

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. 275.

DECEMBER, 1913.

ONE PENNY.

Girls' Own Corner.

By
Mrs. JESSY
GREENWOOD



DECEMBER, 1913.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date	Opening Hymn.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.	
Dec. 7	395	1	238	142	378
Dec. 14	381	4	235	141	356
Dec. 21	407	10	234	143	346
Dec. 28	409	80	221	124	412

Pearls.

- Dec. 7th.—"The sure test of love is not emotion, but obedience."—Byron.
- Dec. 14th.—"The world is all gates, all opportunities."—Emerson.
- Dec. 21st. "The tree of knowledge in your garden grows."—O. W. Holmes.
- Dec. 28th.—"A thousand probabilities do not make one truth."

To all my readers I send greetings at Christmas-tide, with hopes that all will help to fill some heart with joy, some home with comforts hitherto denied, and useful propaganda in the demands of our Societies and Lyceums. Selfish pleasure is always incomplete, and only the fullest measure of happiness is gained when self is made to give way to giving best efforts to make others happy. Peruse these lines from the pen of Harry Fowler:—

COMPLETE.

The poet smote his harp, whose strings were spun
Of threads of rain and golden webs of sun;
By summer winds entwined and pitched to key
With bass of ocean's deep-voiced harmony.
And while he played there stole across the strings
Faint scent of fields and forest whisperings;
And moan of mountain pines, the low, sweet cry

That crickets make, and glow of summer sky.

Then, in the chords, with breath of sky and seas,
Mingled men's loves and hopes and sympathies;
And in the hearer's heart an echo beat
Through smiles and tears—the music was complete.

HARRY FOWLER.

Recently I listened to a sermon by the veteran Baptist minister, Dr. Clifford. He is one of the prominent personalities of the century whose name will assuredly live after him, and whose influence is to-day a great power over men. He is 77 years of age, I was told, and this fact made his sermon all the more wonderful, full of fervour, enthusiasm, soul! The latter was the secret of the man's power. I will not repeat what he said, but I will pass on to all workers this keynote of success. You work in the Lyceum or Society, giving your time, talents, and yourself practically, to what you consider your duty.

Your success depends on how far you *feel* your own ideals, whether they shine as a beautiful clear light that shows the way up a strenuous road; or as a well-nigh overwhelming passion capable of brushing aside all obstacles so that you gain your goal; or with a sweet constraining sympathy you draw the refractory one to purer thought and life. These are the traits of a good character, a wholesome character, a strong soul. Be these and you, too, will leave a well-defined boundary between perfection and imperfection.

We have strong men and women among Spiritualists on whom we depend much in the same way as our Baptist folks do on John Clifford. We recall their names with pride and gratitude—Britten, Everest, Hopps, Wallis, Kitson, Robertson, Venables, Groom, Hey, Green, Veary, Taylor honest John—and *many more* whose names will come to your minds. To all we say "Brave pioneers, you have set the pace, and we follow."

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND.

All Lyceums have received a card asking for contributions to the above fund. We hope the matter will be dealt forthwith, and that all the monies will be in the Secretary's hands by December 31st, 1913.

To all subscribers we offer thanks for past help, and feel sure they will respond with equal generosity to the present appeal.

On behalf of the Executive Council,
Sincerely yours,
(Mrs.) JESSY GREENWOOD.

Ashleigh, Hebden Bridge.

Subscriptions for November.—Mr. Kitson's services, 20/-; Mr. Wadsworth, 10/6; Bolton (Bradford Street Lyceum), 5/-; Widnes, 2/6.

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

MY DEAR CHUMS,

I was very pleased to obtain a note from Master T. R. King, of Stockton-on-Tees Lyceum, about last month's page, and will thank any old or young chum for a further explanation of any matter I have not made quite clear and understandable in any of our future pages.

There was once a time when all the people on the earth believed our world was flat. A man named Copernicus watched and studied the sun, moon and stars, eventually coming to the conclusion that the earth was not the centre round which the sun revolved, but wrote a pamphlet saying the earth moved around the sun. A great sailor, named Captain Cook, sailed in the same direction until he had gone round the earth. He did this three times and proved for himself that the earth was round like a ball. A long time before Captain Cook was born a man called Galileo, an Italian, had read the pamphlet written by Copernicus. He, too, believed the sun was the centre round which the earth revolved. This man was born in A.D. 1564.

One day he was walking along the street, when he saw a boy with a small toy made from two glasses and a tube. If the holder of the toy looked through the tube at a coin like one of our halfpennies, the coin would look as big as a penny; if the tube was turned the other way about, the coin would only look to be as small as a farthing. No one knows who invented the toy. It was really a little telescope.

Galileo bought one of the toys and made a large one, which he used to look at the stars. After many, many nights which lasted years of time, Galileo proved to be correct what Copernicus had thought and written was the truth. Copernicus was responsible for the thought and Galileo was answerable for the proof.

When the people were told about this newly discovered truth, they would not believe it. There was a man named Aristotle who was born in 384 B.C., whom the people still believed in so much that he was known as the Master. For anyone to dispute what the Master had written was considered a great wrong. One of the things which Aristotle said was that if a one-pound weight and a ten-pound weight were both dropped together from a height the ten-pound weight would drop ten times as fast as the one-pound weight. Galileo tried the truth of this by an experiment. Climbing to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa he dropped two weights of one and ten pounds each from the leaning side of the Tower. They both reached the ground at the same time.

Galileo summoned some of the most learned professors from the monasteries to witness that the Master was wrong about the weights, hoping they would then agree with him about the earth and the sun. When the weights were dropped they came down to the ground together. The learned men were surprised and would not climb the Tower to try the experiment for themselves, saying that it was the work of the evil-one and they would have nothing to do with the devil.

Galileo was not allowed to publish or write about the new truths he had learned living in great obscurity for the latter portion of his earthly life.

The people of those days are like the people of to-day. They never seem ready to grasp a new truth, or take advantages of its opportunities, unless it will give them more money for adopting it. That is the reason why Spiritualism does not grow in the minds of the people as fast as it ought to do.

Lyceums are existing for the purpose of making boys and girls to be courageous like Galileo, who, when he had discovered a new truth, wanted everybody to know it and use it to improve their knowledge and usefulness to the world. Being the only man who could prove at that time about the earth moving round the sun, he held himself personally responsible to give it to the world, having the compensation that he had done his best to reveal the truth to mankind, and leaving the retribution of his priestly persecutors to their own conscience and the disapproval of future generations.

Responsibility means we are answerable for our actions. Personal responsibility means we are responsible or answerable to ourselves. We know best when we are good or bad, and make ourselves happy or miserable as the result of our actions. Nothing hurts us more than to be praised for doing something we feel we ought not to have done.

Lyceumists should practise good for evil and good for good. If a boy hits you, don't hit him back, because that would make you enemies. You will be a brave lad if you have the courage to walk away and forgive him for striking you, when he says or shows by his manner, he is sorry for having struck you. I tell you from experience that that boy will never strike you again and will become your friend. The world is only made better by sacrifice. If you can sacrifice your so-called honour and make good strong friends and comrades from your chums by living what the *Lyceum Manual* teaches, "the practise of keeping the golden rule," you will be learning other boys in your school and surroundings to admire you. The compensation which comes from keeping our tempers far outweighs the retribution which angry words and blow for blow give us, when we find very often over some trifling thing we have fallen-out with those whom we would much sooner have had for friends.

Let me tell you the world of thinkers from Copernicus to the present day have taught the golden rule of good for evil, but we shall never have true chums and comrades until we can trust and love each other, practise what we teach and act as we would like others to act to us. Every boy can take an old philosopher's advice; here it is:—"A man may conquer a thousand times ten thousand in battle, but he who conquers himself is the greater conqueror."

The north and south States of America fought at a cost of £1,600,000, when slavery was abolished, costing about £400 for every slave freed. More than 20 years before that time England abolished slavery peaceably at a cost of about £26 for every slave freed.

I long to see the time when boys shall forget to quarrel and men may differ in opinion and still be friends, working together with one object, perhaps in different ways, yet all trying to uplift and emancipate humanity to a future life of harmony, peace and progress.

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 and readers all:

As this is my last chat with you before Christmas comes; and the New Year too; let me first of all greet you with the old greeting of "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Don't let us be like old Scrooge, and dub Christmas—and all its attendant gaieties and merry-making and expressions of goodwill—as "Humbug," but let us gladly welcome the true Christmas spirit of delight in scattering about us, on every hand, seeds of kindness, thoughtfulness, and happiness. But I won't "preach"; you'll get enough of that—direct and indirect—from other sources.

Two letters come to me this month—one that is encouraging in what it shows of a little one's grasp of our principles. Here it is; for it deserves the attention of all; and I am very pleased to have received it, and most certainly feel proud of my little Bluebell. Dear Flora Belle,

I feel you will be as proud of your little Bluebell, aged eight years, (after you have read the following) as I am; for she did not fear to speak the truth and help her little girl friend,—as all Bluebells should do,—and it also proves that our little Lyceumists take in more than we adults give them credit for.

Two children were going to school and on passing a greengrocer's shop B. stole some dates from the stall.

E. said: "You know God can see you!"

B.—"God! there isn't any God."

E.—"Oh! yes there is. What about your soul then?"

B.—"We havn't any souls; my daddy told me so. When we die we go all to dust."

E.—"Ah! yes; our bodies go to dust, but we don't; we keep alive for always in the Spirit World."

I leave it to you to guess your Bluebell, and I shall not give the name; but believe me, with fraternal greetings.—J. W. Humphreys, (Conductor of Kingston-on-Thames Lyceum.)

The second is also from Kingston-on-Thames, and I thank Edna very much for remembering and telling me so nicely of how she likes the Lyceum; and her doll. I hope in after years she will love old and tried friends as dearly as she now does dolly.

She writes:—Dear Flora Belle, I thought you would like to know about our Lyceum. We had a baby named here last month. Its spirit-name was "Steadfast," and we gave white flowers. He is the baby-brother of a little friend. I have been a Spiritualist for a long time—more than a year—and I like going to the Lyceum better than to Sunday School. Mum and Dad like going to the Open Session.

I have got a dear old doll named Jane. She has no hair, no arms, one leg, and she squints; but I love her and she loves me too, and I always take her to bed with me.

Mr. Humphreys is so kind to us on Sundays. He tells us nice stories. Mr. Mills took us for a change.

Daddy used to be always ill, and Mr. Humphreys has made him well again.

With love, from your little friend, Edna Hurstwick; (age eight, number 3,420).

Our Editor warns me that space is limited this month, so I won't chatter to you any longer; but will conclude by giving you a seasonable short story.

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

It was just one week off Christmas. Jack was sure of that, for had he not carefully looked at the calendar! One week! However would he be able to wait until that morning came when he would awaken and find his stocking—and little table at his bedside—filled with presents, brought by dear old Santa Claus! You see, Jack—aged nine—was very impatient about it all that day, because the night before he had written a letter to Santa Claus—without any help—and sent it on its journey up the chimney. Would he get it? Would he know to which house he was desired to bring the engine; and the aeroplane; and the story-books; the paints; and pennies? Do you wonder at Jack's impatience? That night he dreamed he was Santa Claus and reading the letters from children; but there was *not* one from Jack Henley, London! On awakening, he hoped so earnestly his dream wouldn't be true, or Santa Claus wouldn't know of his wishes, or where he lived. Three days later, Jack went out with his mother. There was a dense fog, causing great trouble to people who had to go out. Somehow,—he didn't quite know how—Jack got separated from his mother and must have turned down wrong streets, for soon he found himself in a quiet back one and realised he was lost. Still, he knew if he could find a policeman he would be alright, and promptly set about looking for one. He stopped to rest and suddenly heard two children whispering, and heard them saying:—"Why do people like Christmas?" "I don't know. I've heard some say it is merry; and brings good things." "H'm, it must be to only rich folks, who go to the big shops which look so nice!" "'Specs it is. I say; wouldn't you like Santa Claus to come to your house?" "I don't know. Who is he?" "I heard some boys say he was a man—a kind of fairy—who brings some children presents at Christmas." "Oh! wouldn't I then!" "What would you like him to bring you?" "Some warm clothes and boots, something good to eat and some money for mother. She never has enough to pay for everything, and I'm too little to earn much."

Jack wanted to know more, so went up to the speakers. He had a plan in his mind, suggested by his kind heart. He asked them—two boys about his own age, he judged—if they would please tell him where he was, and the way to go to find the street where he was last with his mother (telling them her name). They were rather timid at first, but soon offered to show him the way. He was glad to find they could even show him the way home. On arriving, his mother opened the door for them. She had missed him, gone home to see if he had returned, and was just setting out to make enquiries about him, and was so glad to see he was safe. He whispered to her, and she said "Yes;" whereupon he asked the boys to come and have some cake, and warm themselves. They were shy, but yielded to coaxing. How thin and poor were their clothes;

and their feet were bare! After enjoying some milk and cake, and the warmth of the fire, they set out again, but each clasping tightly a shilling. But Jack had learned where they lived, and thought often of their conversation which he had overheard.

On Christmas Eve a man called at the poor home of each, and left a parcel bearing on the label the words, "From Santa Claus, sent by his messenger, and wishing you a Merry Christmas." In each were five precious shillings, some worn but good clothing, boots, fruits, and an engine that would run by itself on rails. What joy reigned in each boy's heart on Christmas Day! But Jack doubly enjoyed playing with his own toys, for Santa Claus must have received that letter after all, else how did he know to bring just the right things?

And what if his money box *was* empty, after he had saved up his money till he had a sovereign? Had he not given more than its worth in happiness to two children who seldom felt its uplifting power? Yes, he had wished his two little helpers "A Merry Christmas" in a very practical way.

Your loving sister,

FLORA BELLE.

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.]

SPIRIT HOMES.

Each child born on earth is fully entitled to rear for itself a home in this part of the spirit world. Its own inherent nature as a child of God entitles it to hold, for its own immortal welfare, a portion of this, the third sphere of the spirit world, on which to build its spirit home. Social rank and position do not count. There are no monopolies of land here, apportioning to themselves more than they can use, leasing the remainder to their less fortunate brethren. These conditions and customs belong to earth life and are left behind at death.

To describe the process by which spirit homes are reared and fashioned is much more difficult for us to do than for you to describe the process by which your homes on earth are built. You could understand the cutting and trimming of timber, the quarrying and dressing of stones, and also the making of bricks with which to construct your homes, because you see the processes going on around you in daily life. But supposing you were trying to explain the methods and describe the procuring of the necessary materials to a man blind from birth, and devoid of the sense of touch, then your task would be rendered more difficult because he would have no standard of comparison to enable him to compare your description of obtaining the materials and the process of building, and so your patience might be severely tried by your friend, and more especially so if he had strong preconceived ideas and notions of his own, and kept trying to twist your descriptions to suit his ideas, saying it was all nonsense when you tried to correct him. Well, we wish to preface our humble efforts to describe the building of spirit homes by assuring you that you are in the position of the blind person, for you cannot see them, and you are also unable to feel

the fashioning of the materials, and in this lies our difficulty.

But perhaps we may help to prepare you for what we have to say by instancing the wonderful powers and their work of some of the forces around you. The art of photography has acquainted you with the fact that the invisible rays of light, when properly focussed and received on a sensitised plate can paint the object it is focussed on in faultless detail, showing the blemishes and deformities as faithfully as it does the good parts, and it does this much quicker and better than any artist with brush or pencil can ever hope to do. This is accomplished by an invisible agency that would be counted marvellous were it not a common, everyday occurrence.

Again, the power of psychometry has revealed to the psychic student that not only are light waves thrown off by the human body, but there are also psychic waves or emanations given off which imprint the individual's characteristics and emotions on all articles he may handle, and on all articles in the room surrounding him, and it needs but a psychometrist to handle them in order to describe them as faithfully as the eye can discern the characteristics of the individual photographed.

Bearing these facts in mind, who shall dare to limit the powers of the soul unconsciously to build for itself a home in the spirit world that as faithfully portray its earth-life, its blemishes, along with all that is good and pleasing, as does the photographic picture, or the psychic impressions made unconsciously on raiment, furniture and walls?

Let me remind you of the following lines in your *Lyceum Manual* :—

"Thus, with deeper meaning fraught,
Viewless Mansions all are rearing,
On their Shadowy walls appearing
All the works our hands have wrought."

This is not mere poetic sentiment, but literal fact. Not only "on their shadowy walls appearing," but *in* the walls as part of the spiritual fabric is the record of the life lived on earth. The daily actions of each individual on earth give off that force which acts on the psychic surroundings of the home and cause to be built into its structure material indicating the nature of each act, and the motive that promoted it. This process of building the spirit home commences when the person reaches the years of understanding and discretion as to the nature of its actions.

Many of the homes are incomplete when the individual reaches spirit life, some on account of the party dying at an immature age; and others because of neglect of the duties of daily life, and so the work must be done, and life's lessons learned when they reach the spirit world. This is essential for the future welfare of each individual soul.

As your earthly homes can be repaired, bad material removed and replaced with good, so it is with the spirit homes. The unsightly parts can be replaced with pleasing material, by atoning for the wrong indicated by the displeasing material. Thus the working out of the spirit's salvation not only affects the appearance of the spirit's raiment and inner self, but it also affects the appearance of its spirit home. Thus we are endeavouring to make plain to you the operation of spirit forces in moulding spirit substance to form for each man and woman a spirit home—forces and substances of which material science has

no cognizance, and with spiritual chemistry whose transformation are far more marvellous than any of those with which science deals.

In some instances certain people *feel* they have a mission in life to effect some much needed reformation with which they are in full sympathy, it may be of a social, political, temperance, religious, or spiritual nature, for reformers, like mediums, are born, not made. All are needed, and intended to be about their Heavenly Father's business in the work of evolving the human family to a higher plain of social, political and religious state of being. Some of these reformers may grow weary of the stress and struggle, the persecution and misrepresentation with which they have to contend, and in their hour of trial decide to give up the task and let others take a turn. Could such but see the sad effect this decision has on their spirit career and home, they would steadfastly pursue their "heaven-appointed way" to the end, for as surely as they cease their task, just so surely will the result be reflected on their spirit nature and their home, and demand fulfilment on the spirit side of life *with borrowed material*, i.e., by influencing some sensitive to complete the task.

In case the work has been too great for accomplishment, owing to his enemies (people who are self-interested in maintaining the evils sought to be removed) being too powerful for the reformer to overcome, think not that he is deemed a failure by his spirit guides and inspirers. His happiness does not depend so much on the success of his efforts, as on how he has borne himself in the struggle which may have ended in a martyr's death, which may prove to be the greatest victory for the cause he has espoused, as in the case of Socrates, and Jesus, to name but two in the long list of the world's martyred reformers.

(To be continued).

In Vera Cruz.

(True Cross.)

By G. N. EDGARD.

We landed at Vera Cruz before breakfast, in the early morning sunlight.

The Steward knocked on my cabin door, calling, "Prepare for the doctor, please; he is waiting in the dining saloon."

It sounded rather peremptory, but we thought it best to obey, so hurried in dressing, and in less than half an hour were walking down the corridor on the way to the dining saloon, where most of the passengers had already assembled. They were moving slowly, in single file, round one of the tables at the head of which stood the Doctor. This important personage gave each passenger a keen scrutinising look, and asked in an officious kind of way, various questions as to where the poor victim was going to and where he came from, etc., as if all the information was not already recorded on the various documents on the table before him. When my turn came, I felt suddenly very conscious; there seemed to be something in his glance that told me I had all at once developed an eruption, and that I was going to be detained as suffering from an infectious disease. However, after listening to my stammers,

he seemed satisfied, and we passed on our way rejoicing.

The "Morro Castle" was berthed close to the wharf, and as we passed along the deck to the ladder down the ship's side, we had a good view of the natives unloading baggage and the line of coaches waiting near the entrance to the Custom House. The day was glorious, but so hot, the sun beating down till the very ground was scorching to walk upon.

We hurried to see about our baggage. We had previously been told that owing to the Revolution, we might have some difficulty getting through the Customs quickly, as the Officers were very severe on English speaking people. Under this blazing sunlight we ran to and fro, inspecting each lot of luggage on its way to the Custom House. What a mixture and confusion there was! Everything was just dumped down anyhow, and it was a case of first come first served. The heat rose from the ground, making the atmosphere quiver; everybody was dressed in the thinnest of clothing, the stevedores unloading cargo were naked to the waist.

A solid-faced official came to inspect my now collected trunks. He looked at me with dull eyes, and underlip pushed forward, his cheeks hanging in rolls of fat. His assistants opened everything. After they had looked minutely at every article in two trunks, holding them at arm's length, in many cases very often shaking their heads dubiously, I grew desperate. We were almost the last passengers in the building—at this rate we should be there all day! I rushed to the Chief Official and informed him what kind of creature I had to deal with. He must have been impressed, he came along and with a wave of the hand ordered the baggage to be at once checked and removed. He was rewarded by my most gracious smile. After leaving instructions where it was to be sent, we hurried out into the sunlight and hailed a coach. "Al Hotel Delijencia" to the driver, and away we drove with a fine flourish, our eyes delighted by the quaint buildings and picturesque people.

Arriving at the Hotel, we found they had vacant rooms, which we engaged, and a native boy waiter in white overalls, escorted us up the wide stone stairs, to the second floor. No nice carpets or curtains, for in this climate such comforts are impossible. Bare floors of polished wood, with an occasional mat, and beds of the hardest and plainest description, hung with mosquito nets. We thought of tea! Marie rung for it and gave the order. We impatiently awaited it, our throats parched with the heat and all the arguing of the morning. At last it came! Such tea! such bread! without butter! which we had omitted to mention in the order! We decided to wait till dinner and do without such a luxury as tea in Vera Cruz.

From the balcony of our bedroom we looked down the principal street. There was a buzz of talk and chatter from the shoe-boys sitting on the seats under the trees of the †Plaza, directly opposite, the calling of newsboys, and the hum of conversation from the latest arrivals dining on the pavement down below, interspersed with the tinkle of the coach bells, as the coaches rolled past. Large black birds, vultures,

* To the Delijencia Hotel.

† A Square planted with trees and flowers.

and small birds of gorgeous plumage kept up a constant croak and twitter among the trees.

The houses in this street are quaint and straight-fronted, mostly *adobe* buildings painted pink, red, pale blue, white, grey or drab, a blending of colours that stood out distinct against the deep azure of the glorious sky. They vary in size and shape. To the left, across the road in the background, can be seen the rounded dome of a church, the bell of which clangs incessantly, with a monotony that irritates one. In front of the Hotel is the Plaza, where everybody who is anybody, along with all the nobodies, promenade in the evening, or sit and talk, enjoying the music of the brass band.

The days close early in Vera Cruz and about four o'clock the sun began to set in a glory of wonderful colours; the moment he disappeared below the horizon—it was night. Out from the velvety blue ether came the stars, twinkling and scintillating like diamonds, the moon sailed in the heavens, a round brilliant orb, in its light the roofs of the buildings appeared like silver.

We went downstairs and strolled to the tables laid for dinner, before the Annexe of the Hotel, across the road.

Darky boys came to our table with periodicals, picture post cards, Japanese painted fans, native grass fans and trinkets for sale, or begged as a matter of course, for money.

A terribly thin sandy-haired cat came to the table and plaintively mewed its wishes. I put down a plentiful supply of leavings; a barefooted boy in ragged clothing came along and assisted the animal to eat by taking off all the meat from the bones. The cat was delighted and purred loudly. The boy licked his fingers, wiped them on his trousers, patted the cat, then with a radiant smile showing white teeth, took himself off.

Coaches were constantly passing among the crowd of quaintly dressed, dark skinned natives of all ages. The women wore no hats, but loose dresses of thin material, and the better dressed wore flowing scarves of native embroidered silk gracefully draped round their shoulders.

A fashionably dressed lady with her husband and little boy seated themselves at the next table. They took great interest in all that we ate, and smiled each time I looked their way. Our waiter fussed around us and watched each mouthful. He was most solicitous that my napkin was to my hand and that I had a small loaf of bread at my elbow. He kept the wine in the bucket such a long time that it was almost like ice itself. Surely nothing was too cold in this breathless heat!

Everyone seemed to be talking or laughing. No one could be miserable, I thought. Above was a tropical night sky of velvety blue. Across the way the Plaza, the trees hung with coloured lights, and the Buffet a blaze of light and colour. Dusky skinned girls with doe-like eyes, moved in and out, serving ice-cream and iced drinks to those sitting at the tiny tables. Young couples sat and dreamed sweet nothings, their pulses quickened by the throbbing atmosphere. A night for love!

An open coach passed, and the driver looked very invitingly at us; so unable to resist the temptation we rose and said "Good-bye" to the starved cat, and went for a drive in this wonderful night air. We

sank back on the cushions with a sigh of ecstasy; the slight breeze caused by driving was like a soft caress on the cheek, a gentle kiss of some nymph of the air.

Through quiet streets we rolled along, past the old barracks, along by the jetty we saw the lights of the ships at anchor, the still still sea, lying like a pond with unruffled surface. The search light from the light-house swept the ocean rhythmatically. Above all, the moon, her silvery beams on the water a glittering path to fairyland. How beautiful it was! Here surely was a poet's Heaven on earth!

Nature Studies.

BY J. KNIGHT.

THE SWALLOW.

(Continued from last month.)

So far as is known they "pair" for life, and soon after they settle on the place of their abode, they both commence building their nest. The nest of the swallow and the house martin is shallow and shaped like a half saucer, the flat side being against the wall or the joist. But where it can be done they build it round. The nests of these two are composed of mud, mixed with small pieces of straw, and lined with fine grass and feathers.

They have from four to six eggs, and have two or three broods of young each season—though sometimes the third brood has to be left behind by the parent birds, when from some cause food fails, or chilly weather drives all, that can go, southward.

Towards the end of August or early September—as is the case this year—these birds which breed in the most northern parts, begin their southward journey, and by the end of October, very few, which have the intention of leaving our shores, remain.

By what means do they find their way from England to Africa? The word "*instinct*" at one time satisfied scientists as accounting for all these movements. But the student of to-day is not so satisfied, for their comings and goings are governed by circumstances requiring considerable reasoning ability. The fact is they find the *same place* at each end of their migration year after year. My old friend Don Pedro, placed rings on a nest of young, bearing his initials D.P., and date 1858, which came back to the same nesting place for six years, and two of them for ten years. Of two of the old ones he clipped two claws off each foot, and these came back for five years. On each of their visits they showed they had considerable memory, for if there had been a change of farm servant, horse, or even a cow, considerable caution was exercised in approaching their nests, or these individuals, and for a time when these were near, the note of alarm and fear was in evidence from the birds, whilst the most joyful "twitter, twitter" was given their old and tried friends. My space will not permit of more evidence in favour of "reason v. instinct," though much could be produced.

Now, I wish to give you a brief description of each of these species of swallows. First, the swallow family is *Hirundinidae* Genus *Hirundo*, Anglo-Saxon swallow, which means "Tosser about," never tired, "moving to and fro." Its length is about eight inches; wings four-and-a-half inches; tail four-and-a-half inches; Pulmage—adult, upper parts, deep

blue, with metallic lustre; forehead, dark chestnut, wings, dark bluey-green. The tail is green with a bluish tinge. The tail feathers—except the two central ones, have white patches on the inner webs. The two outer tail feathers are very much longer than the rest. The *under parts*, chin and throat, are dark chestnut. There is a band across the chest, deep blue with metallic lustre. The body and under wings are buff white; under tail, pale chestnut. Its bill, legs and feet are black.

The hen adult has the general colouring less brilliant and the under parts are white; the tail is much shorter. The young are much browner than the adults, and begin their southward journey two or three weeks earlier.

Martin, Genus, Cholidon Boie. A.S. Martlet. In many respects the house martin, in its general habits closely resembles the swallow, but it is more partial to small towns and villages. When on the wing it is easily distinguishable from the swallow by its shorter tail and white under parts. Its song consists of but two or three notes much lower and softer than the swallow's, and not so often heard. In making its nest, or, I should have said *their nests*, for both are employed, some days are occupied in firmly fixing the foundation, especially in damp weather when the mud takes some time to dry, but as soon as the foundation is satisfactory the rest is soon completed. The house martin always builds its nest under the eaves of overhanging roofs, but *outside* the building, and if joist, beam, or jutting stone against which the nest is built, is chosen, it is the *underside* of these always, whilst the swallow prefers the inside of buildings, and the *upperside* of the beam or joist for its nest. The house martin's eggs are four or five in number, and are pure white. The length of martin is five-and-a-half inches; wing, four-and-a-quarter inches; tail, two-and-a-half inches; plumage—adult, upper parts glossy bluey-black; rump, and upper tail coverts, white; wings and tail, sooty; under parts, white. Legs and feet are covered with small white feathers.

Sand Martin. Genus Cotile Boie. The sand martin often arrives in this country in the middle of March, but rarely builds its nest till the middle of May. They have often to work hard for weeks making a safe and satisfactory tunnel, which is often a work of art, three or four feet long; at the end of the straight drive there may be an acute angle to the right or left leading to another outlet. *The nest*, made up of dry grass and feathers, is always placed in the most convenient position. The eggs, four or six in number, are pure white and rather pointed at the small end, and slightly larger than the eggs of the house martin, though this bird is smaller, being in *length* four-and-three-quarter inches; wing, four inches; tail, two-and-a-quarter inches. *Plumage*,—upper parts, hair brown on the crown; lighter on rump; tail and wings blackish-brown; under parts, white with a brown band across the chest; legs and feet, brown; and there is a tuft of buff about the hind toe.

The Swift. Family—Cypselæ. Genus—Cypselus Illiger. This put into simple English means a "kind of swallow or martin." It is so named on account of its rapid flight, and frequenting hollow places, and where there is water.

The Swift migrates to this country towards the end

of April. They come in pairs, and like the swallows, they pair for life. They do not complete their nests till well on in May. They rarely have more than one or two broods in a season, and only two or three young ones in a brood.

They are not so shy as the swallows, and are met with in town and country alike. They build their nests in high steeples and ruins, old barns, under the eaves of cottages, on the sea coast cliffs, in caves, or in stone quarries, in a hole of a tree. I know of one built in the lettering of a milestone. They have little or no pride in the position, structure, or composition of their nests, and often appropriate the nest of the house martin, sparrow, or other birds they can evict. Sometimes there is scarcely any nest worth the name. But when built against cliffs, walls, or under the eaves of cottages, they go to much trouble to make their nest secure. Usually the building materials are *glued* together with a viscid mucus manufactured in the mouth and stomach of the hen bird, which has all the building and the hatching to do herself.

The swift is essentially an aerial bird, on the wing from early morning till late evening. It is absolutely tireless. Its flight is very rapid, easy, and full of grace, and it is able to skim over road or water, as far as the eye can carry without moving its wings. The distance it covers in a day must be enormous, for it very rarely perches anywhere during the day, and only roosts for a few hours at night, or in stormy weather, on the side of the nest, and when seen perching it is generally upside down. Their nests—as do all those of the swallow family—get very dirty, and infested with a "dipterous" parasite. "Dipterous" means "two-winged." These parasites cause much annoyance both to old and young, but they seem helpless to rid themselves of these pests.

The season for breeding is a very short one, for by the middle of August, the birds take their flight southward, and if the young ones are not able to make the journey they are left behind to do the best they may, which often means to die. Like the swallows they cross the Mediterranean to Africa for the long winter, where they moult their feathers.

Their food consists entirely of insects which can be stored under the tongue. Their song is not the musical twitter of the swallow, but a harsh scream, but is easy to tell whether of joy or of fear. Its wildness sometimes is quite startling.

The plumage is sooty brown, slightly bronzed; chin and throat, greyish-white; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish.

Young birds have more white on throat, and feathers more or less tinged with dull white.

Mrs. LEE

(Late of Armley)

136, WESTMINSTER ROAD,
MORECAMBE, W.E.

Homely Apartments.

Bath and Piano[!]

Lyceum Union, May, 1891.
Transferred to the above Union, as a Free Gift by the Founder,
May, 1902.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890, BY J. J. MORSE.

THE LYCEUM BANNER :

ALFRED KITSON, *Editor.*

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DECEMBER, 1913.

LYCEUM MOTTO FOR 1913.

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

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

From a letter to hand from Mr. Herbert E. Clarke, (who so ably conducted The Temperance Page in THE LYCEUM BANNER till business engagements called him to New York, U.S.A.), we gather that he may be returning to England early in the New Year. He sends cordial greetings and good wishes to his many friends in England.

It is pleasing to note that the Dunfermline, Edinburgh, and Leigh (Star of Progress) Spiritualist Societies have re-opened their Lyceums after the lapse of several years; and Dunston-on-Tyne, Portsmouth, and Winchester have opened Lyceums. Bulwell (Nottingham) has decided to open a Lyceum on January 4th; and Bristol (Thomas Street) has the matter under serious consideration and may soon be heard from.

I am glad to see these signs of awakening interests to the need and necessity of opening CHILDREN'S PROGRESSIVE LYCEUMS in connection with Spiritualist Churches. Where this is not done, one of two things must happen: either the children are allowed to spend their Sundays aimlessly running about and getting into mischief, or are sent to orthodox Sunday Schools, where their young minds are prejudiced against spirit communion and the teachings of Spiritualism in general; besides being taught to believe in the misleading teachings of the earth being created in six days; the fall of mankind from a state of innocence of purity by the first pair of human beings eating of the forbidden fruit; and its only redemption through the atoning blood of a crucified Jesus. And we say, unhesitatingly, that Spiritualist Societies who tolerate their children being so taught are failing in one of their most essential duties. "Open the door

for the children," tenderly: lovingly gather them in to partake of the spiritual feast, prepared by the angels for both old and young.

Perhaps the following items relating to Sunday observance may be a surprise to our readers who vainly imagine they are free from such dangers. But these antiquated laws exist, the same as those that dub all mediums as rogues and vagabonds, and may be put in operation by pious Sabbatarians.

"How many people know that under a law of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, still unrepealed, every person not attending a place of worship every Lord's Day renders himself liable to a fine; the first fine being "one silver penny," and each fine in succession doubling in amount? Some of our friends by this time owe very large sums to the State."

"Sunday laws still abound in this country. Who knows that it is penal to whistle on the Sabbath? Yet such a law is still in force, and should any person be caught whistling in a public place on Sunday, he—or she—may be fined the sum of one shilling; while yet another law relates to swearing in a public place, whereby "a gentleman" may be fined the sum of two shillings, others being fined in amount according to their rank, the amount doubling for each offence. We imagine that in the case of the enforcement of this law no one would wish to pose as of superior rank—for the time at least!"

By the kind permission of the *Crewe Circle* for Psychic Photography, the Editor of THE LYCEUM BANNER paid a special visit on November 1st, and succeeded in obtaining evidence of spirit presence on two of the plates, and a greeting in *Greek*, on another one. Among the spirit friends showing themselves is our dear, ascended founder, Andrew Jackson Davis; and also the youngest sister of the Editor. We purpose reproducing these two plates, along with a full descriptive article for the benefit of our readers next month. Lyceums and friends wanting extra copies should order early to save disappointment.

A Joyous Christmas to all.

Christianity, Churchianity, or Spiritualism,—Which?

A Serious Inquiry, by J. M. Peebles, M.A., M.D., London. L. N. Fowler & Co., 1/-.

The above pamphlet ably defines between Christianity and Churchianity, terms that are apt to be used interchangeably as being synonymous in their meaning. The venerable Dr. clearly proves such is far from being the case. Christianity he characterises by the following quotations from the New Testament: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, that ye have love one to another." And, "I say unto you, love your enemies and bless them that curse you, and do good to them that hate you, and pray for those who despitefully use and persecute you." He represents Churchianity as having originated under the regime of Constantine the Great, and the Nicene Council called in 325 A.D. to settle the nature of Christ, whether he was human or divine, from whence arose creeds and persecutions. After this heretics were either banished or executed. He charges to Churchianity all the ecclesiastic murders, burnings at the stake, and so-called Holy Wars; the massacre in France on the eve of St. Bartholomew, and the condemnation to the scaffold of all the inhabitants of the Netherlands, man, woman and child.

THE LYCEUM RECITER.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

(For New Year's Open Session.)

New Year has come! New Year has come!

Oh, children sweet and dear,
And from our pleasant spirit home

We've seen its face appear:
'Tis fresh and dear, and full of smiles,
And beaming o'er with mirth,
'Tis bright with charming little wiles,
To please old Mother-Earth.

I know its happy hours dawn
In sunbeams sweet and mild,
That bring a story, or a song,
To every laughing child;
I know its hands are full of love
For children sweet and dear,
It comes in gladness from above,
This gentle, bright New Year.

Oh, it is full of work and play,
To share with little boys
And little girls, it comes your way
To bring you pleasant joys;
And when you deeds of kindness show
To others whom you meet,
Its hours with happiness will glow
All pure and rich and sweet.

New Year has come! New Year has come!
Oh, meet it children dear,
With shouts of welcome to your home—
This happy, glad New Year!
Oh, smile upon it with your love
And make its life more sweet—
It is an angel from above
To guide your little feet.

Spirit May.

SNOW FLAKES.

(This should be recited when there is snow.)

Softly falls the spotless snow—
Flakes are flying everywhere,
Like as many white-winged birds
Speeding through the silent air;
Down and down to earth they come,
Full of mercy, full of love,
Sent upon their mission forth
By our Father-God above.

How they weave a garment bright,
As they come in thick'ning crowds;
Weave a garment soft and light,
White and fleecy as the clouds.
Over all the fields it spreads,
Tucking all the flowers in,
Hushing them to sleep in beds
Far removed from earthly din.

Thick and fast the snow-flakes fly,
Giving every girl and boy,
As they watch them flutter by,
Glimpses of delightful joy.
How they cover all the earth,
Brown and gloomy, up from sight;
How they deck each leafless tree
With a garment fresh and white.
Oh! we love the downy snow,
'Tis a messenger of love,
Sent to grace the world below
By our God who reigns above;
Sent to keep the flowers warm
Till the wintry storms are o'er,
And to gladden youthful hearts
With their beauty evermore.

Spirit May.

BLESSINGS.

All blessings is to those who blessings give,
Life is most theirs who least for self shall live,
Joy beams on those who bring to others bliss,
Of those who love, Love's crown the brow shall kiss.
This law is perfect, never swerving, true;
As you shall give it shall be given you,
Whate'er the clime life's ever true to life.
Peace springs from love and bitterness from strife.
Be thine the wiser, better, fuller part
Of ever trusty soul and steadfast heart
To whom shall come, e'en though by stormy ways,
A plenitude of calm and happy days.

R.A., Fulham Lyceum.

A MOTHER'S MEDITATION.

Ah! how I fain would hide thee
From every breath of sin,
Oh! if I could but guide thee,
By love and prayer to win;
Could I but lead thy footsteps,
O'er rugged path's and steep,
Guard thee from every danger,
Watch over thee in sleep.
Thy dear voice is *music* now,
I know thy soul is pure,
But, time will pass, years roll on,
What strength will it endure?
I may not *always* be with thee,
My God may call me hence,
But, *while I live*, I'll teach thy lips,
To speak in Love's defence.
Could I but know, and truly
That thou would'st live to be,
A goodman, true and steadfast
A leader of the free.
Could I prove thy spirit *dauntless*,
Fearless of errors' might,
Then, I could rest contented
Thy future would be bright.

MRS. MOULT.

Stories from the Classics

THE ADVENTURES OF THESEUS.

'My name is Periphetes [per-e-fe-tez], better known as the 'club-bearer,' and here are my spider's fangs, (and he lifted from off the rocks a huge club of bronze) saying, 'This my father gave to me, forged by himself, and with it I pound all my flies to a pulp. So hand over your sword, golden sandals, and mantle before you die.'

But Theseus wrapped his mantle round his arm, and gripped his sword determined to defend himself. In the severe contest that followed the robber and murderer of peace-loving men got the worst of it. Theseus secured his club and bear-skin and left the body as carion for the kites and vultures, and continued his journey down the farther slope of the mountain, till he came to a broad green valley, and saw flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.

And besides a pleasant fountain, under the shade of rocks and trees were the shepherds gaily dancing with nymphs, but with no one to play for them.

When they saw Theseus bearing the terrible club and bearskin mantle the shepherds ran away shrieking, and the nymphs dived into the waters of the pool, and vanished.

Theseus wondered what could have frightened them, and why they had no music when they danced. But he was tired, and thirsty, so he thought no more of them, but drank at the pool, and bathed in the water, then he lay down to rest, and while he listened to the murmuring water he fell asleep.

When he woke, he heard whispering, and cautiously turning his head he saw the nymphs peeping at him across the pool from the dark mouth of a cave in the rock. One said, 'Surely he is not Periphetes;' then another remarked, 'He looks like no robber, but a fair and brave youth.'

Then Theseus smiled, and called out to them, 'Fair nymphs, I am not Periphetes. He sleeps among the kites and vultures; see! I have brought away his club and bearskin coat.'

Then they came close to him, and called the shepherds back. Then he told them of his meeting with the club-bearer, and the fearful struggle he had with him; and the shepherds were so pleased that they kissed his feet and sang, 'Now we shall feed our flocks in peace, and not be afraid to have music when we dance; for the cruel club-bearer has at last met his match, and he will listen for our pipes playing no more.'

Then they brought Theseus goat's flesh to eat, and milk to drink, and the nymphs brought him honeycomb from the rocks, and he ate and drank, and slept again, while the nymphs and shepherds sang and danced for joy that their cruel enemy could molest them no more. And when Theseus awoke he felt refreshed and strengthened, and made ready to continue his journey. When they saw this they begged him to stay with them, but he said, 'I have a great work to do. I must away towards the Isthmus, that I may go to Athens.'

On hearing this the shepherds said, 'Will you go alone towards Athens? None travel that way now except in armed company.'

'As for arms, I have sufficient, as you see. And

as for company, an honest man is good enough company for himself. Why should I not go alone?'

Then they said to him, 'If you do, you must look warily about you on the Isthmus, lest you are caught by Sinis the robber, for he kills those he catches by bending two pine trees till they nearly meet, when he ties their legs to one, and their arms to the other and on releasing the trees his victims are torn asunder.'

'After that,' said another of the shepherds, 'you must go inland, and not dare to pass over the cliffs of Sciron [Ski-ron]; for on the left hand are the mountains, and on the right the sea, so that you have no escape, but must needs meet Sciron the robber, who will make you wash his feet; and while you are washing them he will kick you over the cliff, to the tortoise who lives below, and feeds upon the bodies of the victims.'

But before Theseus could answer, another remarked, 'And after that is a worse danger still, unless you go inland always, and leave Eleusis [ē-lew-sis] far on your right. For in Eleusis rules Kerkuon the cruel king, the terror of all mortals, for he killed his own daughter Alope. He amuses himself by challenging all comers to wrestle with him, for he is the best wrestler in all Attica, and overthrows all who come, and puts them to a miserable death. His palace-court is full of the bones of his victims.'

On hearing these sad reports Theseus frowned, and said, 'This seems indeed an ill-ruled land, and offers enough adventures. But if I am the heir of it, I will right it and rule it wisely, and here is my royal sceptre? And he shook his club of bronze, but the nymphs and shepherds begged him not to go and endanger his life.'

THESEUS MEETS SINIS THE PINE-BENDER.

But nothing could have stopped Theseus from his journey when he learned there were so many cruel monsters barring the way, who were terrors and dangers to all peaceful travellers. So taking his leave of them he continued his journey until he could see both the seas and the citadel of Corinth towering high above all the land. He passed swiftly along the Isthmus, for his heart burned to meet the cruel Sinis; and at last he met him in a pine-wood, where the Isthmus was narrowest, and the road ran between high rocks. There he sat upon a stone by the wayside, with a young pine tree for a club across his knees, and a cord laid ready by his side, and over his head, upon the fir-tops, hung the torn remains of his last victims.

When Theseus saw this evidence of Sinis' cruelty he shouted to him, 'Hallo, thou pine-bender, hast thou two pine trees ready for me?'

(To be continued.)

Why I go to the Lyceum.

(An Essay by F. G. Reed, Age 12 years, Hirst Lyceum).

The chief reason why I go to the Lyceum is to get enlightened upon spiritual things. These things will develop the brain and make me become wiser, so that when I reach manhood I may be a better man by these teachings. There I learn to be loving and

truthful; for truth and love are the main things in life. I will obtain knowledge from super teachings, and teachers, and also from the books, and the hymns which we sing. All these things make it interesting to attend the Lyceum, and so I will help all I can by doing unto others as I would wish to be done unto. Besides, it is better far for me to go to the Lyceum than to go nowhere, and thus make life full of loneliness and misery. Knowing that spirit friends are about you, watching and guarding you, makes you happy; but how can you know these things if you do not go to the place where they are explained to you? If we were all to love one another this world would be a very different one, and all would be happy and contented. Our Heavenly Father did not give us a life to waste by doing unkind actions to one another, but to make use of it as best we can, for everyone has his mission in this world and if he or she neglects this they will not be making use of their lives in the proper way.

My last thought of the reason why I go to Lyceum is of the kindness shown to me by the teachers, and of the great patience they show in explaining to us different subjects. I intend, at least, to do my utmost to behave myself and so give encouragement to the teachers who will think there is one who takes an interest in their services. I will remember that I cannot help the advancement of our happy and hopeful Lyceum unless I am helped by the great Father and spirit friends.

Correspondence.

SOCIETIES AND LYCEUMS IN THE TYNESIDE DISTRICT.

Sir,—As some comment has been passed respecting the estimates of Societies and Lyceums within his area, contained in the last report of our D.V., will you allow me to correct same, without at all reflecting on our energetic official, who is a most estimable gentleman, but cannot be expected to have even the entire *local* movement on his pen end. Instead of 18 Societies, as he stated, there are 27, 17 of them being affiliated with the Northern Union and the remainder are quite eligible.

Also, there are 16 Lyceums, instead of 15, as our D.V. stated, Dunston having now started. Of course, if he eliminates Cullercoats his figures remain correct, but I think it best to assume existence until official intimation of decease has been given. I trust that early and active steps will be taken to bring the outside 11 into line. What is the matter with such representative Societies as Bedlington, Monkwearmouth, West Pelton, and Stanley? places where much good could be done for the children. Besides these, Annfield Plain, Sunderland (Clockwell Street), South Shields (Cambridge Street), Whitley Bay and Seaton Delaval, could, I think, easily carry on Lyceums. Will they all think it over and send in applications to affiliate with the District Council before that body's next meeting at North Shields on December 14th?

I am, yours fraternally,
NORTHUMBERLAND LYCEUMIST.

ABOUT "HELL."

Sir,—I was deeply interested in the timely and helpful remarks by our dear old brother, Dr. Peebles, anent this subject, in your last issue. The cessation, by preachers of using this lash to compel a toeing of the line by recalcitrant parishioners, is one of the most hopeful signs that our teachings and our living are having practical effect.

True, some denominations still continue to proclaim, as Burns said was needed in his day, that:

"The fear o' hell's a hangman's whip
To hand the wretch in order."

But thank God and the angel inspirers their votaries are thinning year by year.

Lyceum children should be glad that they are not terrorised

as many Catholic Sunday School scholars are, as the following selections from a pamphlet by a Father Furniss, entitled, "Sights of Hell" show. One "beautiful" promise reads:

"Little child, if you go to Hell there will be a devil at your side to strike you. He will strike you every minute, for ever. How will your body be after a hundred million years of that?"

Again: "Oh; the screams of fear, the groanings of horror, the yells of rage, the cries of pain, the shrieks of despair from millions on millions. The thunders of God's anger shakes hell to its foundations."

And those teachers who fill little minds with this stuff din into their ears that "God is Love," and that "Jesus loves little children."

If the following fails to *drive* people into heaven, nothing will. Surely it is the acme of coercive salvation methods:

"Perhaps a child has just now gone into hell. To-morrow go and ask what the child is doing. The devils will go and look, and come back and say, 'the child is burning.'

Go in a week, and they will say 'the child is burning.'

Go in a year, and you will receive the same answer, 'the child is burning.'

Go in a million years and ask, and still comes the same response, 'the child is burning.'

So, for ever and for ever, the answer will be, 'it is burning in the fire.'

Another terrible picture, condensed, reads: "Look at this boy. He stands straight up, two long flames come out of his ears, breaths of flaming fire roll out of his mouth, the blood is boiling in his scalded veins, his brain is boiling and bubbling, the marrow is boiling in his bones."

And all this is because, when on earth, "he went to dancing houses, public houses and theatres." I wonder what would be the Hell of those "good" Catholics and other "esteemed" Christian folk whose money was, and is, invested in these places?

Andrew Jackson Davis's vision of the Summerland, the Spiritual School, presents a much more humane picture of the after life, and Spiritualist children should feel grateful to him and grow under such beneficent teachings.

Long may Dr. Peebles live to write for the little ones as he has done for the bigger ones.

I am, yours with the children,

JAMES LAWRENCE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A LYCEUM'S EDUCATION SCHEME.

Dear Sir.—For a considerable time the Lyceums in the Bolton District have been deeply interested in the consideration of some scheme in which all Lyceums could simultaneously take part, and equally profit thereby.

I am, in a large measure, responsible for the following scheme, which might be utilized by *all* Lyceums with very great advantage over the chaotic methods now obtaining. I think the time is *now* when an Education Committee should be appointed, either from the Lyceum Union's E.C. or from the E.C. and co-opted capable of the movement, whose doings should be subject to the E.C. Such committee should arrange all Lyceums into suitable groups, say No. 1 Group (or a name might be used if preferred), composed of Lyceumists up to the age of six years. These shall be taught, by means of pictures, illustrations, objects, living animals, birds, insects, and plants, elementary lessons in the history of life, love for and kindness to all forms of life, also the story of Hydesville, of angels and their visits to earth's children, etc.

No. 2 Group, 7 to 10 years. Elementary lessons on organic life, the care of domestic animals and plants, the building up of individuality and personal character, the history and the basic principles of Spiritualism, the history of the Lyceum movement, the use, aim, and object to be attained from its different functions and exercises, etc.

No. 3, 11 to 17. Advanced lessons in the above, also the history of religion disclosing the principal tenets of each system, elementary principles of evolution, etc.

No. 4, 18 and over. Principles of Spiritualism, mediumship, psychology, clairvoyance, psychometry, auraology, sociology, evolution of life, its unity, persistence, religion, and progress. Evolution as applied to art, science, religion, and the social and educational conditions of the people, etc., etc. This Committee shall arrange the lessons for each group and provide a synopsis or syllabus of each lesson for all four groups, which should be printed in the BANNER *monthly*, and periodically examinations shall take place in the different districts; question papers shall be provided pertaining to each group lesson, and certificates given as per results.

I do not desire to take up your space in favourable argument, but prefer to let the scheme speak for itself.

Yours, JAMES KNIGHT.

VOLUNTARY MILITARY SERVICE.

The "Daily Mail," November 25th, says, speaking of the failure of Voluntary Military Service: "There is only one remedy—to sweep the voluntary system away and follow the lead of our own Dominions and every other European State."

To the spirit of the Lyceum Movement.

Child of Liberty, birthed in an age when this world's life seemed near obliterated—such little space did mortals leave themselves in which to breathe Thy essences of love and knowledge; in such a little cabinet shut themselves, excluding from their view the harmonies of colour in Thy landscape—Thy children come to Thee, as the lamb seeks its parents side when the cunning fox slinks stealthily through the hedges of the home pastures—with the knowledge of Thy love and protection. Thou, our Parent, art Thyself a child of Liberty. Help us to bear ourselves as children of a worthy stock. Aid our efforts in the Progression of Life, and in the extinguishing of all that would alienate our spirits from Thee. O Mother Eternal! protect us and help us to protect ourselves from the foxes of Ignorance and Fear. Especially we seek Thy co-operation and help against the creature that threatens to hold us in its teeth—and would at last drink our life's blood—so that it's mate may openly and freely bring forth her litter of whelps. With us lead fellow mortals from their confines of superstition into Thy glorious Freedom into the family of Thy bosom.

S.W. (Fulham Lyceum).

BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the above Council will be held at Mabel Street, Daisy Hill, on Saturday, December 20th. Business meeting, 3-15; teas, 4-45; social at 7 p.m. Tickets 6d. each.

Business: 1, Minutes; 2, Correspondence; 3, Motions. That we adopt the B.S.L.U. Constitution for District Councils. 4, Education Scheme. 5, Shield Competition. 6, B.S.L.U.'s suggestion. Tunes from the S.S. be printed on loose sheets; B, Portrait Gallery. 7, Delegates for next U.D.C. Meeting. 8, Open Council. 9, Decide place and date of next D.C. meeting. 10, Votes of Thanks.

ED. WALSH

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council will be held at Leeds, Psycho Lyceum, on Sunday, December 14th, at 10-30 a.m. Will all Lyceums please send their representatives as business is of importance to all?

An Open Session will be held in the afternoon to which all Lyceumists are invited. Propaganda services in the evening will be conducted by the Council E.C. and Delegates.

A. HESP, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council will hold its quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 20th, at Earlestown, in the Market Chambers, Market Street, at 3-0 p.m. Public tea at 5-30 p.m. 6d. each. There will be a social in the evening. Chief business, U.D.C. report; Motions re delegates' expenses to functions; B.S.L.U., E.C. circular; Delegates to next U.D.C.; Examination Scheme; Speakers' List for propaganda work; Book Club Scheme. Sunday services will be conducted by delegates: Lyceum Session at 10-30 a.m., open session at 3-0 p.m., evening meetings 6-30 and 8. Meetings conducted by delegates.

GEO. A. MACK, Hon. Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

On Saturday, November 1st, the above Council held the first of a series of Lectures at Princess Road Lyceum. Mr. Morse spoke on "Spiritualism" to a very attentive and interested audience. After the lecture there was a little discussion, followed by a social evening. Taking into consideration that this was our first meeting, everything was very satisfactory and successful. Our best thanks are given to Mr. Morse for the able way he conducted the meeting, and also to the ladies who so kindly provided the refreshments.

A. O'NEILL, Secretary.

TEESIDE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Quarterly meeting held at Middlesbrough, October 26th. Mr. J. Smith in the chair. Over 30 delegates and associates pres-

ent, also Tyneside Secretary. Business done: Discussion on Shield Competition; Spiritual Songster and Lyceum Banner; the question of holding Quarterly Meetings at each Lyceum in turn was entered into. Reports from Secretary and District Visitor on new Lyceum were read. Good Lyceum session in the afternoon and a splendid evening service finished an enjoyable day.

W. COWELL-PUGH, Sec.

THE TYNESIDE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL will hold their quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 14th, at North Shields, Ripon Hall (Stanley Street), at 10-45, to which all delegates and members are requested to attend.—D. R. DAVIES.

UNITED DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The above held a meeting at China Street, Accrington, on November 22nd and 23rd, 1913, at which the following District Councils were represented: Bradford, Mr. H. Birdsall; Halifax and Huddersfield, Messrs. Ellis and Burrows; Leeds, Miss Hesp; Liverpool, Messrs. Keeling and Mack; Manchester, Messrs. Bentley and O'Neill; North-East Lancashire, Messrs. Hargreaves and Elliott; Rochdale, Mr. Harris; Sheffield, Mr. Saxelby; B.S.L.U., Messrs. Knott and Kitson. Mr. Knott was elected to the chair.

The Secretary, Mr. France, read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were accepted as a correct record and confirmed.

A letter was then read from the Secretary of the Sub-Committee, appointed by E.C. of the B.S.L.U., to draw up the Officers' Edition of the *Manual*, expressing deep regret at the lack of correspondence and general interest in the compilation of this book. The Sub-Committee feel that they are labouring in the dark somewhat, and would be more than pleased to receive the opinions of the various Lyceums and Lyceumists regarding the matter it should contain.

It was next decided that each D.C. represented should contribute one shilling each in order to defray the expenses of the meeting.

The election of the Secretary for the next twelve months resulted in Mr. J. E. Elliott being placed in the position. Moved by Mr. Keeling, seconded by Mr. Hargreaves.

Mr. A. Harris (Rochdale) moved Motion (a) "That the Officers' Edition of the *Manual* and its contents be placed upon the Agenda." In moving the resolution he pointed out the urgency of the matter as well as the importance. Mr. Bentley seconded. Carried.

Mr. Hargreaves moved, Miss Hesp seconded: "That the motion of the Officers' Edition be referred back to the D.C.'s. in order that each D.C. Secretary should circularise each Lyceum in his district, asking them to send him any information they would like the Officers' Edition to contain, and give a concrete case of a word or sentence they would like explaining."

Mr. Harris moved, Mr. Ellis seconded, "That a Glossary of Terms be eventually inserted in the Officers' Edition." The following took part in the discussion: Miss Hesp, Messrs. Kitson, Bentley, Keeling, Hargreaves, and Mack. One speaker thought that a good dictionary was sufficient, pointing out that if this was intended to be an elaborate book it would be both too bulky and costly for the movement to take up. Others thought that it need only refer to words not generally understood and used in other movements. Another speaker asked, "Is this the thin end of the wedge of Dogmatism?" Were these explanations to be considered the accepted interpretation of the whole movement, or were they only an aid to the individual in the solving of a problem? He would agree to the latter but not to the former. Carried.

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Mack seconded motion (c) "That we recommend the U.D.C. to consider a scheme for the re-organisation of the business of the B.S.L.U. on the following lines: Business shall be initiated by Lyceums who shall submit it first to their District Council, when, if a majority be obtained, the business shall be sent for consideration to the U.D.C. If a majority be again obtained it shall then go to an Annual Conference and be voted upon by the members present thereat." Mr. Keeling explained the scheme very lucidly and made it quite clear that while this scheme may appear to retard progress and take away the individual standing of a Lyceum at a Conference, he thought that by formally accepting it and referring it to the various D.C.'s., and from thence to the various Lyceums, we should be able to obtain ideas whereby a scheme could be drawn up that would not have this effect. He said that he would strongly oppose any scheme that took away the individual standing of the Lyceum at a Conference. Halifax and Huddersfield strongly opposed this motion, and also Manchester. North-East Lancashire sup-

ported, and also Sheffield. Eventually it was carried by 9 votes for and 4 against.

Mr. Ellis moved, Mr. Harris seconded the following motions (d) "That motions from Lyceums be submitted to the B.S.L.U. E.C. and printed in the March BANNER, and that amendments to motions be received within the following month and printed in the April BANNER." (e) "That no amendment be accepted from the floor of the Conference." These motions were accepted, 9 for, 2 against.

It must be understood that these motions which the U.D.C. accept are only accepted in order that they may be referred to the various D.C.'s, for discussion and brought up again at the February meeting of the U.D.C. for further deliberation. They are by no means legislative.

Agreed that the D.C. nominations for the E.C. of the B.S.L.U. be brought before the U.D.C. for consideration.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Halifax and Huddersfield District.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Accrington people for the very hospitable manner of the entertainment.

On Sunday, November 23rd, three services were held; 10-30 Lyceum Session, and also at 2-30 p.m. The ordinary evening service was held at 6-15. Most of the Delegates took part in all three services, which were fairly well attended, and much interest and pleasure evinced. The collections for the day amounted to £1 5s. When you remember that there is no fee and expenses to pay out of the collections it becomes quite clear that no Lyceum need have any fear about inviting the U.D.C.

It will greatly facilitate business if D.C. Secretaries will observe Article 8 of the U.D.C. Constitution, i.e., "General business shall be introduced to the Council by motions only. Notice of same shall be sent to the Secretary 28 days prior to each meeting."

J. E. ELLIOTT, Sec.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after November 28th.

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, December 24th, to ensure insertion in the January 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).—We had our Open Session on November 2nd, and we had with us Mrs. Wilson, from Preston, Assistant D.V.; also some friends from Hull. About 50 persons present. Recitations by Florrie Unthank, Lizzie Hindle, Rd. Ashworth and Willie Smith. Songs by Florrie Unthank, Alice Gorton, Nellie Ormerod and Mrs. Tapper. Many pearls were given, and also explanations. Mrs. Tapper leaves us for Australia, along with her family, to meet her husband, and we gave them God speed and au revoir.—R. Ashworth, Secretary.

BATLEY CARR (Carr Street).—The Batley Carr Lyceum held their annual tea and concert on November 1st, when a good number sat down to tea. In the evening we had a good programme, when the Lyceum scholars gave recitations and solos. In addition we had Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and friends, from Huddersfield, whose efforts we all enjoyed very much. Altogether we had a very enjoyable evening. On Sunday, November 2nd, we held an Open Session, when we had a few friends present. The usual programme was gone through,

after which we had a recitation by Lilian Smith, and solos by Misses L. Mortimer, Clara Smith and Ada Smith. We had a very pleasant session.—P. Mortimer.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—Bright and harmonious sessions have been held during the month. We have also had a visit from Mrs. Wilson, the D.V. Her few remarks were much appreciated. Sunday, October 26th, was Lyceum Day. Councillor T. Houldsworth, of Keighley, was the speaker. Silver chain 65 was led by Miss C. Ferdinand; the musical reading by Mrs. Derbyshire; the singing parts by Misses M. Holland, L. Callan and M. Slater; and the golden chain was led by Master A. Cavill. An excellent discussion followed. Recitations were given by Misses E. Hopper, P. Wilkinson and S. Martin. Duet by Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Derbyshire. Mr. Houldsworth then gave a short, but appropriate address.—J. Savage, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL.—On Sunday, November 16th, we had with us Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, for the purpose of conducting our Anniversary Services. At night Mrs. Greenwood's inspirers spoke on the musical reading, "Hand in hand with angels." Owing to the inclemency of the weather we did not have the congregations that we would have liked, but those who came were well rewarded. We are pleased to see that one of our old scholars is still working for the cause as secretary for Hamilton (Canada) Lyceum.—Fred Bird.

BIRMINGHAM, SALTLEY.—Our Lyceum is still progressing, though slowly. It has been decided to re-commence groups, and up to the present they have been successful. October 26th, Laxton gave an interesting lesson on "Conscience." On November 2nd, Mr. Page led a lesson on "What is science?" On November 9th, the same gentleman gave a lesson on "Spiritualism." November 16th, Mr. Shergold dealt with "Mediumship." And on November 23rd, our old friend, Mr. Spencer, gave us some hints on "How to improve our Lyceum." Questions ably answered at all sessions.—V. Marshall.

BRIGHTON.—Mrs. Muller gave two good addresses during the month, and introduced Miss Queenie Dubois, a talented young artiste, who sang and recited in quite a polished manner. On the 23rd, the session was under the guidance of Miss A. Scoggins, our youngest conductor, who had evidently worked hard to excel, with the result that good work was accomplished. Mr. Clarke (past conductor) complimented the Lyceum upon the improvement in the drill and marching. Mr. Symonds, who was speaking locally, gave a short address upon "Prayer." Mr. Loewenstein (visitor) gave a viola solo. Other social items rendered by Miss D. Everett, Miss Zoé Bridgen, Mr. Everett, Vida Goodwin, Mr. Rhoades and his two little sons, James and Charlie, brought this bright session to a close.—Herbert Everett, Secretary.

BRADFORD (Carlisle Road).—On Sunday, November 2nd, we held our Open Session, when the following took part:—Recitals, Miss Nellie Alderson, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Bristow a short address. Solos were rendered by Misses M. Robinson, Ethel Broadley, Mr. Ross and Mr. Alderson, and other friends. Mr. Barnes conducted. On November 12th, 13th and 15th, we had a series of "At Homes," for the benefit of Lyceum and Society. The Saturday, our Lyceum night, was a grand success. Mr. and Miss Alderson acted as Host and Hostess, and Mr. Simpson as Chairman. A grand tea and concert brought the "At Homes" to a successful issue. Standing room only was available during a large part of the evening.—J. P. Simpson.

BRADFORD (Guildford Street).—We held our Open Session on November 2nd, our Conductor being Master Frank Morrell. After the opening hymn and prayer, Mr. C. Draycup read to us "Spirit Blossom" and "Sir John Moore," then sang "Hail, Festal Morn." Then followed a recitation by Ernest Morrell, entitled "Prudence and Winter." Miss Sherman gave us "The Lyceum," from "The Manual." A recitation, called "The Violet," was given by Miss Annie Baines, followed by "Rest for thee at home," by Mr. C. Draycup. Miss Alice Birkby kindly finished up with a recitation, entitled "The slave's dream."—George E. Hall, Secretary.

BRADFORD (Otley Road).—We held our usual Open Session on Sunday, November 2nd. In the morning recitations were given by Misses Hilda Raistrick and Florrie Thewlis; and also by Master Cyril Craig. Readings by Miss Lily Harrison and Mr. Horn. Solos by Miss E. Flatt and Walter Hale. On the whole the morning's session was very good. In the afternoon Mr. Hale gave an explanation on the silver chain recitation, "Hand in hand," No. 17 in the *Manual*. We had a recitation by Miss Hilda Raistrick and a solo by Lily Harrison. We had

with us Mr. Gledstone, of Keighley, who addressed the Lyceum for a short time. We spent an enjoyable day together.—Walter Hale, Secretary.

BRADFORD, WEST BOWLING (Boynton Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 2nd, when the following items were nicely rendered:—Recitations by Misses Ruth Fernihough, Helena Lodge, Annie Ward, Gladys Smith, Nellie Thomas, Masters Norman Haley, Willie Fenton, and Harry Fernihough. Duet by Misses Hilda Thornton and Hilda Crofts. We had visitors from Tong Street, Dudley Hill, and St. Peter Street, Huddersfield, who made themselves quite at home amongst us.—A. E. Carter, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, November 9th, we held our usual Open Session, when the following items were much appreciated:—Recitations, James Driver, Florrie Smith, Rosie Phillipps, Alice Delagate, Ethel Wale, Edith Herrot, Ethel Briggs, Evelyn Elliott, Ada Elliott, Alice Smith and John Smith. Piano solos, Florrie Marsh and Mrs. Widdowson.—E. H. Widdowson.

CREWE (Mill Street).—On Sunday, November 2nd, the Lyceum conducted the services for the parent Society, the afternoon taking the form of an Open Session. The following items were well rendered:—Solos by Misses Doris Kinsey, Maggie Baggaley, Queenie Baggaley, Doris Williams, Edith Bebbington, Messrs. Eric Johnson and Alfred Fletcher. Recitations by Misses Florrie Jones, Eva Jones, Ruth Hartshorn, Annie Brookshaw, Elsie Challoner and Ray Hartshorn. In the evening Mr. Percival Gawthorne, our Conductor, gave a very fine address, based on "The True Laws of Right," which was fully appreciated by all. Mr. Partridge gave clairvoyance, all of which were recognized. Miss Maggie Baggaley also sang very sweetly "There is no night there."—M. Martin, Secretary.

DAISY HILL (Mabel Street).—On November 1st we held a Tea Party and Social, when about 70 sat down to a good tea, which, I am pleased to say, was a financial success. Our thanks are due to the friend from Bolton, Commission Street Lyceum, who helped to make it a success. I wish all Lyceums were working shoulder to shoulder as we are, making our movement much stronger, both in numbers and feelings of brotherhood.—James Hope, Secretary.

DARWEN.—On October 26th we held our Lyceum Anniversary. Open Sessions were held morning and afternoon. Mr. F. Knott, who was the speaker for the day, was present at the sessions and took part. We had a fair attendance. On November 2nd we had our yearly meeting and election of officers. The following were elected:—Conductors, Misses C. Bailey, A. Riding and Mr. F. Sayers; Secretary, Mr. J. Nightingale; Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Kirkham; Guardians, Mr. M. Harwood and Miss N. Todd; Calisthenic Leader, Mr. D. Stuttard; Librarian, Mr. N. Ward; Auditors, Mr. G. Watson and Mr. J. Shuttleworth. With such a list of officers Darwen Lyceum should attain a better position than at present occupied.—J. Nightingale, Lyceum Secretary.

FOLESHILL (Broad Street).—We held our second Open Session, November 2nd, when Mr. Agriss presided, and Mr. Jordon gave an interesting address on the subject, "Christ." Songs and recitations by the members were given as follows:—Recitations by Mr. Norton, Mr. Staite, Gerty Sedwick, Alice Staite and Madeline Hodkinson; songs by Winnie Agriss, Lizzie Neal, Charles Staite, Alice Staite, Olive Staite, and Gerty Sedwick. We closed our enjoyable service with the hymn "Shoulder to shoulder."—Lizzie Neal, Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkeley Street).—On Thursday, November 30th, we held our halloween social. Lyceumists were requested to come in fancy costume, and the scene which presented itself that evening was a gay one indeed. Nearly every Lyceumist was in character dress. There were clowns, pierrots and pierettes, niggers, Irish colleens, Chinamen, soldiers, sailors, and Spanish girls, etc., etc. Several songs, a tambourine dance by the Misses Rainy, and several recitations were rendered in excellent style. We had also a very good ventriloquist with us, who caused much laughter with his funny little man. Altogether we spent a most enjoyable evening. I think there is nothing like a social evening now and again for drawing people closer together.—C. S. Roehead, Secretary.

GRIMSBY (Strand Street).—We held an Open Session on Sunday, November 2nd, when the following recited in a creditable manner:—Misses J. Wright, "Remember the corners"; D. Schmidt, "The lady's dream"; and L. Nichols, "A lecture to dolly." During the past month our Conductor has passed through a critical illness, and we hope that he may be spared to renew his service for the children, with whom he is a great favourite.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Sunday. The silver chain was led by Mr. Baxter; the musical reading by Ada Waterhouse, Will Thornley, Nora Wrigley and Arthur Holt. The golden chain was led by Mr. Baxter. Recitations were rendered by Will Thornley, Nora Wrigley and Mrs. Smith. Solos were given by Matilda Crooks and Mr. Baxter. We had with us the District Visitor. Altogether we had a very enjoyable session.—Rosie Leyland, Secretary.

GURNEY VALLEY.—On Sunday, November 2nd, we held our Harvest Festival, which turned out a splendid success, a large audience contributing good financial support. After songs and duets, we finished off with a good time all round, and appreciated and enjoyed by all.—Claribel Mason, Secretary.

HALIFAX (Raven Street).—On Sunday afternoon, November 16th, an Open Session of the Lyceum was held, when marching and calisthenics, songs, recitations, etc., were given by the Lyceum scholars. A cantata was also rendered by 20 of the young members of the Lyceum, entitled "Autumn Queen." They had been trained by Mr. Shaw and Miss Buckley. The little ones gave of their best, and their efforts were much appreciated by a large congregation of parents and friends. In the evening the choir, under the able conductorship of Mr. Shaw, rendered a service of song, entitled "Spirit return"; reader, Miss Gladys Hellewell. Solos were given by Miss Buckley, Miss Spetch, Miss Harding, Mrs. Pollard, and Miss Culpan. The organist was Mr. Thorpe.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street).—On Sunday, November 9th, we held our Open Session in the afternoon. It was well attended, and an interesting programme gone through. Miss Butterfield conducted, and gave all the Lyceumists and friends a hearty welcome. The marching and calisthenics were conducted by Mr. Gough, the silver chain recitation being "The Sowers"; M.R., "Ministering spirits"; the golden chain recitation, "The children in spirit life," and all of them were commented upon. Pearls were also given and well received. An attentive and appreciative audience assembled in the evening to listen to the speaker, Miss Cadman, from Oldham. Mr. Fernihough, President of the Society, presided over the service. Her subject was taken from the *Manual*, "The Pioneers of Freedom." In sincerity of heart she pleaded the Lyceum cause.—R. Frost, Secretary.

HYDE.—Sunday, October 26th, was our Lyceum Day. In the afternoon we held an Open Session. Recitations were given by the Misses J. Wright and R. Blackshaw, Messrs. E. Hill and R. Davies. After the session, Mrs. Jeffries, of Stockport, addressed a few words of encouragement to the Lyceumists. Our Conductor, Mr. Wild, presided. On Sunday, November 2nd, Mr. R. A. Owen, of Liverpool, visited our Lyceum, and we are looking forward to his next visit. I wish that more of our platform workers could see their way to visit our Lyceums, and like Mr. Owen, give some good advice.—A. S. Wright, Sec.

LANCASTER (Collegian Rooms).—We spent a very enjoyable morning on November 2nd, it being our Open Session. Recitations by Elsie Hennady, John Thompson and George Hennady. Solos by Hilda Andrews, Lizzie Askew, Mr. Clarkson. The Lyceum Quartette, Mrs. Jewett, Mrs. Preston, and Messrs. Sayle and Clarkson rendered "We love the Father," Mrs. Jewett read "Never give up praying," which was well appreciated by all. Our Conductor is quite busy preparing his programme for November 30th. The Lyceum occupy the platform on this date and he wants us to try our best to make it a success, as it may be the means of gaining a number of new members for the coming year. We wish our friends every success.—R. Clarkson, Corresponding Secretary.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On Sunday, November 9th, the Lyceum took the services in the afternoon and evening. The following Lyceumists gave solos in the afternoon:—Miss D. Goldsmith and Master A. Veary. Duet by Misses M. Wright and J. Ogden. Recitations by Misses York, N. Massey, J. Ogden, E. Wicks and Masters E. Belfield, H. Wicks and S. Eaton. Pianoforte and violin solo by Mr. L. Goldsmith and Miss Webster. Mr. J. Eaton gave a short address on A. J. Davis and the Lyceum work. In the evening the Lyceum gave service of song, "Ministering Spirits." Connective readings by Mrs. Jewett. Mr. Wright gave a short address. Miss A. Clarke conducted in a most pleasing manner.—Mr. J. Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On Sunday, November 2nd, we held our Open Session. Mr. C. Watts gave us a recitation. Mrs. A. Hurst gave a solo, as also did Miss Whitmore. Afterwards we had marching and calisthenics, which brought a pleasant session to a close. Both the Leaders and scholars of this Lyceum give a hearty welcome to all.—Miss E. Barthorpe, Secretary.

LONDON, FULHAM.—During the past month we have been

going steadily ahead. Our members number fifty-four. Lectures on "Woman's sphere," by Mr. A. Ashley, and "Scientific Psychology," by R.A. (see "Lyceum Reciter"—last issue) have been given. £3 was realised for a necessitous member by a social and dance. The Social Guild has now an increased membership and is more than self supporting. For those Lyceumists of London (or elsewhere) who are under the impression that the Lyceum series of calisthenics are obsolete, a visit to Fulham may be recommended. We may possibly be able to convince them of their error.—Sydney A. Y. Wood.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 2nd. We had a fair attendance of adults, who were delighted with the efforts of the children. Individual efforts by Edna Hustwick, Ivy and John Chambers, Mr. Hustwick and Mr. Humphreys. A duet from Florrie and Clifford Brown. All were very good. We had pearls from several of the adults, as well as the children. Mrs. Hulland gave us a paper on "The human body." During the month our boys have been taking "Human Physiology." The girls have taken the "Human Aura," and lives of good women. I hope to be able to report great progress, if not in numbers, in those things essential to all Lyceumists.—J. W. Humphreys, Conductor.

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—During the month we have had an increase in individual efforts, the solos especially showing great improvement. The attendance still keeps good. Mr. Symonds attended the Lyceum on the occasion of his visit to the Church, and gave a very interesting address, which was greatly appreciated both by the Leaders and the children.—Miss C. Harrison, Secretary.

NORTH LONDON, HOLLOWAY.—We have been especially favoured by the presence of many spirit friends during this month in our sessions. Many visitors have taken an interest in our sessions and been delighted with the way the Lyceumists have responded in their pearls, recitations and solos. A splendid training ground for the young ones to gain confidence in themselves. On the 16th November, the District Council visited us and complimented us upon the progress made. 23rd, our long-looked-for visit from the Tottenham Lyceum was paid, when about 25 of them journeyed to us. A delightful United Session was held, Mr. Mosbey, the Tottenham Conductor, doing the honours of the chair, he being supported on the platform by Mr. C. Barrington, Miss M. Hall and Mr. Forsyth.—J. Forsyth, Secretary.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—On November 16th we held our usual Session. Pearls and recitations were very good. Our first Lyceum Social took place on November 20th, and a most enjoyable evening was spent, everyone doing their utmost to make each other happy. We hope to have a Social every month, and to invite strangers to enable us to spread our glorious truth and bring fresh members to our Lyceum. On Sunday, the 23rd, we paid a visit to Holloway Lyceum and held a united session. Individual efforts were grand; also calisthenics. The pearls given were very uplifting and reflect great credit on the scholars. A very pleasant session was closed by all singing "The Lyceum Band."—C. Hassell, Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—On October 26th, a most successful Harvest Festival was held by the Lyceum, which was made more enjoyable by a visit of the L.D.C., when the following spoke:—Messrs. P. Smythe (Pres.); Rainbow (Sec.); Clegg, Brooking, Mrs. Clegg, and Rainbow, both afternoon and evening to crowded meetings. November 2nd, we held our third Anniversary, when a most enjoyable day was passed. Miss Chapin, the blind medium, was with us in the evening. The Lyceum scholars turned up in large numbers, afternoon and evening. It is with great pleasure we note the increased attendance of adults at our sessions, and many expressed their pleasure and surprise at our beautiful sessions.—H. Watthey, Secretary.

LUZLEY BROOK.—On Saturday, November 8th, we held our first Young Men's Tea Party, which was a great success. The following took part: Messrs. Day, Grindrod, Shaw, Roberts, Gledhill, J. Smith and A. Smith. We thank our friends from Chadderton, Glodwick and Hathershaw, for their generous support. On Sunday, November 9th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary. In the afternoon we had our Open Session, which was poorly attended. In the evening we had a service of song, entitled "Rest at Last," our conductor being the reader. Mr. Spurr gave delineations. We tender our thanks to all who helped to make it a success.—F. H. Day, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, CHEETHAM HILL.—On Sunday, November 9th, we held our Open Session, which proved to be very successful and was much enjoyed by all present. We are pleased

to say there is much more interest taken in this Lyceum than was formerly. Recitations were given by Misses Sterling, Hart, Heywood, Jackson, B. Sterling, and Masters Gershon and Sterling; also by two visitors. Solos were rendered by Miss Williams, Mrs. Hall, Miss Hart, and H. Gerston. Pianoforte solo by E. McCollugh. Marching and calisthenics were gone through, in which friends from other Lyceums took part. We had Conductors and Lyceumists present from Pendleton, Openshaw, Ardwick, and Harpurhey, all of whom we thank heartily for their presence and kindly help.—E. Hall, Secretary.

SOUTH MANCHESTER (Princess Road).—November 2nd, a Musical Service, highly appreciated. November 16th, a Memorial Service, in loving memory of John Garner, who passed to the higher life on November 7th, in his 20th year, after a long and painful illness, a Lyceumist for 15 years, for some time our pianist. An address was given by Mr. Aronovich (our esteemed Conductor), who extended sympathy to the parents and sister in their loss from mortal existence. A very touching and impressive service. November 23rd, a pleasing ceremony was performed by Mrs. Eastwood, in naming two infants; one, Ernest William Hayes, spirit name, "Power," and Ethel Ray, spirit name, "Brightness." Mr. Aronovich expressed good wishes for the welfare of the infants and parents.—Maud M. Harrison, Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On Sunday, October 26th, we held our Open Session. We had with us the delegates and associates of the Teeside District Council, also Mr. Davies, the Secretary of the Tyneside Council, who spoke a few words to the children. Pearls, solos and recitations were very ably rendered. Marching and calisthenics, in which all joined were done splendidly. Mr. Smith, of Shildon spoke on the golden chain recitation. Miss Haynes, of Hartlepool, read the musical reading. Mr. Coates, of Shildon, took the silver chain recitation and Mr. Simpson, of Darlington, spoke a few words to the children. Altogether we had a most enjoyable session, and all seemed in harmony and concord. On Sunday, November 23rd, we had our Anniversary Services.—Minne Bessant, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON AND BYKER.—On November 2nd we held our Open Session. Recitations by Arnold Patterson, Fred Eke, Lily Eke, Gordon Sandam, John Ronaldson, Annie Shadforth, Mamie Blair, Nellie Scope, Mary Scope, Nellie Kinrae, Thomas Fenwick, Mary Thompson, Dia., Dorothy Craig, Dorothy Brinklow. Solo, Alice Eke. Duets, Misses Hughes and Marshall. Song, Nellie Dodsworth and Nellie Scope. November 16th, election of officers: Conductor, Mr. Ronaldson, Assist., Mr. Sandam; Treasurer, Mr. Pinkney; Guardians, Misses Guy and Marshall; Musical Conductors, Mr. G. W. Westgarth, G. H. Westgarth and Mr. Fenwick; Librarian, Mr. Benn; Guards, Mr. A. Hughes, Mr. Hull, G. T. Shadforth and Miss Dringald; Leaders, Messrs. Ronaldson, Sandam, Fenwick, Hull, Mrs. Hunter, Patterson, Wardle, Misses Gray, Hughes.—Mrs. Hunter, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE (Rutherford Street).—On Sunday, October 26th, a new assistant conductor and secretary were elected. Our Open Session on November 2nd was a success. A good start was made with solos by Misses Edith Elconor and Curtis. Miss B. Stokes recited. A pearl by Miss Claque. Duet by Misses Duckworth and Claque. Monday, November 3rd, a social was held during which presentations of a Silver Teapot and Handbag to Miss Gillerder who is leaving these shores. Sister responded with pleasant memories of those she was leaving behind, and the happy times passed in our midst. An enjoyable evening closed with Bro. Curtis, Auld Lang Syne, "The Workers Win."—G. Sample Dawson.

NOTTINGHAM (Gladstone Hall).—November 2nd, Open Session, conductor, Mr. L. Shipley. An excellent attendance of members; also an encouraging number of visitors. Solos were ably rendered by Edith and Hilda Hickling; also recitation by Mabel Price. Mr. T. W. Marsters was present once more, and spoke briefly upon the old text, "Temperance." Nurse Sketchley (Leicester) gave a short and inspiring address, afterwards naming the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cordon, the ceremony being performed in a most pleasing manner. The consecration flowers were white roses, lilies, and carnations. Earthly names, Margaret (Eye of Day) Stella (star), spirit name, "Mercy." A hearty vote of thanks to Nurse Sketchley concluded an enjoyable and instructive session.—A. Shipley.

NOTTINGHAM (Mechanics Hall).—On Sunday, November 9th, we held our monthly Open Session. Mr. Marsters, who is a great favourite with the Lyceumists, kindly consented to conduct, being a Temperance Advocate his usual text is "Where there's drink there's danger." As he did not speak from his usual text, one of the children asked him if he had not for-

gotten something. He then gave us a personal experience of the evils of drink. Solos by Misses Lily and Alice Huntback. Recitation by Miss Phyllis Hartwell, and an address on the "Life of Mrs. Hardinge Britten," by Miss Victoria Rayner. The musical portion was ably conducted by Mr. J. W. Rayner.—O. Peel, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—On November 1st, a gentlemen's tea party was held, over 100 persons sat down to a knife and fork tea. The young men also provided interesting items for the entertainment, which were a credit to them. I am sorry to report two of our young men have sustained serious accidents by falling. Mr. Harold Kenworthy fell over 30 feet from a ladder which a strong wind blew over. He is progressing favourably, but is likely to be confined to bed for some time, and Mr. Taylor is suffering from an injured skull from a fall. On November 16th we had a "Naming" ceremony by Mrs. Fanny Taylor, performed on the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Frost, two of our Lyceumists.—T. Meakin.

OLDHAM (Union Street).—This Lyceum continues progressive, we are still having well attended sessions. During the month we have had recitations by Alice Baguley, Lily Renshaw, Frances Rooks, Hilda Pointon, Miss Feilding, Mrs. Hargreaves, Sidney Pointon and James Edward Chappell. Solos by Mrs. Chappell, Bessie James, Alice Cornall, Hannah Baguley, Annie Chappell, Annie James, Lily Renshaw, Frances Rooks, Joseph Leonard, Sam Dearnley, Albert Fallows, and Robert Roberts. Our liberty group is a liberty group, not a debating class, lessons have been given by the following: John Wood, our conductor, "The hard lots of a woman." Our assistant, Robert Roberts, on "Homely Hints," Mr. Richard Wood on "Personal Influence," and one by our Leader, Mr. Standish, on "Petty Worries."—J. T. Standish, Sec.

PONTYPRIDD (River Street).—On Sunday, November 2nd, we held our usual Open Session, when the following items were very well rendered, making a very pleasant afternoon. Recitations: Kitty Bowden, Doris Eveleigh, Florrie Bowden, Ray Rostron, Ernest Davies and George Davies. Solos, Dollie Snow, and L. Sweetman, Violin. Readings, Mr. Carne and Mr. Ridin. Story, Mr. J. Williams, and a short address by Mr. Rostron, Senr. The solos were very ably accompanied by Miss Grainger, the Lyceum organist.—L. Sweetman, Secretary.

PORTSMOUTH.—On November 2nd we opened our Lyceum, Mr. Clarke, of Brighton, coming to instruct us in the Lyceum methods. We are trying to make our effort a success. All our members are inclined to be enthusiastic. Mr. Hepworth, of Southsea, is our Conductor, and Mr. Frankling is our Secretary. We have formed four groups, namely, Lake, Beacon, Excelsior, and Liberty. We are desirous of becoming members of the B.S.L.U., and work in harmony and concord with the whole Lyceum movement.—Richard H. Preece.

PRESTON (Lancaster Road).—On November 2nd we held our Open Session. We had a very good attendance. The silver chain recitation was very well responded to, and also the marching and calisthenics were very well carried out. Recitations were given by Elsie Holderness, Annie Watkinson, Ivy Pullan, May Pullan, and Joe Cusack. Quartettes were sung by Misses A. Downham, Mr. Clark, Mr. Rae, and Mr. A. Hodgson, entitled "The Silver Cord," and "Some Blessed Day." We spent a very pleasant morning together, and everyone present felt they had not spent their time without reward.—Maude Clarke, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Street).—On October 26th we had our yearly meeting of the Lyceum, when the following officers were elected: Conductors, Mrs. John Firth, and Ned Lord; Marching, Alfred Hudson, and J. W. Briggs; Calisthenics, Mrs. Brown, and Lizzie Dean; Guardians, John Firth (junr.), and Annie R. Spencer; Musical Directors, Misses A. and E. Butterworth, and Gertrude Dean and James Martin; Secretary, James Nurse; Treasurer, Miss Lord. November 7th, our Open Session was held, when we had for our speaker Mr. A. Wilkinon, of Rochdale, taking for his subject, No. 142, *Manual*, "The aim of Spiritualism." Recitations were said by John Firth (junr.), entitled "Endurance"; by Emma Firth entitled "What is it?"; and by Arthur Lilley entitled "The pear tree."—John Firth.

ROTHERHAM.—On Sunday, November 2nd, we held our Open Session, when there was a good attendance of scholars and friends. My appeal for adult elocutionists has not been in vain, as Mrs. Saunders rendered a recitation very well; others were given by Arthur Bruce and Hilda Chappell. Mr. Ralph Stewart, of Heeley, gave a short address from golden chain 126. On Sunday, November 9th, we had the D.V. with us, he gave us a bright and breezy address on the Lyceum movement, and its origin and its objects. He also gave a brief outline of the

Sheffield District Education Scheme. The same day we had a collection for the starving children of Dublin, which realised 6s. 6d.—W. Rawlinson, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Sunday, November 2nd, we held our Open Session, when we had an enjoyable afternoon. The following items were well rendered: Recitations, Willie Bowmer, Wilfred Jackson, Cyril Truelove, Mr. Bowmer, Evelyn Hempstack, Frances Evans, and Jessie Arnold. Solo by Doris Child. Duets by Misses Bertha and Alice Alton, Alice Helliwell and Grace Thickett, Nellie Atkin and Flo Vernon. On Thursday, November 13th, we gave the children a social evening, which was well enjoyed. They entered heartily into the different games suggested by the elders. Coffee and buns were provided. These social evenings will be held once a month, time 7 to 9.—S. Smith, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, MEERSBROOK.—On Sunday, October 26th, we commenced Lyceum Sessions, the following officers were elected: Conductor, George Magness; Secretary, Ted Magness; Treasurer, Mr. Gibbons; Musical Director, Mr. Hibbins; Assistant, Mr. Stuart; Guardian, Mrs. Crofts; Librarian, Beatrice Gamble; Captain of Guards, Mabel Gibbons; Guards, Misses Hilda Hampson, May Oldale, and Harry Gibbons; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Gibbons, Beatrice Hampson, and Jack Overment; Auditors, Mr. Hibbins, and Mr. Newton; Assistant Conductor, Mabel Gibbons; Assistant Secretary, Harry Gibbons. Sunday, November 2nd, we held an Open Session, a good number being present. Recitations and solos rendered by Lyceumists. I am pleased to say that the majority of our officers have been brought up in the Lyceum from childhood.—Ted Magness, Secretary.

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Eldon Street).—On November 9th we had a singing contest for Lyceum Badge presented by the conductor; 12 competed, Sarah Ann Hogg won. Sessions well attended. Sorry to report a little trouble owing to objections to marching and calisthenics, by parents who strain at this gnat and swallow the camel of the Boy Scouts and Brigade marching. Of course their training for a body destroying trade does not compare in their estimation with our body and mind beautifying, and strengthening exercises. Their's must be right, is it not under the wings of the churches and chapels. However, we find our room too small for us. Scholars doing well in individual effort.—Wm. Woodhall, z

TODMORDEN (Eagle Street).—On Sunday, November 16th, we held our first Lyceum session in our new church. We had Open Session in the afternoon, when the following items were nicely rendered: Songs, Misses Uttley, Elsie Howorth, Cook, and Mitchell. Duets, Misses Annie Sutcliffe and Mabel Howorth, and Ruth Sutcliffe and G. Howorth. Pianoforte solo, Miss E. Crossley. Reading, "The Newsboy's Death," Miss Howorth. Recitations, "The Forest Fire" Miss Clapham; "Jackie's Fright," Miss Ruth Sutcliffe; Gertrude Howorth; Master W. Howorth; Misses Mitchell and Mary Stephenson. Calisthenics. At the evening service solos were given by Messrs. Blamires and Cook. We had a splendid time, and hope for great success in our new home.—F. Pratt, Secretary.

WALSALL.—On Sunday, October 26th, we held special services. In the morning our President, Councillor John Venables, conducted a Model Open Session, there was a very good attendance and several Lyceumists gave recitations, etc. In the evening the Lyceum rendered the Service of Song, "In Heaven's name," the connective readings by Mr. Alfred Whittaker, who has been a member of our Lyceum from infancy. Mr. Arthur Brown (who has also attended our Lyceum from infancy) presided at the organ, and Mr. Thomas, our Guardian very efficiently took the part of chairman. There was a large gathering of members and friends, which was very gratifying to the Officers and Leaders who had worked very hard to make the day a success.—G. W. Ware.

WINDHILL (School Hill).—We held our election of officers on November 23rd, 1913, and the following were elected: Secretary, Miss F. Sheard; Assistant Secretary, Miss A. Bannham. Treasurer, G. Roper. Conductor, Miss Daisy Butterfield. Guardians, Miss Ivy Hailstone. The above officers start offices, January 4th, 1914.—E. Starkey, Secretary.

WINNIPEG, CANADA (Polson Avenue).—On November 2nd we held our Open Session, which was well attended. Mrs. Forrest named the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Vernon, "Nora." Recitations were given by R. Atkinson, and Maria Vernon. Solos by Mr. Harry Forrest, Mr. W. Vernon, Mrs. Higley, and Mr. Fred Parkinson. The Lyceum also conducted the evening service, a good audience being present. I am pleased to report we are making good progress, and hope we shall continue to do so during the winter months.—C. Forrest, Secretary.