little girl would ask her mother almost every morning to open the door and let the little angels come in and play with her.

The mother, who was clairvoyant, and could clearly see these little spirits, would open the door, the child on this side of life and those who had passed through the grave would play together, just as the young bee plays and feeds its young brothers who are still living in their worm-like shells. I hope you will be able to understand now what is meant by the immortality (continuation of life) of the soul. If you are still puzzled, please ask your teacher to explain what you do not understand, or write to me and I will send you a reply with pleasure.

Now I will answer last month's puzzle about the matches. Move the fifth match over the fourth and the third and cross on the second match. Move ten to thirteen and cross. Move seven over eight and nine to eleven and cross. Move three over four and six to eight and cross. Now start at one and complete all the crosses.

If you would like some more puzzles next month please write and tell your sincere chum,

GEO. FREDK. KNOTT.

Bluebell Guild.

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

CONDUCTED BY M. E. KITSON, B.A.

My dear Bluebells,

This month I am only going to have a short chat with you, as I wish to leave room to give you a dear little story which just "fits in" with our own principles.

I hope you are all having really happy, merry holidays;—enjoying your freedom from lessons at school, or from your ordinary daily work; and getting plenty of fresh air, and sunshine, and exercise,—to build up and strengthen yourselves physically and mentally for earnest efforts and work later.

You have disappointed me this month, for I've not had one letter in response to my request last month. I am sure that many of my Bluebells could have written quite interesting and instructive accounts, and thus given pleasure to other members. Surely you are not too shy, or afraid to make the attempt! Perhaps the nice weather is too enticing to resist its calls to go out-of-doors; and so other matters have to wait. Well, I'll wait a month or two and then ask again.

This little story pleased me so much that I wanted you all to share my pleasure with me, and so here it is. Perhaps some of you have had pets about which you can tell equally interesting facts. Who is going to be the first to have his, or her, account printed in our page to give pleasure to others? I wonder!

DICK AND BOB.

(By Rev. John W. Seller.)

Dick lived in a delightful Yorkshire village. From the garden gate a green lane stretched away to the wide-spreading moorland. In the hedgerow, piping blackbirds, speckled thrushes, timid greenfinches, and sober hedge-sparrows built their nests. Dick was a thoughtless boy, and often amused himself by flinging stones at the innocent birds. Moreover, he took pleasure in carrying home their sky-blue and mottled eggs, and, after blowing them, threading them on a string.

One day the school teacher impressed upon his class the selfishness of such conduct. "For some of the creatures of wood and field," he said, "life is not without its hardships, and if we can make their lot brighter it will be doing a gracious thing. The greatest and manliest men have shown their greatness by their kindness to weak and helpless creatures, as surely as in any other way. It is quite true that

the bravest are the tenderest."

Then Dick saw that it was a manly thing to be kind, and that cruelty is but a coward's joy. He never robbed a bird's nest again. He became a little champion of the songsters. In the garden he placed an old sugar-box, turned it upside down, and each morning spread upon it a breakfast for the birds. Glad wings carried the good news far and wide. "The little-boy-who-has-grown-kind-hearted" wishes all the birds to come," was the welcome message. Large numbers accepted the invitation, among them a perky robin redbreast.

Dick soon made friends with him, and named him "Bob." He was bolder than the rest of the birds, and began to hop on Dick's shoulder. One day he actually followed the boy into the cottage, and perched on the table.

When summer days were ended, and the chill winds of winter were blowing, early in the morning Bob would tap with his little beak at the window, and say as plainly as if in words, "I want to come inside: let me in quick." As soon as the window was opened in he flew. When breakfast was prepared he shared Dick's oatmeal porridge, standing on the edge of the basin and picking out such grains as caught his fancy. Then he hopped on the table and picked up crumbs of bread or toast. When he was quite satisfied he sat on the back of Dick's chair and sang, or betook himself to the window-curtain pole. If he wished the window opening to go outside he made a peculiar noise, as though he were trying to speak like boys and girls. But he would always be back again for meals.

When the day was very cold Bob took up his position on the edge of the fender as soon as he was let in, puffing out his feathers to receive the heat. He grew more and more familiar, and became almost fastidious in his tastes. He began to prefer the butter-dish to the porridge-basin, and would quite gorge himself with its contents. He almost lived in the house, and if the weather was very cold and snowy, Dick's mother allowed Bob to remain inside all night. Indeed, he became quite as much one of the family as the tabby cat, with whom he was on friendly terms.

With the lengthening days and warmer nights of spring Bob was not so much in evidence. His visits became shorter and less frequent. But a short time ago he sprung a delightful surprise upon Dick and his mother. When they came downstairs one morning Bob was perched on the window-sill. By him was a demure-looking mate and five little redbreasts—though, strictly speaking, they had very little red about them, their coats being sober brown decorated with yellow fluff. Bob made a great fuss, evidently being uncommonly proud to introduce his family to Dick.

Well, I trust you have all enjoyed reading that story; and I hope that soon we shall have some of "our very own," telling of Bluebells' pets, and their experiences.

Your loving sister,
FLORA BELLE.

[District Visitors' Quarterly Reports, and other important matter is unavoidably crowded out of this month's issue.—EDITOR.]

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.]

A SPIRIT'S THOUGHTS AFFECT ITS APPEARANCE.

Spirits retain their mental characteristics after death. A young man, with the thoughts of an old man, may look like an old man in the eyes of one whose thoughts are youthful and fresh. Each spirit sees the other spirits according as their thoughts are, and if these are foul, the thinker appears foul in his *body* for the same reason as we before explained, that the garments of the thinker appear unclean if his thoughts and desires are so. Again, if he is miserly, allowing all his thoughts to be engrossed with material gains and wealth instead of paying due attention to spiritual things, he appears to those more advanced than himself, as a man who is poverty-stricken, simply because he has never "laid up treasures in heaven." Hence, you see, that a man whose thoughts have always been "of the earth earthy"—however rich he may have been with you—is a *pauper* in our world, because material possessions are of no avail to the spirit. He may have been clothed in purple and fine linen when he died, but he will rise up in the eyes of the spirit world a miserable creature, clothed in rags.

Speaking of people's characteristics you say such a man is a "bear," or a "hog," a "donkey," a "bull," or a "fox," as the case may be, because their characteristics remind you of those animals. They do not see themselves as other people see them, they may even think themselves very amiable and intelligent people. Now, if those animal characteristics are so evident to earth people, how much more so to spirit people. You have heard it said that spirits have appeared to clairvoyants like animals. The reason of this is, because the spiritual condition of the clairvoyant enables them to see the spirit's true nature, just as they would do were they in the spirit world. You are not to suppose from this that the spirit world appears to a man of superior spiritual development, as peopled with human animals, though it might seem so from what we have said. You can bring yourself by the law of sympathy into closer touch with these unfortunate beings, and then you see them as men and women in all their spiritual vileness. A man may have several traits of animal characteristics, all differing in their mode of expression. In this case he would appear as a composite animal, such as are sometimes depicted in fables and fairy stories. We will tell you what we saw in a house that was said to be haunted. In one part of the house was an old lumber room, in which dwelt the former owner. He appeared to us like a composite being of bull and bear, with a touch of the fox in his make up. In earth life he had been a turbulent, overbearing, cunning man, who by his violent temper and overbearing manner, and fox-like cunning in his business dealings, had caused much unhappiness and suffering.

SPIRITS IN PRISON.

Earth people create their own future surroundings in the spirit world by their thoughts and modes of daily life. Whatever most occupies your thoughts

while on earth becomes your actual surroundings in the spirit world. By this you must not think that you will enjoy your surroundings there as you do on earth. On earth you think about those things that afford you the most pleasure, judged from a physical standpoint, but in the spirit life it is those things that become your actual surroundings *to the exclusion of all else*. It is there where you *feel* your unhappiness. Those whose minds have dwelt solely on mercenary objects, must have neglected to cultivate feelings of love, sympathy and compassion for others, and are therefore selfish, cold, and unloved. As a natural consequence their thoughts dwell on themselves and their possessions, and they never see their friends or kindred, because they did not consider their happiness when in earth life, therefore in spirit life they are lonely and miserable, and find themselves to all intents and purposes, in a bleak, cheerless waste, as objective to them as the desert of Sahara. Another who has been intent on gambling and dissipation finds himself in a hell of gamblers and lewd women, who try to tear him in pieces in their frantic hatred of him and desire for vengeance for injuries received at his hands in earth life. You may take Charles Dickens' graphic description of Marley's ghost, bound with chains composed of "cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavily filled purses," as typical of the spiritual condition of the usurer, because these things had occupied all his thoughts, his studies and care. The drunkard finds himself in the company of drunkards, and although he may be attracted to his old haunts in the tap-room, the bar, and the gin palace, his imagination leads him to believe he is in some strange place, where he is surrounded by fiends in human shape, and so suffers some of the agonies of the orthodox hell as described by theologians. With people who die in a state of intoxication, or from alcoholic poisoning, their spirit body is more or less in a state of coma; and this condition induces a species of delirium which lasts for some time, and causes the spirit to imagine himself in a strange country. These unfortunate creatures picture themselves scenes that have no objective reality, but are the workings of a diseased imagination, just as in the case of *delirium tremens*. Of course, there are swamps, morasses, caverns and gloomy places in the spirit world to which dark and defiled spirits naturally gravitate if they continue in their evil ways.

There are infinite degrees of spirit conditions and blindness, but space will not allow us to follow each man's career, or show you how the world appears to him. To be surrounded with the conditions of your own thoughts may or may not afford you happiness. It is for each one to judge, now that he understands the meaning of hell, or spirits in prison, whether he will make his entrance into spirit life a place of weeping and wailing, or a place of joy and gladness,—a place where you can see things as they are in spirit spheres, or a place where you see only the creations of your own fancies, believing them to be real.

You must not suppose that the thoughts of the good man will also be illusive in the spirit world. If he thinks about his own selfish pleasures he will, of course, be affected by them; but if he has learned true wisdom he will not let self occupy too much of his thoughts, in fact, his thoughts will be almost entirely taken up with love of his fellow-men; and in this there can be no deception, for if he meets them after death.

how can he be said to live in a subjective world? It is only those who are morally blind that see the spirit world in the way we have described it in this section.

(To be continued).

Mrs. LEE

(Late of Armley)

**136, WESTMINSTER ROAD,
MORECAMBE, W.E.**

Homely Apartments.

Bath and Piano

Mrs. A. BIRD,

Saltley House, 16, Lonsdale Road,

(Off Lytham Road),

South Shore, BLACKPOOL.

Public and Private Apartments.

Two minutes from Promenade, Piano.

British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Executive Council of the above Union paid a successful visit to the Armley, Theaker Lane, Lyceum and Society, on July 12th and 13th, as per announcement.

It was thirteen years last April since the Executive paid its previous visit, during which period many changes have taken place, affecting the welfare of the Society and Lyceum. A number of the old workers are now on the spirit side of life, reaping the fruit of their earthly labours and maintaining an active interest in the Cause they loved, and are ceaselessly striving to aid their successors.

The visit was made pleasant by a tea and concert being held on the Saturday as a rally for the local friends. The members of the Executive were debarred from participating in the good things (with the exception of a friendly cup of tea and a social chat with the friends assembled for tea), as their services were in requisition to deal with the needs and requirements of the Lyceum Cause, which kept them closeted in the Committee Room from 6 p.m. to 10-20 p.m.

The members present were Mr. Robert A. Owen (Vice-President), Mr. Thomas H. Wright (Treasurer), Miss Alice Hesp, Mr. H. Hargreaves, Mr. Geo. Fred. Knott, Mr. E. Vickers, and Mr. A. Kitson, General Secretary.

Mr. Owen, (in the absence of the President) presided over the meeting. After calling the meeting to order, prayer was offered for guidance in the deliberations of the Council.

Letters were read from Mr. Latham, Mr. Keeling, and Mrs. Nurse, expressing regret at inability to attend.

The following items of business may be of interest to the general reader.

The question of the advisability of publishing loose music sheets from the "Spiritual Songster" was deferred till the next meeting so as to allow the general feeling of the movement to be obtained on the matter, principally by members of the Executive interviewing Lyceum workers and also by obtaining the opinion of District Councils.

Bury Lyceum was allowed to transfer its member-

ship from the Rochdale Lyceum District Council to that of Bolton, the former offering no objection, being of the opinion that it will be for the benefit of the Lyceum, the Councils, and so the cause in general.

The General Secretary was instructed to suggest to the members of the late Balaclava Road (Sheffield) Lyceum, the advisability of joining the Sherde Road Lyceum, and of the latter joining the Lyceum Union.

The general report briefly summarised the status of the movement, finances, and sales, ending June 30th.

The LYCEUM BANNER report showed a steady increase of its sales, and a deepened interest in its contents, several Lyceums having increased their orders.

The Treasurer's report gave a summary of the Union's business transactions and present financial status.

The Peace Congress report was well received, Miss Hesp being heartily complimented for the same. As it was decided that it be inserted in the LYCEUM BANNER, the Union's Official Organ, the reader will have the pleasure of perusing it.

Mr. Reginald Bowmers was elected the District Visitor for the Sheffield Lyceum District in the place of Mr. Ernest Vickers, who has resigned.

An invitation for the Executive to visit Leicester (Queen Street) Lyceum, on July 11th and 12th, 1914, was duly considered and accepted. The Executive have the following dates open—January 10th and 11th, and April 11th and 12th, 1914.

Mr. George Fred. Knott was elected to represent the Lyceum Union at the Halifax and Huddersfield Lyceums' Demonstration and Conference on July 26th and 27th, and that the following be placed on its Agenda for discussion:

"That the time is now opportune for a closer connection betwixt the Societies and Lyceums; and that we, as a body, do our utmost to bring this about."

An invitation from Glasgow (Berkley Street), inviting the 1914 Lyceum Conference to be held there, was carefully considered and ultimately accepted.

Applications from the following Lyceums for membership were duly considered and ordered to be placed on the Union's Roll: Brisbane (Australia), Christchurch (New Zealand), and Darlington (Bondgate).

The consideration of the reprinting of the Lyceum Union's Constitution was deferred till the next meeting.

It was decided, in accordance with Conference resolution, that District Visitors be instructed to scrutinise the registers of the Lyceums they visit, to ascertain if faithful returns are made to the Lyceum Conference.

SUNDAY.

There was a good muster of Lyceumists at the afternoon's Lyceum Open Session. Friends from the Psycho and East Leeds Lyceums helped to swell the ranks, while visitors from Bradford and Wakefield lent additional interest.

The session opened with the hymn "The March of Life." Mr. Wright offered Invocation. Mr. Owen, presiding, briefly explained to friends present the reason for the non-appearance of several members of the Executive.

(Continued on page 122).

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 May, 1902.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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AUGUST, 1913.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1913.

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

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

It will be gathered from the report of the Executive Council that the visit to Armley was a pleasant affair. The friends from Easy Road and Psycho Lyceums lent additional zest and enthusiasm to the gathering.

The Armley Park, which is within a few minutes walk of Theaker Lane, is an excellent place for a united Open Session. There is a lovely lawn, the ground is level, the grass is nice and trim, with no "Please keep off the grass" to mar the pleasure of the children, who are at full liberty to walk, run, play, or roll, as they prefer. As there is full liberty to hold I.L.P., Temperance, or other meetings, with three square blocks of stone for the use of speakers, there is nothing to prevent the Leeds Lyceums from holding massed Open Sessions once a month during the summer, which would do a tremendous amount of good as an education to the public, and in recruiting the Lyceums. The cost of hymn sheets and train fares for the visiting Lyceums would be more than defrayed by collections. Nowhere have we seen such splendid facilities for open-air massed sessions.

The Lyceum Executive have the following dates open for quarterly meetings. Lyceums desirous of a visit should make their applications to the Lyceum Union's General Secretary, stating which date they prefer:—October 11th and 12th, 1913; January 10th and 11th, and April 11th and 12th, 1914.

It will be seen that next year's Lyceum Conference is to be held at Glasgow. Our Scottish friends may be depended upon to do all in their power to make the occasion a memorable one in the annals of the Lyceum cause. The date being fixed for Whitsuntide will assure visitors of holiday facilities for travelling

Instructions to the Lyceum District Visitors to examine the registers of the Lyceums they visit (to ascertain if their Annual Statistical Returns are in accordance with the number on the Register on the last Sunday in December each year as per Constitution), should do much towards remedying the under stating of our forces. The result will be hailed with joy by all who wish to see an ever increasing strength of our ranks presented to the public.

Another item of interest we wish to draw attention to is that of supplying loose sheets of music from the "Spiritual Songster." We trust that all interested Lyceums will make their opinion on the matter known either through their District Councils or direct to the General Secretary in time for it to be presented to the next Executive Council. Unless there is evidence of a real demand, and not a fitful one for a few odd copies, it will not be wise for the Executive to print and stock a large quantity of copies of each tune.

"The Animals' Friend" for July is full of good stories, urging kindness in the treatment of our dumb friends, which all lovers of animals so much desire. The splendid variety of illustrations taken from real life help to increase the interest of the reader.

I expect some of our readers will have seen in the daily press something of the proposed legislation regarding newspaper competitions, which tend to undermine the morals of their readers, but I give the following note for the benefit of those who have not:

Lord Loreburn's Bill to prohibit prize competitions, which was read for the first time in the House of Lords on July 2nd, was published on July 8th. The Bill punishes with a maximum penalty of six months' hard labour, or £100 fine, or both, any person who conducts, or permits to be conducted, in or through any newspaper, any prize competition which requires payment of money or use of a coupon or form. The same penalties apply to any announcement offering prizes in such competitions.

The Bill has our hearty support, as it is in agreement with one of the items of our Four-Fold Pledge. We wish to see the temptations to do wrong removed and the inducements to do right because it is right increased.

Batley Carr, Carr Street.

The Society will hold its

Anniversary Services

On August 10th at 2-30 and 6,
when

MR. TOM TYRRELL, the famous Clairvoyant
of Blackburn, will occupy the platform. Silver
Collection at the door.

On Saturday, August 9th, A Garden Party

will be held in

Councillor Milnes' Field, Top of Albert Street,

Tea on the Tables at 4-30 p.m. Tickets: Adults 6d., Children 4d

THE LYCEUM RECITER.

HE DID IT.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied,
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed—"Oh, you'll never do that—
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat, and he took off his hat
And the first thing he knew he'd begun it.
With a list of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done—and he did it!

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done.
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Then take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done"—and you'll do it.

SOLICITUDE.

Earth's trials and temptations
Will meet thee soon, dear heart.
And shall I see thee bravely
Stand firm and take thy part?
Or shall I see thee falter
And trembling shrink away,
Or weakly yield thy spirit
To darkness and decay?

Shall I live to e'er regret,
The hour that gave thee birth?
Sigh and sorrow at thy fate,
'Midst sin and vice of earth?
Ah? Better that thy spirit fled
E'en now whilst free, unsoiled,
Than in the future, rampant sin
Around my darling coiled.

But, God will help me, dear one,
To teach thy lips to pray,
To teach thee virtue, kindness,
Instruct while yet I may.
God bless thee, my own darling,
And keep thee free from sin,
His peace and love go with thee
And heaven at last shall win.

E. Moulton.

ONCE IN A WHILE.

Once in a while the sun shines out,
And the arching skies are a perfect bliss;
Once in a while 'mid clouds of doubt,
Faith's fairest stars come peeping thro',
Our paths lead unto the meadows fair,
Where the sweeter blooms nod and smile;
And we lay aside our cross of care—
Once in a while.

Once in a while within our own,
We feel the hand of a steady friend;
Once in a while we feel the tone
Of love with the heart's own voice to blend,
And the dearest of all our dreams comes true,
Each thirsting flower is kissed with dew—
Once in a while.

Once in a while in the desert sand,
We find a spot of the fairest green;
Once in a while from where we stand
The hills of paradise are seen.
And a perfect joy in our hearts we hold,
A joy that the world can not defile;
We trade earth's dross for the purest gold
Once in a while.

Anon.

BROTHERHOOD.

When angels rent the veil which man had wrought
From sombre strands of ignorance and fear,
Unto their wondering listeners they brought
A message ringing truly, sweet and clear—
"Cease from all strife, the Golden Age of Good
Lies in the dawn of human brotherhood.
Where they could find a soul to service tuned,
That mind they keyed and trained to one high strain,
And when the earth-race, for an hour, communed
With spirits bright; with patience once again,
And e'er again, above all other good
They taught, and teach, the truth of brotherhood.
True God-kin-ship that makes its brother's load,
A burden which must by the whole be borne,
Shares in the stings which prove another's goad,
Bears up, with loving care, the soul forlorn,
Gives most itself where lies the greatest need,
Thinks nought of dogma, lives above all creed.
Is not content with hanging on its walls
Brave texts to serve as some far-off desire,
Is not confined to preaching in its "halls,"
But lives its teaching, steps e'en in the mire
To save a fallen one from greater deeps;
Its own tears flowing with the soul that weeps.
Knows above all that from a common life
All life proceeds and seeks a common goal;
That love alone can conquer human strife,
Redeem, sustain and glorify the whole.
O! let the glad, good news be understood
Of life's redeemer, human brotherhood!

R.A. Fulham Lyceum.

(Continued from page 119).

Miss Doris Whitaker then gave the following Welcome:—

WELCOME.

Armley welcomes the Union at last,
Ready to link this day on to the past,
Mingling our voices in Truth's loving name,
Lyceum—our watchword, puts falsehood to shame.
Earnest endeavour we gladly extend,
YOUTH bubbles over as friend greeteth friend.
Working together whatever betide,
Eager, expectant, we stand side by side.
Latham has worthily guided the ship
Cheerily Oh! we won't give him the slip,
“Over and over again, rings the cry,
Mighty souls love us—we'll never say die.
Education is offered to all who accept,
Spirit friends come—oh, how well we are kept,
Teaching us children of life after death,
Happy we are—why it quite takes our breath.
Envy no one we feast you to-day,
Up boys and girls, show the Union the way.
“Never give up the right way,” but be true
In thought, word and deed, and God will bless you.
Onward and upward, exact the full toll,
Now is the time, strangers too may enrol.
Andrew J. Davis has shown us the sign,
Teacher and Counsellor, wisdom divine.
Let's set an example for others to follow,
And mean what we say, not be sleepy or hollow,
So shall we prove throughout this day's repast,
That “Armley welcomes the Union at last.”

Composed by Mr. Layland, Armley.

The following friends were then invited to a seat on the platform: Miss England (Conductor of the East Leeds Lyceum), Mr. Smith (Leeds Psycho Lyceum), Mr. Bradshaw (late Conductor of the Hunslet, Church Street Lyceum), and Mr. Whitehead (from Heeley, Sheffield). Their appearance on the platform was greeted with applause.

Silver chain recitation, “The Roses of Life,” was led by Mr. A. Kitson, without comment. The Musical Reading, “Scatter the Germs of the Beautiful,” was well rendered, the connective readings being taken by Mr. Paine (Armley), Miss England, and Mr. Smith respectively. The Golden Chain recitation, “Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity,” was led by Mr. Knott, who very ably defined and applied to the conditions of daily life the terms “Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.”

Two little girls sang “Open the Door for the Children,” the audience joining heartily in the chorus.

The chairman briefly summarised all the items of the programme, pointing out the leading idea of each one making a beautiful and harmonious whole.

Doris Whitaker sweetly sang “Angel Care,” the audience joining in the chorus.

Then Master Joseph Gascoigne (Leeds Psycho), recited “The Pedlar's Caravan.”

After the marching of the combined Lyceums, Mr. Hargreaves, who had to return by an early train, delivered a spirited address, in which he treated on the apathy of many spiritualists concerning the welfare of the children, on the evils of the doctrine of the vicarious atonement and the advantages of healing by the laying on of hands, quoting instances, from his own experience, of marvellous recovery of what were pronounced to be hopeless cases. He concluded his address with a fine rendering of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poem, “If Nobody Shirks.”

Miss Early (East Leeds) ably rendered the solo,

“Walk in the Light,” for which she was highly complimented by the chairman.

The Chairman then wished all representatives to convey to their Lyceums the fraternal greetings of the Executive.

The singing of “Do not wait for joys to come,” and benediction, brought a happy and spiritually uplifting Lyceum Open Session to a close.

EVENING MEETING.

The local friends had thoughtfully provided a splendid tea, and a good number of visitors readily availed themselves of the same, so as to be able to attend the evening meeting, which was well attended, and was opened with the beautiful and significant hymn, “We are trying to follow the Angels.”

Mr. A. Kitson offered Invocation.

Mr. Owen, presiding, referred to the aims and objects of the Executive's quarterly meetings.

Mrs. Hayland and Miss Lily Thewlis sang “The Lord is my Shepherd.”

Mr. Thomas Wright was introduced to the meeting, as an old Lyceumist, the Treasurer to the Spiritualists' National Union, and also the Treasurer to the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

Mr. Wright referred to three significant statements concerning the value of the child, the first being by Jesus, who, rebuking his disciples, said, “Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven,” the second being by Andrew Jackson Davis, who affirmed that, “A child is the repository of infinite possibilities,” the third being by Margaret McMillan, who quite recently has affirmed that, “A healthy child is the nation's greatest asset.” After amplifying and applying the above affirmations to show the importance of the work in which the Lyceum movement was engaged, he drew attention to the general state of unrest there is in the land, and added, it was the unrest of an awakening of the people on matters concerning their social, mental, moral and spiritual welfare, and it was for the Spiritualists to recognise the fact and be leaders in the best sense of the term, and not followers, bringing up the rear of the world's army of progress.

Mr. Vickers was briefly introduced as one of our promising young men who was exerting a beneficial influence on the education of our youths and maidens.

Mr. Vickers, in a very able speech, quoted the world's cry, “If a man die, shall he live again?” As a satisfactory answer to that cry that has gone up to heaven from the people,—the world's thinkers and workers of all ages,—he quoted the vision of children in spirit life, as described by A. J. Davis, that most remarkable psychic. He also emphasised the importance of each one doing their individual share to help onward the world's betterment. He affirmed that tasks left undone while here will insist on fulfilment over there. He advised his hearers to gather the gems of truth from all sources and conditions of life, and treasure them as being of priceless value to the soul in its upward march through time and eternity.

After Miss Minnie Illingworth had sung for us “The Roses of Life,” Mr. Knott was facetiously referred to as being one of the “knots” of the Executive, a very good sort of a “knot,” and such he proved to be, for during his spirited address he adduced fact after fact, incident following incident, quoted from his own experiences, that clearly showed the guiding hand and guardian presence of his

mother, who had passed into spirit life soon after his birth. The recital of his experiences, and the spiritual truths that came to him in the Lyceum and home circle, and how they helped and influenced his daily life, held his audience in close attention, as if afraid to miss one word. In conclusion he recited some fine poetry that had come to him inspirationally.

The audience were next invited to join in the singing of the beautiful and inspiring hymn, "We all might do good."

Miss Alice Hesp, during a rousing speech, full of energy and enthusiasm, claimed that Spiritualism was 50 years' ahead of the times. She had lately been at Birmingham, where 50,000 Boy Scouts were assembled to learn of the glory of shooting people of other nations, with whom they had no kind of quarrel. She also referred to the speech made at the Peace Congress concerning the evils of the military service imposed on the juveniles of New Zealand and Australia, and how hundreds of these boys were being imprisoned, herded with criminals and made to pick oakum. All the progressive ideas she had heard at the Peace Congress the Spiritualists had been teaching for 50 years or more. She appealed to the fathers and mothers to save their sons from being drawn into these military hot-beds (the Boy Scouts, etc.), by teaching them the sacredness of human life, and of the Brotherhood of Man.

Mr. A. Kitson was the next to address the meeting, after which it was brought to a close with a hymn and benediction, the audience gathering in small groups to talk over the good time and feast of spiritual things they had had.

A KITSON, General Secretary.

REPORT OF THE Ninth National Peace Congress

held in the

PHILOSOPHICAL, HALL, LEEDS,

June 10th to 13th, 1913.

Mr. Joshua Rowntree, the President, extended a hearty welcome to the delegates, who numbered about 330, and represented 178 Societies varying in character.

In his opening remarks Mr. Rowntree said that although the Societies represented were of diverse character, and perhaps opposed to each other in many undertakings and principles, he knew confidently that they desired to work together for the Kinship of Humanity, and for the abolition of the cruel arbitrament of war and the establishment of justice and peace.

Mr. Carl Heath, the Secretary, read letters of greetings from Mr. J. Bryce, and the International Peace Bureau, the German Peace Society, Cardinal Bourne, Mr. A. Carnegie, and National Peace Council of New Zealand.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds briefly welcomed the delegates, mentioning his hope that the future would establish a Central Home of Peace at the Hague. The Vicar of Leeds, and Mr. W. Marston and the Rev. J. H. Auty, on behalf of the Clergy, and the Leeds Trade and Labour Council of 23,000 workers, and the Free Church Council respectively, welcomed the Congress to Leeds.

Mr. Rowntree replied to welcomes. He appreciated all, and especially that from the workers. Mr. Rowntree then gave his Presidential Address, during which he said that the spirit of friendly rivalry in education and the arts of civilisation was preferable to the policy of force and compulsion. He wished the attention of those present to be drawn to the policy taken up by Sir Edward Gray, during the last few months in his efforts to bring peace to the Turkish nation.

A nation's real strength, he said, depends upon justice and sound finance. The appeal for peace was no new call, and he referred to the Treaty of Berlin, and the Cyprus Convention, since which, Europe had seen massacre after massacre. Selfishness and unjust fear had dominated the action of the Powers. Mr. Rowntree stated that the basis of the morality of the nations must in future be the same as that for men. No one country suffers alone, but every country and every member of

that country is affected. The innocent must suffer, and more so in actual warfare.

Mr. Rowntree advocated Mr. Bright's motto, "Be just and fear not." Do the right and speak for the right and you will have no cause for fear. Mr. Rowntree referred to the recent debate in the House of Lords on Compulsory Military Service, when the statement was made that such service should only be made compulsory to elementary school children, or those who had received their education in the elementary schools. In this way the territorial forces should be replenished.

Conscript laws as working in New Zealand and Australia were mentioned. Mr. Rowntree had that day received a letter from a man who was being sent to prison because he refused to register his sons for military training. Many instances of cruel treatment meted out to boys who, for conscience sake, refused to be trained, were given. All advancement of mankind, said Mr. Rowntree, has come through suffering of one kind or another. Suffering by those who are willing to suffer themselves and not inflict their suffering on others.

EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

After a short interval, a paper was read by Prof. Weiss, D.Sc. and F.L.S., Man. Un., on *The Study of International Policy at the University*.

Prof. Weiss, in a splendid paper on the subject referred to, mentioned many things which showed clearly the trending of events towards a coming climax in Universities. Already a movement had been started at Cambridge proposing that University Degrees should only be granted to such members who had obtained a certificate of efficiency in the territorial force. Many influential people favoured such an idea. Unhesitatingly and ungrudgingly they gave tribute to students and citizens who underwent such training, believing it to be in the interests of the country. Others, he said, should be left to serve as they would. Prof. Weiss talked at length on the opportunities given to students for studies of International relations and politics. Almost every University had its Political Debating Society, but the numerous other subjects which were compulsory often left the student little time for optional debate.

Miss Helen Wodehouse, the Principal of Bingley College, next introduced the question of History teaching in schools.

Miss Wodehouse pointed out that much could be done in this way in propagating either ideas of war or of peace. The picture presented of warfare to children was usually one of heightened colour and glory. A soldier was always depicted as gallant, brave, and chivalrous. The qualities may be found in many civilian characters whose qualities were often overlooked. Miss Wodehouse stated that more attention should be drawn to civic life, and the coloured side presented more forcibly. Why should the bright side of the war picture only be shewn? Children should be shewn the picture of misery and despair, of gory and brutal slaughter, of destitute homes, the direct resultant of war. The question of how war in general affects every other aspect should be dealt with. Everything, she said, was jarred and distorted by war, and a vision of how war interferes with every other aspect of life—a vision of ruined homes and mutilated fathers and brothers, would be one of the best ways of preserving peace. War will lose its charm when the cruelties and hardships endured by soldiers are portrayed before the child mind.

Mr. F. E. Pollard, M.A., of Bootham School, contributed the next paper on Education and National Service.

Mr. Pollard pointed out that there are other ways of serving the State than by giving military service. Schools should give deeper insight into the rights of citizenship. Men should not be asked to refuse to serve their country, but should be given the deeper service of brotherhood and service to mankind. Present education treats too much with detailed knowledge of past events, while the lessons which may be taken from these events are overlooked, e.g., they may be taken as guides for use in future crises.

Mr. Pollard believed that physical training was necessary. He advocated a healthy, open air life, with the "do-things-for-yourself" spirit becoming more in evidence. Self-reliance and tolerance, courage, gallantry, and patience were necessary in our future manhood, but there were other ways of attaining these characteristics than through military training.

The Chairman, the Rev. Canon Masterman, M.A., in his remarks, said that he did not believe that the fighting instincts in men were dead or ever would be. These instincts were keenly alive and were meant to be used; they should not be stifled, but directed against the world's wrongs and not against mankind. Industrial life need not be grey, the colour was there and needed emphasising.

A lengthy commentary discussion followed. No adverse criticism was given, except from a member of the Labour Party, who objected to either principles of peace or military

principles being taught in schools. Children, he said, should be allowed to form their own ideas in an unbiassed way when years of discretion were reached.

At 8-30 the Delegates were entertained by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds, in their rooms in the Town Hall. The reception was attended by almost all delegates.

Not knowing anyone I felt extremely shy and very much alone, but was not allowed to remain either. Thanks to the printed list it was generally known that Miss Hesp represented the B.S.L.U. It was evident that the word "Spiritualist" had evoked comment, for great interest was shown by many delegates.

At that moment I was proud to be your delegate and proud to uphold the honoured name of Spiritualism.

Owing to school duties I was not able to be present at any other session in the Philosophical Hall, but meetings were held in the evenings when the substance of the session was given.

An interesting paper was given by Mr. G. H. Perris, in which he gave some rather startling statistics. He pointed out that the combined capital of the seven largest armament firms was £34,000,000. Such firms flourished upon the nation's suffering. Mr. Perris gave a list of M.P's., Cabinet Ministers, Admirals, and Generals, and others who are large shareholders in these firms. This class of people would be gravely injured were the competition in armaments arrested. These companies who professed patriotism held England in their power. They were patriotic to England one day, and to any other country that solicited their services the next. They had their yards and works in almost every country.

Mr. Perris stated that lending money for war, merely to obtain high rates of interest, was one of the greatest crimes practised among the powers. It caused misery to thousands.

The following resolution was carried unanimously by a large crowd of Leeds people:

"That this meeting of the citizens of Leeds as a protest against the whole system of armaments of war, and the iniquitous expenditure of national money upon them, hereby calls upon the Government to institute at once a movement to bring about International disarmament."

Thursday's conference was given up to papers and discussion on Compulsory Military Service. The business session I was again unable to attend, but mass meetings dealing with the subject of the day were held in Victoria Square. Never had I seen the Square so crowded for any meeting as on Thursday. Mr. R. H. Hodgson addressed the audience on a general survey of what conscription would mean in England.

Mr. Herbert Corder, of New Zealand Peace Council, held the immense crowd in absolute silence for over an hour. He reiterated how the juvenile conscript laws were working in Australia and New Zealand. Boys, he said, were forced to serve a term of military service or be treated as criminals. Mr. Corder gave the police returns from several large towns of boys who either paid fines or served imprisonment because they refused military training. 87 boys in Christchurch alone had served terms of imprisonment, being made to pick oakum and mix with the worst criminals; being kept in 12 hours' solitary confinement daily. Mr. Corder drew attention to the fact that in the recent combined circular of April, this year, issued broadcast to intending emigrants, no mention is made of compulsory military training and service now in operation in Australia and New Zealand.

Questions and discussions were invited, and members of the audience readily acquiesced, many good questions relative to the subject being asked and answered.

Friday's Conference was spent in discussion on the moral aspects of the Peace Problem. These papers I was unable to hear, owing to school duties.

ALICE HESP, Delegate.

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.

PONTYPRIDD (River Street).—On Sunday, June 29th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary services, which were taken both afternoon and evening by the children. A very attractive programme was arranged, and the services were very successful. On Sunday, July 13th, we had our annual election of officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. A. Rostron; guardian, Mrs. Rowlands; secretary, Mr. Sweetman; treasurer, Mr. Thomas; librarian, Mr. Cairn; captain of guards, Mrs. Bowden; guards, Mrs. Thomas and Miss Pascoe; committee, Mr. Ryder, Mr. Evans, Miss Bowden and Mrs. Matthews; leaders, Mr. Rostron, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Collins and Mr.

Thomas. On Thursday, July 17th, we held our annual outing at Aberavon. A most enjoyable day was spent, everything going without a hitch, and the number turning up was excellent, being 65.—S. Sweetman, Secretary.

READING.—On June 29th we held our fifth anniversary. Our Conductor, Mrs. Street, presided over large gatherings. We commenced by singing hymn 372 from the *Lyceum Manual*, which was followed by an inspiring invocation. The following friends then addressed the audience:—Mrs. Street, Dr. Ranking, and Miss Mason, our drill mistress. Mr. Street then read a letter from the Society's President, who was unfortunately unable to be present. The Secretary and Treasurer, Messrs. Taylor and Lawrence, then read their reports. The latter also gave an address on "George Muller." A collection amounting to £1 was made in aid of the George Muller Home. The Misses Lovelock and Taylor contributed a solo and recitation, respectively, both of which were greatly enjoyed. Thus ended a most interesting and enjoyable session.—S. W. Taylor.

ROTHERHAM (Percy Street).—On Sunday, July 6th, we held our Anniversary Services, Mr. Saxelby, of Attercliffe, conducting. During his short address he spoke very strongly of the apathy existing between Societies and Lyceums. The services were not so well attended, probably owing to the inclement weather. The singing of the beautiful hymns was excellent. Recitations were given by Fred Ridley, Arthur Bruce, Hilda Chappel, Mabel Freeman, Francis Harrad, and Miss Ethel Vernon. Solos were beautifully rendered by Mr. Buxton and Miss Elsie Sprakes. On Saturday, July 12th, we took the children by car to Mr. Naylor's farm at Kimberworth, where an excellent tea was provided for all. After tea we had games and races, each returning home about nine o'clock, after all having had an enjoyable time. Our best thanks are due to Mr. Naylor for his kind hospitality.—W. Rawlinson.

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.**

BLACKPOOL.—It is with regret I announce the transition of Mrs. Parker, one of our scholars and Society workers.—F. BIRD.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at York in the High Ousegate Spiritual Church, on Saturday, June 28th. Owing to the great distance, some Lyceums were not represented.

Mr. B. Hartley's resignation as President was regretfully accepted; and Mr. Sykes, of Armley, was elected as President.

After a brief discussion, the minutes and correspondence were accepted. The Leeds Lyceum District Council desires to thank the members of the Leeds Study Group for their generous donation of £2 7s. 8½d., representing 50 per cent. of their funds.

The D.V's and Lyceum Visitors' reports were submitted and accepted. Mr. Beety gave a report of Conference proceedings.

Much discussion arose on the need of propagation of Lyceum principles. The general lack of interest was much lamented. Lyceums were asked to create more interest in work done; to be determined in their efforts, and not to be afraid of the enthusiastic spirit prevailing.

Lyceums who have not yet contributed to the Council Competition Fund were asked to do so at their earliest convenience.

The purchase of the Silver Bell was left with Messrs. Sykes and Colbeck and Miss Hesp.

On Sunday, June 29th, a joint session of the three Lyceums in York was held in the Cromwell Road Spiritual Church. After giving a hearty welcome to the Council, Mrs. Stier handed over the conductorship of the session to Mr. Sykes.

On behalf of the Council Mr. Sykes expressed his sorrow at the serious illness of Mr. Stier, and hopes for his speedy recovery were expressed.

Miss Hesp conducted the silver chain recitation, "Where there's a will there's a way," mentioning that this should be taken as a motto for both Council and Lyceums. Where determination reigned success usually followed.

Messrs. Franks, Beety and Barker ably commented upon the connective readings of the musical reading. Mr. H.

Apedale volunteered to read the golden chain recitation. The call for pearls was answered "like lightning," about 20 pearls being given. When questioned as to the meaning, the children readily responded. Recitations were given by Dorothy Phillips, Gertie Hudson, Irene Boynton, Mary Seivy, Olive Richardson, Cecil Browning, Isa Reed, Maud Metcalfe, Harry Apedale and Miriam Dickinson. A dialogue, "The coming of angels," by Ina Thompson and Ada Luthson. A solo was given by Lily Leatham. Mrs. Stier conducted the three Lyceums in massed marching.

Such harmonious meetings create indeed feelings of fellowship never to be forgotten.

An Open Session was held in the High Ousegate Rooms in the afternoon, when Messrs. Warrington, Oakes, Sykes, Colbeck and Beety took the opportunity of expressing their opinion on the various readings and recitations.

Mr. Sykes presided over a successful propaganda service in the evening, when addresses were given by Mr. Beety and Miss Hesp.—A. Hesp, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

On Sunday, August 31st, the above Council will hold its quarterly meeting in the Meersbrook Vestry Hall, close by Meersbrook Park. It is hoped that we shall have a full Council, as the matter for discussion is important to all Lyceums in the district. Business will commence at 11 a.m. prompt. Services will be taken by delegates and associates. Any suggestions or matter for the agenda should be sent on to the secretary by the 27th August.

I am pleased to report our nomination of R. Bowmer as D.V. for Council is approved of by the E.C. of the B.S.L.U.

C. H. Saxelby, Hon. Sec.

THE TYNESIDE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To their 2nd Annual Demonstration on August Bank Holiday, 1913, all Lyceumists and friends have a hearty invitation. Meet at St. Mary's Place, Newcastle. Procession leaves at 1 o'clock prompt, headed by the Hirst Lyceum Band, to Jesmond Dene, where sports will be held. Marching and Calisthenics. Teas in Banqueting Hall. Adults 9d. Children 4d. [N.B.—The next Quarterly meeting of the D.C. will be held at South Shields, Fowler St. Rooms, on Saturday, September 21st, at 10-45 a.m. D. R. DAVIES, Sec.]

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after July 25th.

RULE 3.—Ordinary reports must not exceed 120 words. Special reports will be inserted as follows: The first 120 words free of charge. All above that number will be inserted at the rate of 6d. for every nine words. Payment must accompany all special reports or they will be cut down and inserted as ordinary reports.

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than Wednesday, August 27th, to ensure insertion in the September 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.

ACCRINGTON (China Street).—Open Session. About 40 present. Recitations were given by Florrie Unthank, and Frederick Greenhalgh. Mr. Elliott, the judge in the Silver Shield Competition, was with us, and we are anxious about the result.—R. Ashworth.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—We held our usual Open Session on Sunday, June 29th. The silver chain was led by Mrs. Sutton, musical reading by Miss C. Ferdinand, and the golden chain by Miss Allan. There was a poor response when our conductor asked for discussion concerning them. There is plenty of room for improvement in this part of the session. Now I hope our scholars will bear this in mind. Marching, calisthenics, rod drills, and pearls were excellent. Recitations were given by Misses A. Turner, P. Wilkinson, C. Rishton, and Master S. Robinson. Solo by Mrs. Wilkinson. Our President, Mr. J. T. Ward, named the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth, earth name John, which was ably carried out.—J. Savage, Secretary.

BOLTON (Commission Street).—On Saturday, July 19th, we had an annual outing, journeying to Southport. Weather fine, the children paddled in the briny, and merry peals of laughter were heard when the supposed crab nipped their toes, or the rolling waves took them by surprise. Tea at 5-0. Afterwards round the shows, then along Lord Street, the children's fairy land. Then the order was given to the station, train time.

"Little eyes so bright and true,
Seemed to turn to saddest hue.
Little wrinkles came where smiles once grew,
And sad eyes gave the cue,
Why can't we, along with you,
All stay here, our pleasures to pursue.

—J. W. Winder, Conductor.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—Glad to report continued progress in the Lyceum during the past month. Every one working hard for the benefit of all. Each officer has settled down to his or her appointed position, looking after the needs of the children in a splendid manner, and are rewarded by close attention to all that is told them. The liberty group is still keeping on the move towards success, intellectual readings being debated with reason and earnestness. The Society also continues to progress, the speakers each Sunday showing considerable ability and attracting investigators in good numbers. We give our best respects to each Lyceum.—Thomas Worthington, Secretary.

BRADFORD (Tong Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday afternoon, July 6th, conducted by Mr. Rau. Miss E. J. Siddall sang "How to Live," from the *Lyceum Manual*. Miss Louisa Rau gave a pianoforte solo, "Sweet Mary." Recitations were given by the following, Mrs. Gomersall, Wilfred Tuersley, George Worsman, and Mr. Tuersley. Miss Ida Fearnley again favoured us by singing "Waiting for us there," from the *Lyceum Manual*.—T. W. Tuersley, Secretary.

BRIGHTON.—A day's pleasure, long to be remembered, was spent upon the occasion of our annual outing to Henfield on the 17th, made still merrier by the presence of Mr. Hanson G. Hey (Secretary S.N.U.). After a most enjoyable brake drive and some refreshments, we adjourned to a meadow kindly lent by a friend, where various games were played by young and old. A long programme of sports, in which all could join, had been arranged, proving very attractive, and was only broken by the tea interval, of which over 70 scholars and visitors partook. A photographic group was taken of all, and will refresh our memories in days to come of one of the happiest days ever spent.—Herbert Everett, Secretary.

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.—We held a picnic in connection with our Church, which was attended by a number of Lyceumists. Races for the children took place, and they enjoyed themselves immensely. We finished up with a social at the Church, which all enjoyed. A keen interest is being taken in our Lyceum work. The children are making rapid headway in the lessons presented to them. Greetings to all Lyceums.—A. E. Sampson, Secretary.

CHADDERTON (off Brook Street).—Sunday, June 29th, we held our flower service, the church being nicely decorated with flowers and plants from the members and friends. We had a nice session in the afternoon, Mr. G. Hazelhurst, of Coronation Street Lyceum, paid us a visit and took the Lyceumists through the marching. Mrs. Oldfield was the speaker for the day, which proved a financial success. Our Lyceum is pulling up a little under the conductorship of Mr. H. Clayton, who seems to have the children well under control. "The Workers Win."—Mrs. M. Oldfield, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, July 13th, we held our usual Open Session, which was the best we have had for some time, and it is quite encouraging to the leaders to hear so many items given in such a willing way. The reciters were Alice Smith, Edith Herrot, Alice Delagate, Evelyn Elliott, Florrie Smith, Rosie Phillipps, George Smith, and Ernest

Holster. Pianoforte solos by Florrie Marsh, Hilda Welch, and Horace Cartledge; and violin solo by Ernest Hobster. I am pleased to report that progress is being steadily maintained in our Lyceum.—E. H. Widdowson.

CLECKHEATON (Old Robin Street).—We held our annual tea and concert on Saturday, July 5th, when friends from Ivy Rooms, Otley Road, and Shirley Road, Bradford, took part, and helped to make our concert a success, for which we tender our thanks. We also held our Anniversary Services on July 6th, Mrs. Belshaw, of Leeds, being the speaker. Mr. W. Barnes, from the Bradford Lyceum District Council, was the Chairman. We held our election of officers on July 15th, as follows: Conductor, Harry Cocksedge; Assistant, Lizzie Thornton; Musical Conductor, Miss Hilda Thornton; Leaders, Amy Thornton, Laura Thornton, Harry Cocksedge, and Richard Turnstall; Guardian, Agnes Dawson; Librarians, James Tadmam and Harry Dawson; Treasurer, Miss Taylor.—Harry Cocksedge, Secretary.

CREWE (Mill Street).—On Saturday, July 12th, we held our annual outing to Willaston. All Lyceumists and friends were conveyed there in waggonettes. It proved a great success, every one having enjoyed themselves thoroughly. On Sunday, July 13th, we held our Open Session. A very good attendance was recorded. Marching and calisthenics fairly good, pearls very poor. The following items were well rendered: Solos by Misses Gladys Mottram, Lily Greenwood, Annie Smith, Maggie Baggaley, Gwennie Baggaley, and Edith Bebbington. Recitations by Misses Flora Pestall and Elsie Challoner. I was pleased to note two of our new scholars, Eva Jones and Annie Breeze, very ably recited "The Power of Song," and "Doing, not Dreaming," taken from *The Lyceum Reciter* in our last month's BANNER. Conductor, Mr. Percival Gawthorne.—M. Martin, Secretary.

DARLINGTON (High Northgate).—On Saturday, July 12th, we held our annual summer treat, going in brakes to Middleton Tyas, where an enjoyable day was spent. Arriving there about 3 o'clock the children were walked through the village to the field, where they had tea, the rest of the time being spent in games. There were 75 Lyceumists present. The 13th and 14th being Lyceum week-end we had an Open Session in the afternoon, and at evening a service of song, entitled, "Ministering Spirits," was given by the Lyceum. The story was read by Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Park conducted the singing. Monday evening's service was taken by the following Lyceumists, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Armstrong, and Mrs. Roberts, the whole being a great success.—A. E. Welding, Secretary.

DURBAN, NATAL.—The attendance at the Durban Lyceum keeps up wonderfully well. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are enthusiastic workers in the cause of the children, neither of them ever missing a meeting. These simple addresses are much appreciated by young and old, and something to think about is carried away by every one. Mrs. Wilson is preparing to give a little "social" to the Lyceum before she goes away, and arrangements are in progress for the annual picnic, which this year will be held in the beautiful Umgeni Valley. A proposition is now under consideration for the institution of a branch of our Lyceum in another part of our rapidly increasing town.

GATESHEAD (Rectory Hall).—On Thursday, June 26th, we held our trip to Chester-le-Street. Brakes left the hall at 9-30 a.m., and after a drive of an hour and a half we arrived at our destination, same being a large field in which we were allowed to enjoy the holiday, by the kind permission of Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart. During the afternoon sports were held for Lyceumists. At 3-30 we marched to the Co-operative Hall, where a splendid tea was provided. After tea, Mr. D. R. Davies presented the prizes to the successful competitors, each child receiving a present. The weather had been splendid all day, and at 6-30, having spent a most enjoyable day, we returned home.—W. Hall (Junn.), Hon. Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkley Street).—On Sunday, 29th June, we held our open session. There was a splendid attendance, presided over by Mr. John Stewart, our esteemed conductor. We had short addresses from Mr. Driffe, Mr. Knox (South Africa), and Mr. Galloway, which were very interesting. Solos by Misses B. Hunter and Kilbert; dialogue by Misses Reid and Lainy; recitation by Miss B. Reid; violin solo by Mr. Kitson; and organ solo by Mr. T. Rothead; all helped to make our session one of the brightest we have held.—C. S. Rothead, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, July 6th. The silver chain was led by Frank Howarth, the golden chain by Harry Waterhouse. Recitations were rendered by Ivy Bullen and Will Thonley. We also had our

half-yearly meeting, and the following were elected officers for six months: Conductor, Mr. Baxter; Secretary, Rosie Leyland; Leaders for marching, Miss L. Hold and Frank Howarth; Calisthenic Conductor, Richard Leaver; Guardians, Mrs. Smith and John Waterhouse; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Groves, Harry Waterhouse, and Frank Howarth. We trust that all officers will try to fulfil their duties to the best of their abilities.—Rosie Leyland, Secretary.

HALIFAX (Raven Street).—On Sunday, July 20th, the Lyceum Anniversary services took place. In the morning an Open Session of the Lyceum was held, when marching, calisthenics, songs, recitations, etc., were given by the Lyceum scholars, in addition to the usual readings. In the afternoon, Mrs. E. Green, Manchester, gave a telling spiritual address to a large audience, subject, "What is Truth, whence do we come, and where are we going?" Miss Bentley sang a solo in a pleasing manner. In the evening, Mrs. Green also gave an address, subject, "The place of Spiritualism among the religions of the world." The address was listened to by a crowded audience. The choir was ably led by Mr. Firth. Collections realised £13 15s.—F. Baldwin.

HEBDEN BRIDGE (Hope Street).—On Sunday, June 29th, we held our first Lyceum session in the new hall with the flower service. The opening ceremony was performed in the morning by Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, our President and Conductor, Mr. Hanson Hey assisting. There was a good attendance at the session, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Recitations were rendered by Misses Florence Houlston and Annie Cook; songs by Misses May Coad and Alice Cook. Mr. Oaten, Sheffield, took the golden chain, and gave a very interesting address on "Flowers and Nature."—Eileen Smith, Secretary.

HIRST.—On July 6th we held our election of officers, with the following result: Mr. Ronald Johnson, Conductor; Mrs. Lydia White, Treasurer; George Roy, Secretary; Miss Mary Adamson, Guardian; G. W. Johnson, Assistant Conductor. The financial position of our Lyceum is good, average attendance 93 out of 110. Still progressing. Brass band practice is well attended. Mr. Thomas Hardy, band master, Mr. Dance, the assistant, Mr. Arthur Croust the drill instructor.—George Roy, Secretary.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On July 6th we held a service of song, "Spirit Return," by G. F. Knott. Our Conductor gave the reading portion, the Lyceum provided the choir and soloists. These were Misses C. Brown, Ivy Chambers, Violet Gould, Edna Hustwick, Florrie Brown, Masters John Chambers, Frank and Clifford Brown, and Albert Raynham. The singing was exceptionally good, both girls and boys putting their heart into the work as they took their different parts together or as soloists. We thank Mr. Knott for his work. We had a good attendance of adults, who were visibly moved as the story was unfolded. Mr. Banks, on behalf of the visitors, passed a vote of thanks to all concerned.—J. W. Humphreys.

LEEDS (Psycho).—On Sunday, July 20th, we held our anniversary services, which proved a great success. The scholars took entire charge of the platform, conducted by Miss A. Hesp. The children sang in unison, "Hail the Day of Jubilee." Miss Lily Thornhill read for lesson out of the *Lyceum Manual* "The Unity and Eternity of Labour." Miss Dickenson sang, "Kind words and sweet smiles," which was much appreciated. Nellie Schew gave an address on "The Origin of Spiritualism," which was very nicely given. Then a musical reading was given by the scholars in unison. The connective readings were read by George Gascoigne. A duet by Edith Gascoigne and Lily Wildgoose, "Open the door for the children."—H. Osborn, Lyceum Secretary.

[Please observe Rule 3. Your report contained 256 words.—Ed.]

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—We held our annual flower services on Sunday, July 6th, under the conductorship of Miss A. Clarke and Mr. Robertson. In the morning Mrs. Jowitt gave a short address. In the afternoon Mrs. Jowitt named the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tricker; also gave address in the evening. The following Lyceumists gave solos: Miss Dennis, Miss D. Goldsmith, Miss Wright, and Master Veary. Recitations by Miss F. Chater, Miss E. Wicks, Miss Ogden, Master H. Wicks, and Master H. Moore. We also had Silver Street Lyceumists with us during the day. We had very good attendances at all services.—Mr. J. Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On Sunday, June 29th, we held our Lyceum anniversary, when we had with us our friend Mrs. Bentley. In the afternoon we had a service of song entitled "Spirit Return," Mrs. Bentley gave the connective

readings; afterwards we had the naming of Mr. and Mrs. Wain's baby. Solos and recitations were given by the scholars. Mrs. Bentley gave a few clairvoyant descriptions. This brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close.—Miss E. Barthorpe, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL (Romer Road).—On July 16th we held our annual picnic, when just over 70 adults and children participated in a trip on the Mersey to New Brighton, and from there by car to Ore Side Farm. After tea the usual games and races were participated in. A very pleasant day was enjoyed by all. I am also pleased to report that we have just added to our Lyceum two violinists, namely, Miss Hale and Mr. W. McCadam. Their accompaniment of Miss McCadam on the piano renders our sessions bright and inspiring. We hope that this, together with other improvements contemplated, will produce an increased roll call.—W. J. Cretney, Secretary.

LONDON, FULHAM.—Of late our numbers have increased considerably. We have 45 on the roll, and an average attendance of 40. Members of the Parent Society have shown their appreciation by becoming members of the Lyceum after one or two visits. On July 6th we were visited by the District Council, 49 members and visitors were present on that occasion. The Rambling Section (Saturdays) and the Social Guild (Mondays) are proving quite successful. The members of the Dramatic Section are preparing for the winter season. Our thanks are due to our late conductor, Mr. Ashley, and to our present conductors, Mrs. Clarke and Mr. J. W. Chester, for their business-like methods of making the Lyceum a successful organisation.—Sydney A. V. Wood.

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—The annual outing of this Lyceum was held at Lambourne End on Saturday, 28th June. Weather was fine, attendance good, over 70 children and adults, all experiencing a most enjoyable day. Work in the Lyceum is progressing favourably, numbers increasing. We have received several visitors during the month, including the Vice-President of the Church and the London District Lyceum Visitor, both of whom spoke in glowing and encouraging terms to the officers and members on the conduct of the Lyceum. We now have five groups in the Lyceum, but like all progressive beings we are not satisfied, and still continue to work and pray, both for greater numbers and a higher standard of development.—C. Harrison, Secretary.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—On July 13th we held our Open Session, and had the pleasure of the company of the Holloway Lyceum, who paid us a long looked for visit, and we all spent a very enjoyable afternoon. Pearls, marching, and calisthenics very good. Recitations were given by Violet Brennam, of Holloway, and Kathleen Jones, and Lily Hassell, of Tottenham. We also were favoured with a trio from the visitors, and solos by Miss Firth, Mrs. Hassell, and Mrs. Povey. Mr. Forsyth, Conductor of Holloway, gave us some encouraging words, and our own Conductor, Mr. Mosberg, responded. A small presentation was made to our late Conductor, Mr. Barrington, in appreciation of the good work he has done for us.—C. Hassell, Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—The above Lyceum still continues smoothly on its way, thanks to the attention of the scholars to the work of the sessions. All the scholars are trying to put themselves in trim for such medals as our two scholars so proudly wear, each and all are vying with the other to gain such fine rewards. The outing to the Crystal Palace was much enjoyed, above 44 were present and enjoyed their visit immensely. Our officers are quite proud to be so often complimented by the various speakers, and take this opportunity to thank them, it gives us courage to continue our work. By an oversight our report was not sent last month, but our medalists were Ivy Giles, pearls, and Lucy Prigg, for recitations.—H. Watthey, Secretary.

LUZLEY BROOK.—We gave our service of song, "Rest at Last," on July 20th. Mr. Mellor was the Chairman. Miss Carrie Grindrod was the reader, and ably performed her part. Miss S. A. Haslam was the soloist. Miss Rawbottom sang No. 392, and May Haslam sang No. 406. Mr. J. W. Cockroft was our organist and conductor. We thank our Lyceum friends from Union Street, Royton, for helping us. We hope to be able to return the compliment. Our organist played a selection from the "Dead March" in memory of our sister, Miss Snellson, who has passed the change called death.—F. Stevens, Secretary.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—During the last month we have had a quiet time, but nevertheless we have had good attendances at our sessions, and have been favoured with several visitors. I am pleased to say that the solos and recitations

are improving very much. I hope they will keep up to the standard mark. We look forward to seeing new scholars each Sunday and hope each member will try and bring one with them so that our Lyceum will grow both in name and members.—S. Sharp, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, CHEETHAM HILL (Crescent Road).—We held a very successful picnic at Mobberley on Saturday, July 19th. A fair number was in attendance, and being an ideal day a very enjoyable time was spent. A capital tea was provided in a field amid beautiful surroundings adjoining the old church. After tea a ramble through the fields gathering flowers concluded a most successful day. Each member returned home delighted with the outing, and were unanimous in proposal for a similar picnic on some future occasion. Many thanks are due to the principal ladies who had the trouble of the arrangements, and provided such a capital tea.—E. Hall.

SOUTH MANCHESTER (Princess Hall).—Sunday, June 29th, our half-yearly meeting. Mr. Aronovich, in his opening address, spoke of changes which had proved successful to the Lyceum, expressing his kindly appreciation to all who had assisted him, he was pleased to report progress all round. Mr. Chappell gave the Auditor's report, which gave us great credit. We then had our greatest pleasure in retaining Mr. Aronovich as our Conductor, whom we highly esteem and appreciate; other good workers were elected to office for the ensuing six months as follows:—Mr. Stout, Mr. Bentley, Misses Cartman, Stout, Parker, Stewart, Snape, Dorothy Heathcote, Phyllis Jackson, Elsie Jackson, Doris Hope, Masters Cyril Potter, Herbert Hayes, Ernest Buchan.—Maud M. Harrison, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, BENWELL.—On Thursday, June 27th, we had our Lyceum trip. We went to Ryton-on-Tyne. It was a fine day, and everybody enjoyed themselves; every child got a prize. We also had sports for the elders, which were very much enjoyed by everybody. On Sunday, July 6th, we had our Open Session. We had for our speaker Mrs. Maughan, of Benwell, who gave a very good lecture, taking her subject from the book entitled "Talks with the dead." We had some very good recitations, and I was glad to see a better attendance of children, but I think the elders have forgotten there is a Lyceum.—D. McCallum, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, HEATON AND BYKER.—On Sunday, July 6th, we held our Open Session, Mr. Ronaldson conducting. We had recitations from Arnold Patterson, Lily Eke, Fred Eke, Ralph Eke, Mamie Blair, Annie Shadforth, Mary Kyle, John Ronaldson, Alfred Scope, and Lily Scope. Duets by Misses Jennie Hughes and Mabel Blair, and Master and Miss Fenwick. The prizes were presented to children who took part in anniversary. Mr. Hunter closed the session with prayer.—J. Benn, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE (Rutherford Street).—July 6th, our Open Session, we had a special visit from Benwell, Mr. Brown's Lyceum, for enlightenment; also we had Mr. James, from Gateshead, on a visit ascertaining information with the intention of forming another Lyceum. The solos, recitations, pearls, about sixteen in all, were rendered in a pleasing manner, both by Lyceumists and friends, and at the close the Conductor spoke a few words to our friends and inviting them back again, should they at anytime be at liberty, also wished them every success in their efforts to aid the young and needy to the interest of our Cause.—R. Wardle, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Coronation Street).—Sunday, June 29th, was our election of officers. Conductor, Miss N. Bayliss; Assistant Conductor, Miss F. Bayliss; Conductor for Marching, Mr. G. Hazlehurst; Assistant, Mr. W. Kent; Calisthenic Conductors, Miss E. Frankland, Miss N. Hoyle, and Mr. W. Roberts; Guardians, Miss L. Owen and James Roberts; Teachers, Miss C. Howarth, Miss B. Frankland, Mr. C. Dunkerly, Mr. A. Ogen, and Mr. H. Buckley; Musical Director, Mr. E. Reyner, F.C.T.S.; Delegates for the R.D.C., Miss N. Bayliss and Mr. H. Buckley; Secretary, Herbert Buckley. On Sunday, July 20th, we held our Open Sessions. Solos and recitations were given by Lyceumists. Short addresses by Messrs. Hurst, Spurr, and Lord. Marching and calisthenics at all sessions.—Herbert Buckley, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—The election of officers took place on June 29th, with the following results: Conductor, Mr. Joe Clayton; Assistants, Miss Cheetham and Mr. H. Kenworthy; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Meakin; Assistant, Mr. P. Ingham; Conductors of Calisthenics, Mr. J. Brierley, J. W. Slater, Miss Whitehead, and Miss Brierley; Guardians, Mr. Slater, Mr. J. W. Slater, Miss Waterhouse, and Miss Webster. Teachers, Mr. Slater, Miss Cheetham, Miss E. Rhodes, Mr. F.

Lloyd, and Mr. H. Kenworthy. A little more enthusiasm is being shown, and I hope it will not be short lived. Our liberty is a source of real mutual helpfulness.—T. Meakin, Secretary.

PENDLETON (Ford Lane).—We held our annual trip to Romiley on July 12th. This being our first train trip the outing was a unique success, one and all enjoyed themselves to their utmost ability, and we thank all friends who helped to make our red-letter day a real success. We also held our Open Sessions on the 20th, and the afternoon session was a grand and inspiring one, several visiting Lyceumists and friends being present. In the evening the naming of the babe of Mr. Harold Walters took place. Mrs. Bentley conducted the ceremony and also the meeting, this making another success in our Lyceum history, and we trust we shall always have these pleasant successes.—Joseph Green, Secretary.

PRESTON (Clark's Yard).—On the 29th of June we made a presentation to Miss Moorby and Mr. R. Cartmell, two of our Lyceumists, who have since been united in marriage. Our Conductor spoke in praise of their work, and with many good wishes for their future happiness presented to them a pair of bronze figures with an engraving on the stands. Mrs. Coupe also spoke of the kindly feeling towards them. Mr. and Mrs. Cartmell have started life together in Burnley, and we hope they will be made welcome there. Open Session, July 6th, recitations by Alice and Nellie Spencer, Annie and Rena Colis, Eunice Kay, and Willie Holt. Miss Holt, of Great Harwood, D.V., sang to us.—Ellen Savage, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—On Sunday, June 29th, we held our quarterly Open Session in the evening, before a nice congregation. The silver chain recitation and musical readings were conducted by several of the Lyceumists, and the golden chain by Mr. F. W. Wood. The marching and calisthenics were afterwards gone through, being ably led by Mr. Fred Wright and Mr. Ernest Berry respectively. The following Lyceumists contributed recitations, which were greatly enjoyed, Miss Elsie Taylor, Miss Annie Brown, and Master Joe Brown. Solos were nicely rendered by Miss Annie Brown, Miss Sarah Quarumby, and Master Joe Brown. Mr. E. Sander-son proved an efficient accompanist. Thus came to a close a very pleasant session, being creditably conducted by Mr. F. W. Wood.—Mary Taylor, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—On July 6th we held our Open Session. We had for our opening hymn No. 376 *Manual*. The connective readings in the musical reading 237 were read by Minnie Cowen, Gertrude Dean, George Jones, and James Martin. Silver chain 34 were read by the Lyceum, boys and girls alternately; and the golden chain 142 was conducted by Mrs. Bartlett. Pearls were said by Olive Lilley, Winifred Lilley, A. R. Spencer, and Ivy Brown. Solos were sung by Mrs. John Firth and Miss Emma Holt. Recitations were said by John Firth, entitled "The Letter Box"; Emma Firth, entitled "Their Telephone"; Dulcie Lilley, entitled, "Out of Doors"; and Arthur Lilley, entitled "The Sunbeam," who responded to an encore with "A Windy Night."—John Firth.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On June 28th, through the kindness of our friend, Mr. E. Vickers, a number of Lyceumists were able to witness the phenomena through Mr. John Taylor, two very successful seances being held. Sunday, June 29th, was Lyceum Day. In the afternoon we held an Open Session, when a good number of members gave recitations and solos. In the evening we rendered a service of song, "Spirit Return," by Mr. Knott, which proved a very good success. The solos were rendered by Misses B. Gamble, M. Thickett, H. Hampson, duet by Miss D. Childs and Master C. Oliver. The readings were read by Mr. F. Alton. A very good day was spent, which proved a financial help for our Society.—George H. Magness, Secretary.

SHILDON (Newlands Avenue).—On Sunday, July 6th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary, conducted by Mr. J. Smith. In the afternoon we had an Open Session when songs and recitations were given by the children. The session was well attended by visitors. The evening service was conducted by Mr. J. Howe, of Etherly, when the children again gave their services, assisted by the adult Lyceumist's organist, Mrs. Weirs, violinists, Mrs. Snowdon, P. Johnson and Wm. Smith. Musical conductor, Mr. Hunter. The day was a good success. On July 12th, Saturday, we had our annual Lyceum excursion to Whitley Bay. The weather was fine and a most enjoyable day was spent.—John Wilson, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawshead Street).—On July 6th a contingent of Lyceumists arrived from Leigh, which greatly enhanced the session, presided over by Mr. T. Berry. The session opened with singing "Angel Care." The musical reading entitled,

"Trust in God and do the Right," was given, the readings being rendered by Misses Daisy, Clarice, and Amy Blackshaw, and Bertha Gregory, of Leigh. The following pearls were given: "True Christian lips to keep from slips should learn five things, to whom they speak; with whom they speak; when they speak, and why, and where"; and "Bad news, like bad eggs, should be broken gently." Miss Daisy Blackshaw recited. The Conductor read a paper on "Life and Happiness." A discussion followed.—J.B.

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Eldon Street).—I am pleased to again report increased membership. The children take a great interest in each session, learning the marching and calisthenics quickly. We desire to thank the members of the parent Society and friends for their help financially in contributing funds towards providing a large banner for our outing to Jesmond Dene on August Bank Holiday. It is very gratifying when parent Society and Lyceum work hand in hand together as these do. It creates a harmonious feeling that is irresistible.—Wm. Woodall.

STOCKPORT (Lyceum Church).—On June 29th we held an Open Session in the afternoon, when six new members were made. In the evening, Mrs. Moulton read a service of song, which was written in rhyme, and composed by her. Miss Medcalf was the accompanist, Mr. Oldham, senr., wielded the conductor's baton, while Pattie Lee sweetly acted as soloist. The singing was hearty, and the whole of the reading was appreciated. Our Annual Outing took place on July 19th, to Reddish Vale. About 70 Lyceumists and friends spent an enjoyable time in games and races. We took our own provisions, and Mrs. Sandbach provided the crockery and hot water. Our hostess is an old Spiritualist, and gave special attention to our needs.—J. Marston.

STOCKTON.—On July 6th we had an Open Session, and we were judged for our shield competition. Our D.V. was quite surprised at our improvement, seeing he had been away for a few weeks at different Lyceums. I am sorry to state some of our oldest Lyceumists have left, but I hope in the near future they will see things in a different light and join our Lyceum again, and stick to the old motto, "The workers win." Pearls by Lily Williams, Mr. T. King, Willie King, Ethel Cannon, H. E. Westbrook, Miss Christopher, Miss D. Harrison, Mrs. Christopher. Recitations by Lily Williams, Thompson Oliver, W. Harrison and Hilda Jones. Solos by Miss D. Harrison, Miss Christopher and Lily Williams.—H. W. Westbrook, Secretary.

TODMORDEN, PATMOS.—On Sunday, July 6th, we held a splendid Open Session, the following programme being well rendered:—Recitations, Willie Howorth, "Duty done"; Miss Lee, "Song of the North"; duets, Gertrude Howorth and Ruth Sutcliffe, 17, *Lyceum Manual*; Mabel Howorth and Evelyn Eastwood, 386, *Manual*. Recitation, Mary Stephenson. Musical reading, Mr. Sam Wilson and Mr. Leonard Sutcliffe. Recitation, Gertrude Howorth. Duet, Mrs. Wilson and Miss Uttley, "Home, sweet home." Recitation, Ruth Sutcliffe. Song, Miss B. A. Crossley, 392, *Manual*. Altogether we had a good session.—Frank Pratt, Secretary.

WAIHI, AUCKLAND, N.Z.—I write to tell you we spent a most enjoyable Open Session on Sunday. Also the distribution of prizes took place. There was a record attendance. Pearls were given by Misses Grange (2), Morton (2), Lewis (1), and Masters Lewis, Morton (2), McCarthey, Dunstan and Parker. Recitations by Misses Morton (2), Grange and Ralph Lewis, F. McCarthey, Dunstan and Morton (2), Norman Morton (3), the youngest in Lyceum, recited a piece splendidly. Some good prizes were given to the children:—"Danesbury House," "The Talisman," "Girls' Own Annual," Shakespeare's Works, "The Reciter" and "The Last of the Mohicans." The children were well pleased with their prizes. The afternoon passed most pleasantly.—Blanche Grange.

WINDHILL (School Hill).—We held our Open Sessions on July 20th. Marching and calisthenics were rather badly gone through. Duets were given by Misses Annie Copley and Francis Sheard, entitled "The coming of angels"; Master Thomas Wright and Miss Annie Copley, entitled "Catch the sunshine"; Misses Annie Braman and Daisy Butterfield, entitled "Go forward"; a trio was given by Misses Elsie Hartill, A. Copley and Francis Sheard, entitled "Over the river of light." I am sorry to say some of our oldest and most earnest workers are leaving, owing to the ill-feeling prevailing amongst the members of the Lyceum. A great drawback is punctuality and obedience to Mr. George Roper, our treasurer and conductor, a most earnest worker for the cause.—John Brown, Hon. Sec.