

# *THE LYCEUM BANNER*

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE  
FOR OLD AND YOUNG

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VOL. XXV.—1915.

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THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION  
BROMLEY ROAD, HANGING HEATON  
DEWSBURY

THE LANCET BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE  
FOR OLD AND YOUNG

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THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LANCET UNION  
PUBLISHED BY THE EDITOR  
DEARBURY

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

A SPIRITUALIST MAGAZINE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

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

VOL. XXV. No. 288

JANUARY, 1915.

ONE PENNY.

## Lyceum Banner Portrait Gallery.

### Mr. Joshua Nurse (Rochdale).

Recently I entered the hall of Regent Street Spiritualists in Rochdale. Seated near the door was an old man of nearly eighty years. He gave me a hearty handshake and a genial smile. This tall man, somewhat bent with age, and failing eyesight, has yet the deep set eyes of keen and critical discernment, a high forehead denoting his desire for education, his whole features expressing an earnest, persevering devotion to the cause for which he has laboured so many years. Grandad Nurse, the name by which we love to call him, was the first conductor of Regent Hall Lyceum, which commenced in April, 1885. His personality is entirely submerged in the cause of Spiritualism.

Mr. Nurse was born at Titchwell, Norfolk, attending the Church of England as a boy. He came to Rochdale when a young man, became married and had a fairly large family. Though not attending any place of worship himself, he sent the children to the Unitarian School.

During the early days of "Cottage Meetings" for spirit communion, hearing of the phenomena produced there, he became interested and commenced to attend, becoming converted to the truth by the spiritual manifestations derived from table-mediumship. The slow and laboured method of this phase of Spiritualism is very typical of the tenacity of patience with which our friend has worked through many years.

Mr. Nurse visited many private and public meetings, finally joining the Regent Hall Society. Reading of Mr. Kitson's efforts in the columns of the *Medium and Daybreak* to provide suitable lessons, etc., for the commencement of Lyceums, and the teaching of the children of Spiritualists, he and a few other members of the Society decided to visit one of the few Lyceums then existing. Sowerby Bridge was the nearest and two visits were made in

wagonettes which resulted in a Lyceum being formed.

In the long period of years I have known and worked with Grandad Nurse, I have many times tried to obtain a revelation of his experiences. Perhaps his occupation as a gardener has some bearing on his reserved nature. I have invariably got the one answer: "I'm a worker not a talker." In spite of his reticence there is one little experience I have learned.

There was, many years ago, a number of men who were ridiculing and jesting about spirit-rappers and table-tilters. These men said they would have some experiments by themselves, meeting at a house in a

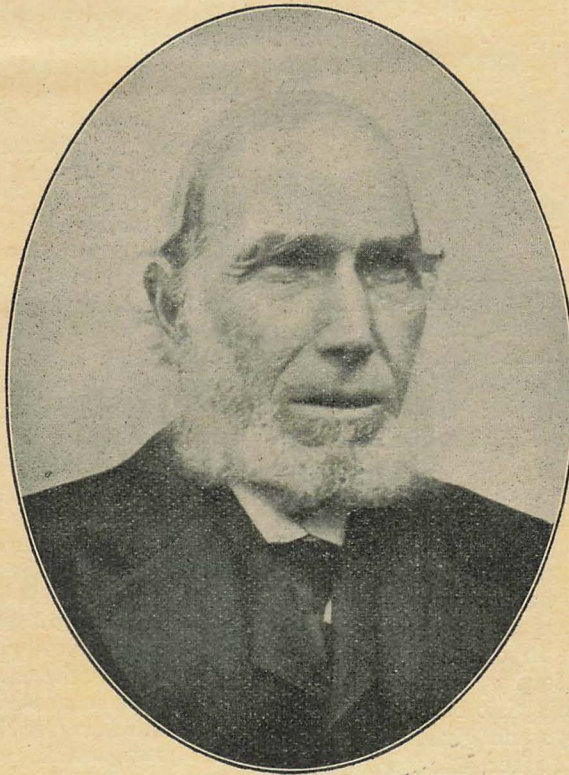
jocular manner for the purpose. Mr. Nurse cautioned the men about treating the matter so flippantly and they laughed at him and commenced their investigations. No spiritualists were present, but the table commenced to move, became very violent and started banging itself at the men in such an alarming manner that they were all glad to vacate the room. This occurred in his days of early investigation.

The course of study in his Lyceum, and permeating the district Lyceums, was founded on Geology, Botany, Physiology, Phrenology, Mesmerism and Singing along with physical exercises.

Nearly all the best-known old workers in our Cause have spoken for his Society and been entertained at his home.

I have never known him late at a session or service, or miss an opportunity of being present when there was work to do during the long period of years he has been a Spiritualist until a few years ago, when the sudden illness of his devoted wife caused his absence, and the cessation of many of the manifold labours he performed for us.

On Oct. 28th, 1905, a social function took place to celebrate his efforts on our behalf, when a beautifully framed and life-like portrait of Mr. Nurse was unveiled by Mr. Kitson, who spoke warmly in admiration of our friend, commenting on his twenty years labour since the formation of the Lyceum, when there was no *Lyceum Manual* or *Spiritual Songster* to assist the efforts of our veteran.



Mr. Joshua Nurse has now retired from his official capacities in the Lyceum and Society. His good wife has passed on, but his good work and influence continue through his kinsfolk. Mr. Jas. Nurse is the Lyceum Secretary, Mrs. Lizzie Nurse has been Conductor of the Lyceum for a good number of years and is now President of the Society, whilst both have attended the B.S.L.U. Conferences for many years. His grandson, John Nurse, has charge of the Liberty Group, and has also been Conductor of the Lyceum.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity of making known, through this sketch, a personality who belongs to that noble group of pioneers who, silently and well, have done the spade-work which laid for us the foundation of our Union. Their quiet influence has been, and is indispensable to the local machinery of our movement.

God grant that the same impetus may infuse our present workers and others yet to come.

BONVOLULO.

[The Portrait and Sketch of the elected representative of the Sheffield Lyceum District Council will appear in our next issue. Order your extra copies early to save disappointment.—EDITOR.]

## For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

MY DEAR CHUMS.

I am writing a few Christmas reflections. I hope you have all enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas and spent a happy holiday. I was listening to some boys talking a few days ago whether Santa Claus did really come down the chimney, and if he did why were not all boys treated alike? I believe Santa Claus, or Father Christmas, or Bonhomme Noël, or Saint Nicholas, or Knecht Clobes, or whatever name the children of the world may choose to call him, is really a ghost. He is the spirit, or kindly nature, of that good Saint Nicholas who went about doing good generous acts in secret, as all generous acts should be done. He slipped pounds and half-crowns under poor people's doors and placed gifts upon tables and in various places without letting anyone know about it. He would visit homes mysteriously both day and night, leaving the results of his visit behind to cheer lonely people and desolate boys and girls.

It does'nt matter whether Father, Mother, Uncle, Aunt, or friend gives us our presents at Christmas, it is the spirit of good St. Nicholas who is responsible for the happy, smiling faces at Christmas time, when the tables and floors of the homes of boys and girls are decorated with toys and pretty, useful gifts.

Think of all the Christmas presents and parties you have ever had. If Nicholas had never lived you may never have had other people to do the kindly things he did. You big boys think it very smart not to believe in Santa Claus. St. Nicholas passed out of his earthly body and was buried like any other man; yet this man has, through his spirit, continued to live and inspired the people of the whole world to be good and generous on Christmas Eve. He has done far more for universal happiness, peace and goodwill

than great conquerors like Alexandria, Cæsar or Napoleon. I tell you now, if Santa Claus came to you at Christmas by means of any person you may know and love, or your presents came mysteriously down the chimney, it is the same loving, benevolent disposition that animated St. Nicholas.

The poor boy and girl may not receive as costly presents as a rich child, but that does not mean the poor child is not as happy as the rich one. I know rich children are mostly taken away from their mothers when very young babies, and are fed, clothed, nursed, and put to bed by nurses who are no relation to them. The nurses are paid money for doing these services. Even when these rich mothers are at home, the babies are only occasionally taken to see their mothers and fathers.

I think it much nicer to live in the same room as mother. She knows what I want and can feel when I'm hurt or sick. Don't you think its much nicer to be nursed and fed and clothed by mother and father, who do these things because they love us dearly, than to be tended and cared for by a woman who comes into the house to earn a living? We cannot always be sure of the same love from a nurse who works for money as we can from parents who love us, even though we may not get costly Christmas presents, which do not always bring happiness and contentment.

Once upon a time there was a farmer who lived far away in a distant land. His father and grandfather had lived and worked on the farm before him. They had all been quite happy and contented. The present owner grew his crops and took them to the markets. His children helped with the work of the farm and were educated by the farmer. All were serene in their natural simple surroundings.

One day a well-dressed man from a large town drove up on horseback to the farm and asked, did Farmer Grant live there? The farmer was brought and the horseman said; "I am a lawyer, your rich uncle has died and left his vast wealth to you, along with his estate. Here is his will. I shall be glad to see you in the town at your convenience. Good day! Sir."

Farmer Grant and his children were overjoyed at the great news. Some days afterwards, when the work could be left, the farmer seated himself in his cart and drove to the town. He placed his affairs in the hands of the lawyer and returned home. Every three months the lawyer came to see the farmer and showed the increase of the wealth of the estate.

The farmer and his family often thought about their great wealth, yet were perfectly happy until one quarter-day the lawyer rode over with startling news; "The King is passing through your estate shortly." "What does that mean?" asked the simple farmer. The lawyer told how it was the custom of the owners of all lands the King passed for them to pay homage to the monarch by making some present to acknowledge the authority of the monarch. "You will also need clothes to fit your station in life as owner of the estate.

The time arrived for the King's visit. Farmer Grant wondered what kind of present to make. He thought of the farm and then of the great wealth he possessed. Taking a large turnip, weighing many pounds, he scooped all the pulp from the inside and filled it with golden coins as an emblem of his farm and estate. Dressing in some of his dead Uncle's

clothes he approached the King and offered the turnip, saying it was his present. The King, in anger at such an offering, dashed the turnip to the ground. The dried turnip broke into pieces and out fell the gold. Its great value turned the King's anger to pleasure, and he knighted the farmer ere he proceeded on his way.

Shortly afterwards a courier came from the King with a present for the farmer. It was a very handsome coat, and the King requested the farmer to wear it in his honour. When the farmer put on the coat and had worn it for some days, he felt out of place in his simple surroundings. He bought some fancy furniture which looked odd in the old home, so he had it pulled down and a new house built. Farmer Grant was afraid to dirty his coat walking about the farm. He bought a carriage, had a driver and a footman, gave up farming himself and employed others. Finding himself a big employer of other men, he ceased to move among the farmers and joined the nobility. His rough ways had to be polished, there were many mistakes before he could do the proper thing in his new life. His children had gone to distant schools to be educated. People less rich than he became jealous, and he was almost friendless. He was surrounded by servants at his house. People raised their hats and saluted in the streets as he passed. He was even friendly with the King, yet he was not happy. He felt like many other people have done; lonely in a big town, with not a soul in whom he could confide. He longed for the old life and the company of his children. Wealth had robbed him of the love of good, simple, yet real friends and the dear associations of family life. Greatness had been thrust upon him and he had found riches a curse and not a blessing, separating him from nature and the alluring charms of a simple happy home.

There was a longing in the farmer's heart for something which even good St. Nicholas could not bestow. Dear boys! if there is not as much in your stocking as you desire, don't be misled by the idea that riches will give you the best pleasures of life. The alluring touch of parental love and the sweet companionship of those who understand us are among the best thoughts we can draw from a Christmas stocking.

Your sincere chum,

GEO. FREDK. KNOTT.

## Bluebell Guild.

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

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

My Dear Bluebells, and Readers All,

A New Year will have opened for us all when you read this page; and so I will begin by wishing you each and all a year of unexpected brightness; of overcoming difficulties, and of pleasant and successful activities. To all the kind friends, and Lyceums, who have sent me their greetings and good wishes I give my sincere thanks, and much appreciate their kindly thoughtfulness. It would take too much space to give all their names; so perhaps they will excuse my not giving them.

No new members have been enrolled during the past month; but two nice letters have reached me. The first one—from South Africa—came to our Editor, who kindly handed it over to me. An accompanying newspaper cutting states that two contributions of thirty shillings each to the Johannesburg's Mail List for the War Relief Fund were made by Johannesburg's Lyceum children. I congratulate all our little friends, and all workers there on their splendid efforts and grand success. The letter says:

"Having read in the BANNER about a little child's abnegation, I thought that I would take the liberty of writing to you to let you know what our little ones in our Lyceum have done towards the poor Belgians.

My dear friend, Mrs. Cawdry, has a very busy time, there being no secretary to help her, though there was one appointed. Well, my friend made a collection every Sunday and we bought wool material, also different garments, and made coats (wool), petticoats, caps, scarves and so many more things which I could mention.

We took these large parcels to a firm, 'Essons' in Jo'burg, which was dispatched last Tuesday or Wednesday, 10th or 11th, in a large packing case which they were filling.

So dear Mr. Kitson I don't want our little ones forgotten as they deserve great praise for what they have done, also their teacher, Mrs. Cawdry.

I also hope to let you know how our Lyceum is getting on now and again until we have appointed a new secretary.

The children wish to be remembered to the Lyceums, not forgetting their teacher, Mrs. Cawdry, and myself.—I remain, a worker for the Cause,

K. MASON.

Next we were very pleased to receive another contribution from our dear friend, Miss Russell, and regret her recent illness. We trust that this year may bring her renewed health and strength and pleasure in her work. She writes:—

Dear Flora Belle,—I was sorry that this summer, owing to illness, it was impossible to send you any pleasant holiday account. When able, I walked in a garden, where the red Rambler roses spread themselves luxuriantly and the Day Lilies bloomed through 12 bright hours. Now I am staying in a sunny little house in Cheshire; there is only one little maid, but several helping pairs of hands make light work. She is reading a book of adventures I wrote some years ago, and remarked one day, "It is so strange to think how you are able to write a book." I was amused at the time, but thought afterwards of the right reply to make. The thing we particularly want to do is always easy to us. I might have said to her, "You find it easy to wash and iron because you love to do these things; you want to do them. It was easy to write the book because I wanted to do it; I needed to do it." So you see, the two little words "I want" may bear a very different meaning. They may express simply self will, or else a real need, a real want in the nature. I must express myself this way or that, according to the opportunities given. Did you ever hear of the woman who only cared to scrub floors? She found this the most interesting work in the world. Naturally, she did other things as well. Find out, then, your real wants and do them. That will be the

best thing for the world, and consequently the best for yourself.—MAUD MARY RUSSELL.

Now I must conclude my chat by giving you the first part of the story I promised you last month.—Your loving sister,

FLORA BELLE.

## ANDROCLES AND THE LION.

(PART I.).

There was a certain slave named Androcles, who was so ill-treated by his master that his life became insupportable. Finding no remedy for what he suffered, he at length said to himself, "It is better to die than to continue to live in such hardships and misery as I am obliged to suffer. I am determined, therefore, to run away from my master. If I am taken again, I know that I shall be punished with a cruel death; but it is better to die at once than to live in misery. If I escape, I must betake myself to deserts and woods, inhabited only by beasts; but they cannot use me more cruelly than I have been used by my fellow creatures; therefore I will rather trust myself with them than continue to be a miserable slave."

Having formed this resolution, he took an opportunity of leaving his master's house, and hid himself in a thick forest, which was at some miles distance from the city. But here the unhappy man found that he had only escaped from one kind of misery to experience another. He wandered about all day through a vast and trackless wood, where his flesh was continually torn by thorns and brambles; he grew hungry, but could find no food in this dreary solitude. At length he was ready to die with fatigue, and lay down in despair in a large cavern which he found by accident.

He had not lain long quiet in the cavern before he heard a dreadful noise, which seemed to be the roar of some wild beast, and terrified him very much. He started up with the intention of escaping, and had already reached the mouth of the cave, when he saw coming towards him a lion of immense size, which prevented any possibility of retreat.

Androcles now believed his death to be inevitable, but, to his great astonishment, the beast advanced towards him with a gentle pace, without any sign of enmity or rage, and uttered a kind of mournful wail, as if he wanted the assistance of the man.

Androcles, who was naturally of a resolute disposition, acquired courage from this circumstance to examine his guest. He saw as the lion approached him that he seemed to limp upon one of his legs, and that the foot was extremely swelled as if it had been wounded. Acquiring still more fortitude from the gentle demeanour of the beast, he went up to him, and took hold of the wounded paw as a surgeon would examine a patient. He then perceived that a thorn of uncommon size had penetrated the ball of the foot, and was the cause of the swelling and lameness which he had observed. Androcles found that the beast, far from resenting this familiarity, received it with the greatest gentleness, and seemed to invite him to proceed. He therefore extracted the thorn, and, pressing the swelling, discharged a considerable quantity of matter, which had been the cause of so much pain.

As soon as the beast felt himself thus relieved he began to testify his joy and gratitude by every expression within his power; he jumped about like a spaniel, wagged his enormous tail, and licked the feet and hands of his physician. Nor was he contented with these demonstrations of kindness; from this moment Androcles became his guest, nor did the lion ever go forth in quest of prey without bringing home the produce of his chase and sharing it with his friend. In this savage state of hospitality did the man continue to live for several months.

(From *Stories from Sandford and Merton*.)

(To be concluded).

## Girls' Own Corner.

By  
Mrs. JESSY  
GREENWOOD



My readers will wish each the compliments of the season as is usual in our country, but this time there is not the same feeling of whole-hearted gaiety and enthusiasm amongst us, and we cannot be really merry. We think of the great distress in many homes caused through the war, and one's sympathies are extended to each. To all who suffer may we wish them a better year than the last.

A lady friend sent me the following story which she heard related in a chapel recently: "In talking about the Victoria Crosses which were awarded to our officers and privates a few weeks ago, a minister told how one was awarded to a private, who in doing a deed of extreme bravery was wounded and sent to a hospital. On becoming convalescent he was given a newspaper to read. After reading some time he became violently agitated and quite overcome with emotion. On being asked by those around if he was not well, he told them he had seen his name in the paper as having won a V.C., and read the description of the brave deed that had won it, and said, "I didn't know I'd done anything extraordinary."

Many braver deeds than this will be done and perhaps go apparently unrewarded, it is just an exceptional circumstance that brings one deed here and there to the fore which reminds me of a story I read recently. In a little out-of-the-way Swiss hamlet is a monument to a woman who died in giving birth to her child, as thousands of women have done before, and since, without any notable memorial being raised

to their memory; yet their deed cannot go unrewarded. It happened thus: Many years ago there came to this Swiss village a very clever sculptor, Commissioned by the German Government to raise a monument to a notable German General who had recently died in the village. When the sculptor arrived he found it impossible to get rooms amongst the villagers, and so at last the newly married pastor of the village church consented to give him a home. The pastor, his sweet girl wife, and the sculptor lived happily together and a year gradually slipped away, during which time the wonderful monument to the General, the work of a master hand and mind, approached completion, then sadness came to the home. The wife in giving birth to her first baby was taken away, and with her soul also went that of the little one. The unhappy husband was distraught with sorrow, whilst the sculptor, who had grown to love the girl for her sweetness of nature, felt he must express his feeling in some tangible form, and asked permission to erect some emblem of his regard in the little church, which was readily granted by the sorrowing pastor. For many weeks the sculptor thought how best to express his feeling in cold stone, and at last inspiration came. This monument was to be different to any other monument yet conceived. He had a great hole dug in the floor of the church and into this hole was fixed a huge block of white stone; this block was worked upon steadily week by week and when finished won the admiration of all. The top portion that just came above the church floor was carved to represent sharp, cruel, jagged cliffs, near the centre as if rent by sudden lightning was a great cleft; and, as if rising from the pain and anguish of earthly suffering through this cleft was visible the head and bust of the dead girl, on the bust was resting the head of her baby, the baby arms were thrusting away the cruel rocks as if to make it possible for both to get safely away. To this day thousands of people visit yearly this little out-of-the-world spot to view this wonderful conception in stone—this Victoria Cross to the memory of a woman's brave deed.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND, 1914.

The following subscriptions have been duly received and acknowledged:—

Runcorn Lyceum, 2/6; Mr. Horsfall, 5/-; Miss Mortimer, 2/6; Littleborough Lyceum, 2/6; Keighley Lyceum, 10/-; Heywood Lyceum, 7/6; Bradford Street Lyceum, Bolton, 5/-; Widnes Lyceum, 2/6; Hollingwood (Bryrom Street) Lyceum, 10/-; Collyhurst Lyceum, Manchester, 5/-; Silver Street Lyceum, Leicester, 3/-; Rishton Lyceum, 5/-; Coventry Lyceum, 2/6; Woolwich and Plumstead Lyceum, 5/-; Glasgow (Berkeley Street) Lyceum, 15/-; Heeley Lyceum, Sheffield, 7/6; Lancaster Lyceum, 5/-; Mr. and Mrs. Green, 2/6; Dearnley Lyceum, 2/6; Liverpool (Romer Street, Lyceum, 2/6; Shildon, 10/-; Mrs. Butterworth, 2/6; Maskell Street Lyceum, Manchester, 5/-; Bacup Lyceum, 5/-; Leeds Lyceum, 2/-; Eden Progressive Lyceum, Gateshead, 5/-; Mr. and Mrs. Gwinn, London, 2/6; Princess Hall Lyceum, Manchester, 10/-; Macclesfield Lyceum, 7/6; Dewsbury Lyceum, 7/6; Ashington Lyceum, 2/6; Blackpool Lyceum, 10/-; Peckham Lyceum, London, 2/-; Chesterfield Lyceum, 5/-; Ulverston Lyceum, 2/6; Wakefield Lyceum, 5/-; Todmorden New Lyceum, 1/-; Shaw Lyceum, 2/-;

Dundee Lyceum (Rattary Street), 5/-; Daulby Hall Lyceum, Liverpool, 10/6; Clarke's Yard Lyceum, Preston, 3/-; Queen Street Lyceum, Leicester, 2/6.

Trusting that those who intend sending subscriptions to the P.S.F. will do so immediately.

On behalf of the E.C.

Sincerely yours,

JESSY GREENWOOD.

Ashleigh, Hebden Bridge.

**Life and Labour in the Spirit World.**

**Being a description of localities, employments, surroundings, and conditions in the spirit spheres. Communicated by Spirit Violet, through Mrs. M. T. Longley, nee Shelhamer, who has kindly given her permission for their reproduction in "The Lyceum Banner."**

*(Continued from October issue).*

It would seem that human distress could go no further. It had been a day of suffering untold. Hunger, cold, and darkness settled down upon that little home, as the shades of night closed in upon a dreary October day. The last morsel of food had disappeared, the last stick of wood burned the day before.

Silence fell upon the inmates of the little room, for their anxiety and care were too great for words. A sense of feeling like despair settled upon their hearts: it seemed that the burden of life was too great to be borne.

WORDS OF CHEER FROM THE SPIRIT-LAND.

Suddenly, through the stillness and darkness, there came a faint, sweet sound of children's voices; like a far-off echo from some unseen land it fell, swelling louder and louder, until the tones could be distinctly heard, and these words sung in chorus floated upon the quiet atmosphere of that little room, made holy by the spirit of tender love and abnegation:—

"We come, we come, from the Summer-land,  
Our earthly friends to greet;  
We come a happy joyous band;  
With blessings pure and sweet;  
We bring you peace from heaven above,  
Where sorrows never come;  
We call your spirits with our love  
To their eternal home."

A hush of holy quiet now fell upon the tortured hearts of the two women; peace indeed entered their hearts, for in those angelic tones they recognised familiar voices,—the one, those of her two children, who had been so recently snatched away from her; the other, that of a beautiful boy who, years before, at the tender age of four years, had been called away to the angels, leaving her almost crazed with pain and grief.

The instance here recorded was the first echo our friends caught from the Summer-land,—nothing more, nothing less than that one little verse sung in the familiar tones of their departed children, and which were recognised as those of the voices of loved ones gone before.

Want of space compels me to be brief with my narrative. I must not dwell on the long, hard, cold winter which these two women were called upon to endure; I will only state that on the day following the blessed evening that brought such great comfort

and peace to their weary hearts our good nurse succeeding in finding a little work, which continued from time to time, and yielded just enough income to purchase the plainest necessities of life.

Many times did these two women feel the pangs of hunger and cold; many times during the relentless winter did they almost despair of keeping life in the body; but after events proved these bitter experiences to have been refining, spiritualising, and unfolding to their natures.

For two months after the spiritual experience which I have recorded nothing more was heard or felt of a like character; yet the memory of that one beautiful hour lingered in the hearts of those women, and caused them often to speak in rejoicing tones of it. But at last the time came when our poor sightless invalid began to hear whispered words and sweet sounds; lights of golden and azure hue flitted before her eyes, and finally she beheld smiling faces and shining forms,—first, those of her dear children and departed husband, then others that she recognised as those of dear ones who had passed from earth life years before; and, at length, strange individuals, whom she did not know, yet who smiled upon her, bringing messages of encouragement, hope and cheer.

Her faithful companion and friend had become obliged to leave the invalid daily for a few hours, in order to earn the trifle which she could obtain by menial service to others, and it was during these lonely hours that she beheld the glowing forms and listened to the spirit utterances of which I write.

Many an evening then did the two women spend in happiness together—the one in relating her pleasant spiritual experiences of the day, the other in listening eagerly to them; and though cold and hunger sometimes nipped them severely, yet there were no two happier beings in all that large city, for they had spiritual meat to eat, which others knew not of.

In describing some of the strange visitants who came to her, and mentioning the words they uttered, our invalid was delighted to find that they were recognised by her companion; and now a double joy was theirs, for through the unfolded medial powers of the one, both were enabled to hold sweet and loving communion with their dear ones in the spirit world.

#### THE MISTS CLEARING AWAY.

It was a clear, cold sabbath day in March, our friends were seated together in their humble room, conversing on spiritual things, when a rap upon the door of their apartment startled them,—for visitors they had none,—and in answer to the invitation "Come in," a lady, clothed in heavy and costly apparel, entered. The lady proved to be the wife of a wealthy Spiritualist. She had been directed to this humble abode by the spirit of her child, who had told her, through a medium, that there she would find manifold evidences of spirit existence, and a medium of great power, poor and unknown, in need of assistance.

The events proved these statements to be true; for hardly had the lady entered than the medium beheld a bright light shining all around, and standing in this light were many spirits who spoke their names to her, and whispered messages of hope, coupled with words and sentences concerning their identity; and a power she could not withstand impelled her to

describe those spirits and to repeat their words aloud. The visitor wept for joy at receiving such tokens of spirit power and presence; she recognised the spirits, both by their description and words, and for a time it seemed as though heaven had descended to earth, and was chiefly known in the almost barren home.

You may be sure the lady insisted on paying the poor, blind woman liberally for her services as medium that day, and departed promising to visit her again in a short time. And not only did she keep her promise, but sent her friends to the poor woman to receive a spiritual baptism. Not one went away disappointed; all were gratified with what they received, and paid for it with willing hearts. At length the visitors became so numerous that the good nurse found herself obliged to remain at home to attend to her charge and those who came daily.

Instead of the spiritual power lessening, it seemed to increase, and the medium grew strong and happy. All care of the morrow passed away, and the two friends now began to reap the harvest of their weary watching and patient trust in God. Our good nurse found sweet compensation for all her hours of toil, self-denial and sacrifice; for she had not only someone to love and to love her, but the daily companionship of angels, and likewise the comforts that material means can furnish.

In a short time, our friends were enabled to remove from their humble abode to a neat brick house in the heart of the city, which they furnished with taste and an eye to comfort. Here business grew and thrived; here the two women lived and blessed each other, the one by providing the means of existence, as well as imparting spiritual light, the other in tender helpfulness and care for her companion. And to-day these two individuals reside in one of our large cities, honoured and respected by all who know them.

The spiritual work goes on; the medium has never regained her sight, but she is no longer the pale, emaciated, despairing being she once was. Angel friends have saved her from a living death, and she delights to impart their blessings to others. She has never been obliged to advertise for business, for she has all she can attend to; and it is not for the wealthy alone she sits. For many a poor soul has received spiritual bounty from her, without money and without price; while it is the delight of our dear old nurse, strong and hearty in her well-doing, to minister to the bodily comforts of those who are in needy circumstances.

Occasionally she, too, listens to the sound of angel voices, and it makes her heart rejoice; but her grand work seems to be in caring for others.

*(To be continued).*

#### Christ and Anti-Christ.

BY THE EDITOR.

In our article concerning "Christmas and Mistletoe," we stated that the term "Christ" was not a proper name, but meant "anointed." Perhaps a few remarks in confirmation of that statement may be of value to the general reader, and of special value to aspirants to platform work; and our Lyceum Conductors and Teachers who have to meet the pertinent questions of wide-awake and inquisitive boys and girls.

The term "Christ" is the untranslated and contracted Greek word *Christos*, meaning "anointed"

(the equivalent Latin word is *Christus*). In dropping the *os* the translators have led the unlettered Christian to give it a false and misleading value in so far as they were led to look upon it as being specially applicable to Jesus, and to him only.

The translators treated the Greek term *Angelos* in the same way. They dropped the last two letters, and left the word untranslated, thus leading the devout Christian to assume that it referred to an order of specially created spiritual beings, whereas the term *Angelos* means a "messenger," applicable to all spirits who convey and communicate messages to earth people.

There is another Christian term relating to anointing, namely, "Chrism," derived from the Greek term *chriō*, meaning "to anoint." The oil used for this purpose is said to be "consecrated by the Bishop and is used in the Roman Catholic and Greek Churches on the administration of baptism, confirmation, and extreme unction." The term "unction" is derived from the Latin *unctio*, and means "to anoint," and "extreme unction," simply means the using of the consecrated oil upon a sick person just before that person dies. This term is a survival of the Latin Church and is used as a priestly phrase to impress the minds of the ignorant worshippers with awe and wonderment at the mystery of this sacrament.

Bearing in mind that the term *Christos* simply means "anointed," the reader will not be much surprised to learn there are many "anointed," and therefore, *Christos*, mentioned in the Old Testament. Saul was *Christos* (anointed) the first king of Israel by the prophet Samuel, by the express direction of Jehovah, or Yahveh, the Tribal god of the Israelites (I. Samuel, chapter 9, verse 15; and chapter 10, verse 1).

Perhaps this incident of anointing Saul as the first king of Israel by the command of Yahveh has led the kings and queens of Christendom to be regarded as holy, and consecrated to the service of God, and holding their kingship by Divine right, for we learn that even when Saul was in disfavour with Yahveh, and David had been chosen to rule in his place, (which naturally led to strife and hatred between them so that Saul sought to slay David on several occasions); and when David was about to secretly cut off the skirt of Saul, which would belittle him in the eyes of his people, he felt he was doing a great wrong for, "He said unto his men, Jehovah forbid that I should do this thing unto my lord, Jehovah's anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he is Jehovah's anointed (I. Samuel, chapter 26, verse 6; *American Revised Version of the Bible*). And, again, when the young man who found Saul leaning on his spear to put an end to his life, and could not, was commanded by Saul to draw his sword and put an end to his anguish, on reporting the matter to David, David ordered that the young man should be slain for having despatched the wounded king. "And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain Jehovah's anointed." (II. Samuel, chapter 1, verse 14, A.R.V.)

The custom of using consecrated oil is still practised by the Archbishop of the Christian Church at all coronation ceremonies; and the kings and queens so anointed are *christos*.

But how does this apply to Jesus? There is no record of his having been officially anointed. The

one incident on which the claim is based is to be found in chapter 4, verses 18 and 19, of St. Luke. In the context we are told that Jesus paid a visit to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue, and stood up to read, when the book (or scroll) of Isaiah was handed to him and he read as follows from chapter 61, verses 1 and 2: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor: He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captive, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." On closing the book he said to them, "To-day hath this scripture been fulfilled in your ears," (verse 21).

Here we see that Jesus is claiming that Isaiah's statement "that the spirit of the Lord was upon him," was also applicable to him (Jesus), although Isaiah made the statement more than 700 years before.

It will also be noticed that neither Isaiah nor Jesus were *Christos* (anointed). Isaiah's claim to be anointed was by "the spirit of the Lord Jehovah being upon him." In other words, he was inspired "to preach good tidings unto the weak, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and open the prison to them that are bound."

On reference to Smith's Bible Dictionary, under this head he says: "Anointing in Holy Scripture, is either, *first*, material with oil, or *second*, Spiritual with the Holy Ghost"—(a consecrated spirit). In I. Chronicles, chapter 16, verses 8 to 36, and Psalms, chapter 105, verse 15, the priests are called "the anointed."

Now it is quite evident that Jesus was only *christos* (anointed) in a spiritual sense, and the descent of the spirit power, was not when he read the brief extract from Isaiah's writings, as recorded in Luke, but at his baptism in the river Jordan in the form of a dove, symbolical of peace, goodwill and harmony. In Acts, chapter 10, verse 38, Peter tells "how God anointed him (Jesus) with the holy spirit, and with power." (A.R.V.)

In I. Corinthians, chapter 10, verses 1 to 4, Paul refers to the manifestations of the spirit as a Christ manifestation. He says: "For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant that our fathers were all under a cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptised unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual food; and all did drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of the spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ." (A.R.V.). Paul is here referring to the children of Israel passing through the Red Sea, their being guided by a pillar or cloud by day, and protected by a pillar of fire by night; their being fed by manna, and the bringing of water out of a rock, all of which he regards as spiritual manifestations, "The rock that followed them. That rock was *christos*," (anointed and consecrated by the spirit). This is the *christos* of Jesus, which was not specially confined to him, but partaken of by his disciples, and promised to others, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto the Father," (John, chapter 14, verse 12).

The working of the spirit power among his disciples was powerfully manifested on the day of Pentecost

(Continued on page 10.)

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## THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1915.

### Helps to the Study of the Lyceum Manual.

**Sceptic** [Skep-tic]. No. 53. Doubting, hesitating to admit facts that are contrary to general opinion, and so hesitating to admit the facts of spirit return; thus the sceptic in his blind unbelief in the presence of his spirit friends, "spurns their proffered aid and kindness."

**Sensualist** [Sen-su-al-ist], No. 134. Of a carnal, lustful nature, swayed by the animal passions.

**Seraph** [Ser-af], No. 1. Fiery, or burning. An angel seen by Isaiah. He describes its appearance as follows:—"In the year the king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim (plural); each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face; with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly (Isaiah VI. 1-3). The cherubim (plural of cherub) have only four wings, but they have four faces. (See the word cherub in THE LYCEUM BANNER for May.)

**Siren** [Si-ren], No. 226. In Greek mythology a siren was one of those sea-nymphs who sat on the shores of an island located between Circe's Isle and Scylla [Sil-a] Isle, near the south-eastern coast of Italy, and sang with entrancing sweetness songs that allured the passing sailors to land on their little island—only to meet with death, for the sirens feasted on the flesh of their victims. The sirens tried to entice Jason and his companions when returning home with the Golden Fleece. (See page 2 of THE LYCEUM BANNER for January, 1913.) The term "siren" is now applied to those women who employ the art of fascination to allure youths and men into vice for personal gratification and gain.

**Single-eyed Devotion**, No. 133. This phrase is given as the last of three virtues composing the fourth group of the spiritual order, and means the fixing of our whole attention on the attainment of the spiritual unfoldment sought for; not to allow our purpose to be weakened by other attractions, but to keep steadily in view the object we set out to attain.

**Soul**. No. 105. The Deific portion of the human

being; the Divine Spark; the Ego, or real Self. Thus it will be seen there are two kinds of life forces: namely, the life force of the Soul, and the life force that is latent in the mineral kingdom, which animates the vegetable and animal kingdoms which, for want of a better name, we called, the *evolved life force*, to distinguish it from the life force of the Soul (See our comments on *Pyramid*, "Life's Grand Pyramid"). The Elementals—a class of beings related to the various kingdoms of nature, and the elements, such as earth, air, fire and water—are of the nature of this evolved life force, and so, are not capable of an immortal existence as they lack the Deific Spark, or Soul.

**Sphere** [Sfēr]. No. 14. This is a term that writers on the spiritual philosophy have applied to those broad belts of spirit matter that surround the earth at varying altitudes, and extend north and south over the habitable earth, but open at the poles. Their upper surface have the appearance of the earth, but more beautiful, all the crude, unsightly portions are left out. There are hills and dales, and vast undulating plains on which the homes, temples, etc., are erected. Those spheres are not stationary in the heavens, but revolve with the earth, and travel with it in its orbit round the sun. The first sphere from the earth is located at an altitude of about fifty miles. The next one, fifty miles further; and so on. But as the bright spirits who dwell on them can move from place to place nearly as rapidly as light,—which travels at the rate of 86,000 miles per second of time,—it seems to them but a mere step from one sphere to another, and may be so described by them at times when communicating with people on earth.

**Spirit**. No. 105. Spirit is to the spirit world what matter is to this world, namely, the substance of which everything is made. The Great Central Soul of the Universe is too wise to err in making the world of our mortal existence real and substantial, and the world beyond this life a mere phantom of airy nothings, or mere imagination as many seem to imagine it to be. Our stay in this world is but a mere fraction of time compared to the life that awaits us in the worlds beyond this. It is in accordance with divine wisdom that the spirit worlds should be the most real. Sir Oliver Lodge recently defined matter as "the ordinary substance which affects the senses, which can be seen, moved, and handled." The spirit world, and all appertaining to it, to be real, must be composed of a substance that bears the same relationship to the senses as does matter in this life. That substance we call spirit, which is far more pliant and responsive to the will-power of the forces of life that are in operation in the spirit spheres, than is matter in this life, but none the less real and substantial.

**Spirit Body**. No. 105. The body which serves the soul in the spirit life, as does the physical body in this life.

**Spirit Home**. No. 105. The home of the soul in the spirit world built by the active forces of love, sympathy, and duty of our daily lives. Those homes are more real than are the homes on this earth. No fire can destroy, nor floods wreck them, for they are eternal in the heavens.

**Spirit World**, No. 105. The spirit spheres surrounding the earth at various altitudes.

## THE LYCEUM RECITER.

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

New year's day, in my calculation,  
Creates within some noble desire;  
So often but of short duration,  
Then falling deeper down in the mire.

How many make the resolution  
To gain a nobler, higher state;  
To be followed by dissolution,  
As if some working of sad fate.

A few may make the reformation,  
Then let us help them on their way,  
And bravely make the proclamation,  
Of good resolve on New Year's Day!  
MRS. E. MOULT.

### FAITH.

Implicit faith in all God's creation,  
A Paradise can be your nation.  
If pure your thoughts, and works as well,  
Each do their part, where're they dwell.  
Harmonious chords would sound so grand  
From winter's gloom to Summerland.

### HOPE.

Be not downcast if at times you fail;  
Take Hope for your standard, it will prevail.  
Lose it, and a friend you have lost,  
Whilst on this ocean of life you're toss'd.  
Take courage, when with trials you cope,  
Remember your standard, let it be Hope.

### CHARITY.

In all thy works thine ear incline  
To the guiding voice, which is Divine.  
God's love doth e'er extend to all;  
Then Charity show, lest your brother fall.  
Hasten the time when o'er the world shall span,  
The Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.  
S. W. LEGG, Darlington.

### SPEAK KINDLY.

Speak kindly to each other  
Wherever you may be;  
Wherever you may travel,  
Take this advice from me.

As through the world you wander,  
And travel up and down,  
You'll always find 'tis easier  
To smile than 'tis to frown.

A kiss, and just "I'm sorry,"  
Is better than a blow.  
When once you try this, children,  
You'll always find it so.

Speak kindly, little people,  
And you will surely see,  
If you make others happy,  
How happy you will be.

This is the world's great secret,  
And when it you have found,  
You'll know 'tis love and kindness  
That makes the world go round.

D.W.

### THE REVELATION OF UNREST.

Not always when our thoughts are calmly flowing,  
Like some slow river unto the sea,  
Do we feel the spell of magic glowing  
'Neath all things of beauty that we see.  
But often, when the heart is tempest ridden,  
And thoughts tempestuous crowd the wondering  
brain;  
When thoughts we fain would have lie hidden  
And fancies we have buried live again.  
'Tis often at such moments that we feel  
A sudden joy that fills our hearts with gladness;  
An ecstasy that seems akin to madness,  
So much our hidden life it doth reveal.  
So much of hidden thought and feeling,  
So much the yearning of the soul,  
Which ever we deny and are concealing  
Beneath the outward mask of self-control.  
Even as the sea in furious moments throws  
The pearly shell upon the sandy beach,  
So does the mind in restless hours disclose  
The beauteous thought that else was out of reach.  
There lies within us all this wistful longing,  
This vague unrest, and still more vague desire;  
And just a word may set the thought a-thronging,  
And but a thought can set the heart a fire.  
Yet, even so, these depths of mighty passion,  
O'er which the strongest men have no control,  
Are but the lessons which mould and fashion  
The future conduct of the human soul.  
And had we lived our lives in calm content,  
Nor once had looked towards the distant light,  
Nor had not known the hardship of ascent,  
We had not gained the glory of the height.  
And this same state of discontent  
Doth haunt all souls on progress bent.  
Within, without, a law controls  
The seeming rise or fall of souls.  
We cannot stay the ebbing tide,  
Or stem the rushing mountain flood;  
The waves of thought so vast, so wide,  
We could not stay them if we would.  
And all this seething discontent  
Is for some hidden purpose sent;  
'Tis part of Life's unknown design,  
This discontent—it is Divine!

AGNES BOYD, Pendleton Lyceum.

(Continued from page 7).

when, "Suddenly there came from heaven the sound as the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire: and it sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts, chapter 2, verses 2, 3, and 4).

This spiritual *christos* is in operation in the world to-day and is known as modern Spiritualism, to distinguish it from the Spiritualism of the older times, so fully recorded in the Old and New Testament.

Priestcraft, state aided and protected as the Established Church of England, assisted by its descendants, the Wesleyans, etc., etc., have united in describing Spiritualism as

#### ANTI-CHRIST,

because its mission is like that of Isaiah's: "to preach glad tidings unto the meek; to bind up the broken-hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound," all of which is to be taken in a spiritual sense.

As the Christians deny the modern spiritual *Christos*, as did the priests of old, they are the Anti-Christ. For what does the term mean other than they who are *against* the spiritual *Christos*? *Anti*, means against and *Christos*,—as used in the New Testament, spiritually anointed, or developed. So "anti-christ" to-day is not Spiritualism, as has been so often proclaimed by Christians, but is that system of teaching which is opposed to the *christos* of spiritual gifts as set forth by Paul in I. Corinthians, chapter 12, and his advice for the orderly conducting of spiritual meetings as set forth in chapter 14 of the same book. Every individual who opposes, or denounces spiritual manifestations is an anti-christ, whether in the Church of England or any of the various dissenting churches.

From the foregoing facts it will be clearly seen that the term Christ is not a proper name, but is a contraction of the Greek *christos*, which signifies *first*, a person who has been officially anointed in the process of being inducted to some important office; *second*, one who has received spirit power, and with it a mission to work for the religious or moral reformation of the people.

#### In Memoria.

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

LONDON, PLUMSTEAD.—On December 1st at the age of 7½ years our first scholar to be promoted to the Higher Life was taken from our midst in earthly form, namely, Marjorie Osborne. A general favourite missed by all.—H. Watthey, Sec.

OUTLINES OF SPIRITUALISM FOR THE YOUNG. This excellent book is specially written for Lyceums. It presents the Facts and Teachings of Spiritualism in a clear and concise manner. It is a book of valuable information. Cloth 1/9 post free; Blue and Gilt 2/9 post free. From the Lyceum Union Office, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

## Correspondence.

### GOOD SPEAKERS AND GOOD COLLECTIONS.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—Re the above subject, your correspondent says she does not think that we should expect much support from the "educated rich," seeing they have been the means of checking, rather than aiding progress in *all* religious causes in the past. The educated rich have had sense enough not to accept other people's ideas, but to think for themselves. These are the people we want, and if Spiritualism is to reform the age we must get them. The movement is overstocked with mediums and speakers who, judging from results, know nothing whatever about their subjects, and cannot clothe their ideas so as an ordinary man can understand them. I heard a medium or speaker make the following statement: "I and myself are two entities," but did not attempt to explain what he meant. Some will talk on any subject but Spiritualism. Some give the same address over and over again, as if they have no new ideas to unfold, and no fresh inspiration to impart.

We as Spiritualists want facts, not fiction. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Some speakers do their best, but much of the so-called best is not good enough if no progress is made, no new idea, or truth, and uplifting message to impart. No one, in my opinion, should assume the important position of speaker until they are fully qualified to fill it with credit to themselves and honour to the cause they espouse. Get good, intelligent speakers, and good collections will follow. "For grain will grow from what you sow, and fruitful harvest yield," bringing in its train many new members for our churches. Weed out the "slackers" or the class of speakers who make no effort to progress.

J. R. PARKER,  
Harpurhey Lyceumist.

### GOOD SPEAKERS AND LYCEUM TRAINING.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir and Brother,—I notice in our valuable organ, THE LYCEUM BANNER, correspondence relating to "Good Speakers and Good Collections." One must at once admit that both these are necessary links in the chain, if the good work is to continue, but is this so vital a question as "Making Progression"? On our badges we have the letters C.P.L., meaning "Children's Progressive Lyceum." Now, are we, as a body, making the progression that we ought to do, even from the child's point of view?

The best of our speakers, in the future, *must* come from the Lyceums, but still, if we are not making progression, where are the good speakers to come from and what chance has a Lyceumist of making one?

We complain very strongly about our Orthodox friends taking their Bible Sunday after Sunday without a change, and yet, if one of these friends was to visit any of our Lyceums he would find practically the same thing, with the exception of the difference in the Bible. I should like all Lyceumists to send along their opinions as regards the progression they think their particular Lyceum is making, or the movement in general. I think if this is done it will not only benefit all Lyceumists generally, but it will help to give the LYCEUM BANNER the circulation that it ought to have, and so make the BANNER pay for itself, and not be a burden on the shoulders of the Union, which I am given to understand it is.—Yours fraternally,

"HAPPY JACK."

[NOTE.—THE LYCEUM BANNER pays current expenses, but has no margin to pay for management.—EDITOR.]

[Several letters are unavoidably crowded out of this issue.—EDITOR.]

## Special Reports.

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

BRADFORD, WEST BOWLING (Co-op. Hall).—On Sunday, December 6th, we had election of officers, when the following were elected: Secretary, Mr. Haley; Treasurer, Mr. Poole; Conductors, Mr. Chambers, Miss Annie Carter, Miss Alice Lodge and Norman Haley; Librarians, Annie Lodge, Willie Fenton; Leaders, Hilda Croft, Ruth Fernihough, Norman Haley and Willie Fenton; Assistant Leaders, Harry

Fernihough and Annie Lodge; Musical Directors, Miss Birstow and Ada Fernihough; Guardians, Miss Garth, Mr. Poplewell; Calisthenics Leader, Miss Annie Carter; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Haley, Mr. Poplewell; Delegate, Mr. Rau. In the evening we held our Open Session at Bankfoot, when the following helped to make it a success: Recitations by Alice Fernihough, Hilda Croft, Ethel Lodge, Nellie Thomas, Ruth Fernihough, Eleanor Lodge, and Norman Haley. Solo by Mrs. Ridley; pianoforte solo, Miss Birstow; golden chain reading, Mr. Haley, Mr. Chamber's remarks on "The Roses of Life." Miss Garth gave the invocation. We had a good day and a good attendance.—A. Haley, Secretary.

**BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held on Saturday, December 12th, at Commission Street, Bolton, Mr. Batten (Bolton), President, in the chair. The President in his address said he was disappointed to see such a few present (only eight being present at the commencement), and that the delegates were so unpunctual, being 17 minutes late. He said he was also disappointed that the Lyceums in the district had not taken advantage of the Executive Council during the year. He was very glad to have with us Mr. Rubin Latham of the North East Lancashire Lyceum District Council's Executive Committee. Minutes and correspondence were adopted after a little discussion. District Visitor's report passed. The Secretary read the balance sheet in the absence of Treasurer. Delegates' report of the U.D.C. meeting was passed as read.

*Resolved*—That Secretary write the B.S.L.U. Executive Committee asking them to supply us with 36 *Manuals*, which are to be used for the helping of the poorer Lyceums in the district who are not in a position to supply their own, and Bolton District Council act as trustees for the same.

*Resolved*—That an interchange of conductors take place in the Lyceums in the district and that each Lyceum pay their own expenses, but have the right to appeal to the D.C. if the expenses are too great.

*Resolved*—That the E.C. purchase the shield for the Shield Competition.

The Adjudicator's report was passed, and the following was the result of the Shield Competition:

**Bolton Spiritualist Lyceum District Council.**  
Adjudication Results for 1914. Possible (Maximum) Marks, 150.

	Singing		Reading		Marching		Calisthenics		General Discipline		Total						
	Precision	Tone	Expression	Response	Delivery	Mental	Time	Figure	Carriage of	Accuracy		Time	Accuracy	Energy	Attentiveness	General Standard	Devotional Aspect
<b>Leigh Avenue.</b>	4	4½	4	3½	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4½	4	5	132½
1st Visit	4	5	5	4	4½	4½	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4½	4½	
2nd Visit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
<b>Bolton, Bradford St.</b>	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	132
1st Visit	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
2nd Visit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
<b>Horwick, Beatrice St.</b>	4½	4½	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	129
1st Visit	4½	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
2nd Visit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
<b>Bury, King St.</b>	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	121
1st Visit	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
2nd Visit	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
<b>Radclyffe, Ash St.</b>	3½	4	3½	3	3	3½	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	119½
1st Visit	3½	4	3½	3	3	3½	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
2nd Visit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
<b>Daisy Hill, Mabel St.</b>	4	3½	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	106½
1st Visit	4	3½	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
2nd Visit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	

49 50 49 45½ 48 47 49 49 49½ 47½ 49 48 53½ 50½ 56 740½  
(Signed) Adjudicator, J. HIBBERT, 44, Bullock Street, Bolton.

Mr. Rubin Latham said a few words and invited the Bolton District Council to send a delegate to the North-East Lancashire District Council meeting to be held at Blackburn on December 10th. Mr. Latham said that his Council was holding a demonstration in Darwen on next Good Friday, and invited Lyceumists from the Bolton District to go to Darwen on that day. In the afternoon they would hold a picnic in Sunnyhurst Woods, and in the evening a social and dance at the Darwen Church. *Lyceumists please note.*

The President thanked Mr. Latham for his kind remarks, and the Council accepted the invitation to send a delegate to Blackburn. Mr. Batten, President, was elected as the delegate.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed unanimously to our Commission Street friends for the excellent way in which they had catered for us. A most enjoyable social was spent by all. Proceeds, 16s., was in aid of the Bolton branch of British Red Cross Fund.

The next meeting will be held at Ash Street Lyceum, Radcliffe, on March 13th and 14th, 1915.

ED. WALSH, Secretary.

**British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.**

The Executive Council will be held at Heber Street, Keighley, on January 9th, at 6 p.m., when all applications for membership will be considered, along with other important business matter. Lyceums desirous of joining the Union should send in their applications at once.

On the Sunday the Lyceum will meet at 10 a.m.; and in the afternoon at 2-30 (Open Session). Tea will be provided for visitors, price 6d. A public meeting will be held at 6 p.m., to be addressed by the officers and members of the Executive. Collections in aid of the Lyceum Union.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.,

17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

**LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

The above Council held its quarterly meeting at Batley Carr on Saturday, December 5th. A good assembly of delegates and members were present. Miss Hesp, President, in the chair. After the opening ceremonies the minutes of last meetings, correspondence and reports were given and accepted as correct. The most important business was, that owing to Mr. Rau, our late adjudicator, being unable to complete the examination, a new competition be commenced with the New Year. Mr. Jackson, of Shipley, has kindly consented to be the adjudicator for same.

*Agreed*—That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Rau.

*Agreed*—That all nominations for office be sent to the Secretary six weeks before the annual meetings, so that the names may be put on the agenda. The Annual Meeting will be held at Dewsbury on Saturday, March 6th, 1915, at 3-30 p.m.

A vote of thanks was given to the friends at Batley Carr for the way in which they worked to make the day a success in all ways. A social was held in the evening and a most enjoyable time was spent.

N. INGLE, Sec.

**LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

The meeting of the above Council took place at Runcorn on Saturday, December 12th, and continued on Sunday, 13th. A fair number of Lyceums were represented. The Education Subcommittee's recommendations were agreed to, and the scheme adopted. Mr. Mack, of Runcorn, was appointed Judge for Shield Competition. A resolution was passed that Lyceums take into consideration the question of a "United Pic-nic for 1915, and be prepared to give their answer 'Yes' or 'no' at annual meeting in March next." The Secretary would be pleased to receive nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer, and District Visitor as early as possible.

The Sunday meetings were a decided success. Lyceums well attended, and showed excellent training in every way. I think great credit is due to the young man who is at the head of this Lyceum. Our President, Mr. Ross, conducted the session. At the evening service Mr. Mack presided, while addresses were delivered by Mr. Cretney, and Mr. Ross. Mrs. Raymond sang "The Better Land," which was well received.

We would like to draw the attention of Lyceums to the fund of Benevolence. There is a minute that all Lyceums should

subscribe to this deserving cause. One Lyceum in the District has subscribed the sum of 10/6 this year. May this be an incentive to the others to do likewise.

I find that our June quarter date is still open, would Lyceums please note this. I would be extremely obliged to receive an invitation from any Lyceum to entertain the Council on any Saturday and Sunday in June.

W. J. CRETNEY, Hon. Sec.

#### NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Quarterly meeting held at St. Peter Street, Blackburn, December 19th, 1914. At the commencement, Mr. Batten, of Bolton L.D.C., was invited on the platform, and he afterwards gave us a splendid address showing the value of conductors visiting each others' Lyceums. Mr. Hargreaves gave his presidential address, and as ten minutes was allowed for discussion we filled up the time with regard to a Musical Conductor.

Minutes of previous meeting were passed as read, and a great amount of discussion arose *re* Demonstration and Fleetwood Lyceum. Correspondence was accepted without discussion. Treasurer's report accepted. U.D.C. report given by Mr. Higham was accepted. Assist. D.V.'s reports were handed to the respective delegates to be read in their own Lyceums with a few exceptions.

*Resolved.*—That a deputation be sent from the E.C. to Regent Street, Blackburn, with regard to the closing of this Lyceum. Representatives to the U.D.C. held at Manchester, Mr. Higham and Mr. Eaton were elected. Adjudicator's report was accepted. Mr. Chadwick, Nelson, was again elected for the next year. Assist. district visiting to be done by volunteers. Credential report was: 26 delegates, 10 associates, 4 E.C., 10 visitors; 50 persons present. Hymn sheets were deferred until next meeting. Legalization question was also deferred. Votes of thanks were given.

R. ASHWORTH.

#### ROCHDALE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above D.C. held its quarterly meeting at Bacup on December 19th, 1914. Mr. G. F. Knott presided over the business meeting. Delegates from Bacup, Heywood, Royton, Regent Hall, Chadderton, and Coronation Street, Oldham, were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted, with little comment. The D.V. report was received with pleasure. Mr. Bailey read the delegates' report of the U.D.C. meeting at Dewsbury (in the absence of Mr. Lord, who was unable to attend through illness), which was accepted with many thanks. Other matters of interest were entered into including the change of the name of the Council to that of South-East Lancashire; the change of annual meeting from September to March; the matter of text books was entered into and a selection for the Children's Group was confirmed, and delegates present took a copy along with them for use in their Lyceums to be exchanged at each quarterly meeting. Other matters of interest were referred to our next quarterly meeting, which will be held at Chadderton on Sunday, March 21st, 1915. Votes of thanks were tendered to our Bacup friends for their kindness in entertaining us, and thus ended a very pleasant session.

MR. WM. CHISNALL.

#### SOUTH SHIELDS UNITED LYCEUM WORKERS.

I have to report a successful United Demonstration at King Street on December 6th, but owing to bad weather the audience was rather small. The concert which we are holding during Christmas week was settled for 7 p.m. Mr. Pattison, Miss Henderson, and Mrs. Parker were chosen as doorkeepers. We have settled to have an Indoor Demonstration in one of the big halls in the town on Easter Monday. At the suggestion of Mr. Metcalfe we are going to start a savings bank on the 2nd Sunday in January in the Lyceums. Mr. Ainley was elected Financial Secretary and Mr. Metcalfe, Treasurer.

N. E. AINLEY, Sec.

The 1915 Diary of the SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL UNION is now ready; and is well worth the money asked for it. It is invaluable to all who wish to keep in touch with the movement of Spiritualism, and the various Unions and County Unions. It contains the dates of their meetings, names and addresses of their secretaries, a list of the names and addresses of Secretaries of Spiritualists' Societies, a list of those Societies who own their own halls, seating capacities, cost, etc., and other valuable information too numerous to mention. Prices: bound in leather, 1/1 each, or 10/- per dozen, post free; or bound in cloth 7d. each, or 5/- per dozen post free.

All orders should be sent to Mr. Hanson G. Hey, Gen. Sec., 30, Glen Terrace, Clover Hill, Halifax.

#### GREETINGS FROM THE AMERICAN NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF LYCEUMS.

Dear Mr. Kitson:

I wish to thank you for the kind letter you sent me, and I appreciate your well-wishes, as well as the interest you have shown us in this grand work.

Am very thankful to you for sending me the LYCEUM BANNER, and I prize this messenger of Lyceum work. I glean from it many helpful suggestions that assist me in the work.

Very glad to say that more enthusiasm as well as more earnest endeavour is being shown in the Lyceum work here, and I sincerely trust that it will continue. I should like to see the Lyceum work built on a good basis, but that will take some time. We will have to do the very best we can as each day goes by.

It is difficult to come in personal contact with Lyceums owing to the great distance lying between the various Lyceums. By the fastest train there is that goes from Chicago to New York it takes from 18 to 20 hours; and then, from Chicago to San Francisco it takes three or four days and nights. Thus you see the only way I can come in touch with the Lyceum workers throughout the various states is by correspondence, and at that one cannot gain very much.

The Lyceum Department of the "Progressive Thinker" has been of untold benefit. Mrs. Cadwallader has so kindly given me the Department to work through. It means a great deal to me. Then, Mrs. Cadwallader has been untiring in her efforts for the Lyceum work in this country, and I am safe in saying that it is through her efforts that the Lyceum work is what it is to-day.

I send my heartiest greetings to you and the Lyceum workers in England.

Yours fraternally,

C. RUDOLPH MALMBERG,

National Lyceum Supt.

#### GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN NATIONAL SPIRITUALISTS' ASSOCIATION.

Brother Kitson:

Your cordial favour of November 21st is to hand and appreciated. I am glad that you are favourably impressed with the work for Lyceums being done by our Association. We are striving to advance the Lyceum cause and are much pleased with the progress being made. This office is giving constant attention to Lyceum needs and assisting to promote them. There is certainly good progress being made. Factional effort is not sufficient to care for that branch of the cause; it is the plain duty of all to assist. The future of our cause depends greatly upon Lyceum work and the conservation of interest in Spiritualism by an adherence of children.

We will be glad to have you make any suggestions for our effort or plans. Advice is always welcome.

Fraternally,

GEORGE W. KATES,

Secretary.

600, Penna. Ave., S.E. Washington, D.C.

*The Two Worlds'* Christmas double number duly reached us. It is full of good, interesting articles on current topics. The place of honour is given to Dr. J. M. Peebles' fine photo, and a very appreciative sketch of the dear old doctor, from the pen of Mr. Robert A. Sudall, an old Lyceumist of Darwen and Glasgow, who now fills the post of confidential Secretary and Manager for the Peebles Publishing Co., Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. The article will be treasured by the many friends of the dear, venerable pioneer.

## LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

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

**RULE 3.**—Ordinary reports must not exceed 120 words. Special reports will be inserted as follows: The first 120 words free of charge. All above that number will be inserted at the rate of

6d. for every nine words. Payment must accompany all special reports or they will be cut down and inserted as ordinary reports.

**RULE 4.**—All Reports must reach this Office not later than Wednesday, January 27th, to ensure insertion in the February 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** (Abbey Street).—On December 6th, we opened our Lyceum exact on time by singing hymn 322. Invocation was given by our conductor, Mr. Eastwood. Silver chain, No. 96, "Pass it on," was led by Mrs. Scott. Musical reading, "Fold us in your arms," was led by Mr. Haworth, Mrs. Holden, and Mrs. Eastwood; Golden chain, "The Religion of Humanity," was led by our Conductor. Recitations were given by Beatrice Redmond, "Only a Baby Small"; Janie Hargreaves, "The Windmill"; Annie Fletcher, "Freddy and the Cherries"; Mr. Eastwood sang, "Forward Press to Conquer"; Miss Johnstone and Mr. Heywood sang, "Angels come to me"; Miss Williams sang, "Roses of Life." We closed with 335.—Mrs. Holden.

**BARNESLEY.**—On Sunday, December 13th, we held our yearly meeting for election of officers, which were as follows: Conductor, Mr. G. Stabler; Assistant Conductors, Mrs. Parkin, Mr. Lucas; Treasurer, Mrs. Bates; Secretary, Mrs. Goodworth; Organist, Mr. Hunt; Leaders of Marching, Miss L. Goodworth, Mr. L. Lockwood; Calisthenic Leaders, Miss B. Quinnell, Mr. J. Stewart; Guardians, Mr. Tommy Stabler, Miss A. Stewart.—L. Goodworth, Secretary.

**BLACKBURN** (St. Peter Street).—On Sunday, November 29th, we held a very interesting Open Session, conducted by the youngest girls of our Lyceum, and judging from the manner and sincerity with which the invocation and readings were given, the effect upon both young and old was very inspiring. The marching, calisthenics, and rod drills were gone through in a steady and orderly manner. Then followed recitations from Misses P. Wilkinson, A. Riding, S. Entwistle, and Marsh; Masters N. Derbyshire, W. Francis, J. Francis, J. Rushton, and Mr. Derbyshire. These sessions are always looked forward to with pleasurable anticipations. Our best wishes and fraternal greetings to all Lyceumists for a bright and successful year.—J. Savage, Sec.

**BRADFORD** (Boynnton Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, December 6th, Conductor, Mr. Crofts, and we had a real good day. A goodly number of pearls, recitations, solos and duets were ably rendered by the following: Messrs. Booth, Rowland Hill, Wilfred Ackroyd, and Misses Illingworth, Crofts, Greenwood, May Harris, Esther Long, Gladys Smith, Annie Harris, Olive Bell, and also by our blind scholar, a little girl, Lillian Bairstow, whom we all take a special pride in, as one of God's little treasures. We also had a grand Peace Day on Sunday, December 20th, when special prayers and concentration of thoughts and aspirations were directed to the attainment of universal peace.—E. Crofts, Sec.

[Please observe Rule 3.—Editor.]

**BRADFORD** (Otley Road).—We held our Open Sessions on Sunday, December 6th, morning and afternoon, which were very interesting. The younger scholars showed great energy and delight. We had readings by Messrs. Hale and Horn, Masters G. and H. Vinn, C. Craig, W. Gilbert, and Miss Hilda Raistrick; also recitations by Miss Raistrick, Masters G. Craig, H. Vinn (2), G. Vinn (3). We also had a solo by Miss Richmond, which was very ably rendered, and the sessions were very delightful and interesting.—H. Horn, Sec.

**BRIERFIELD.**—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session, the attendance was small, but we had a happy time. Lizzie Latham sang for us. Recitations and pearls were given by Sarah Simpson, Lily Bradshaw, Doris Mellow, Florrie Inman, Hartley Airey, Herbert Sellars, and Robert Dilworth. I trust the coming year will be a brighter and more successful for our Lyceum than this has been.—R. Dilworth, Sec.

**BRIGHTON.**—We had a delightful visit from Miss F. Scatterd, on December 6th, who recounted some of her foreign experiences in a breezy style. She also brought from Miss Estelle Stead a very acceptable present in the form of a "Book for Bairns." Professor Severn also spoke a few words of encouragement. Songs were rendered by Zoë Brigden and Iris Clarke, and the Lyceum band again distinguished themselves.

Consequent upon the recent "Bulwark" disaster we have regretfully to record the passing of George Goodwin, an only brother of some of our oldest scholars. George, however, soon manifested his presence in the home, proving beyond doubt his survival of bodily death. On the 20th we had a special "Peace" session.—Herbert Everett.

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.**—Our election of officers is as follows: Conductor, Mr. Humphreys; Assistant, Miss Johnson; Secretary, Mr. A. Sampson; Leaders, Miss L. Sampson, Master Sidney Neilson; Guards, Miss Maggie Baird, Master Fred Humphreys; Money Steward, Master Vincent Reinhold; who, along with Mr. T. Reinhold and Misses M. Reinhold and Mary Bard form the Committee. A dedication was conducted at our Hall by the Rev. David Leisk, well attended by the Lyceumists. Mr. T. Reinhold in addressing the children said, that little Frank Spence Fairburn was the first person to commence his life in our work, and expressed the hope that he would be proud of the fact when he grew up.—A. E. Sampson, Secretary.

**BOLTON** (Commission Street).—On Sunday, December 6th, we had our election of Officers as follows:—Conductor, Miss Wignall; Assistant, Mr. Robinson; Secretary, Mr. Heyes; Treasurer, Miss Hadfield; Guardians, Miss Blakely and Mr. Cooke; Musical Conductors, Miss Pilkington, Mr. Heyes; Marching Conductor, Mr. Robinson; Assistant, Miss Nield; Calisthenic Conductor, Mr. Walsh; Class Leaders, Miss Hadfield, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Robinson; Delegates, Mr. Blair, Mr. Robinson; Visitors, Miss Smith, Mr. Blair; Auditors, Mr. Tyldesley, Mr. Jones. On Saturday, December 12th, we had a tea party and concert in aid of "The Bolton Red Cross Fund." We were visited by the Bolton L.D.C., some of them taking part in the entertainment. After the entertainment the rest of the evening was spent in games and dancing.—Lily Nield.

[Will the new Secretary please send his address?—Ed.]

**BURNLEY** (North Street).—On Sunday, December 20th, we held our Lyceum Open Session, which was well attended. Mr. Wilfred Whittle conducted. We had with us our friend Mr. Wilkinson, of Burnley, as speaker for the day, who made the session a real success. S.C.R. and M.R. were conducted by the children. Marching and calisthenics were very smartly done. A good number of recitations and songs were well rendered by the children, and altogether a very pleasant session was enjoyed.—Miss Griffen, Sec.

**CHADDERTON** (off Brook Street).—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our quarterly sessions, friends present from Royton and Coronation Street. Session in the afternoon was bright and cheery. Readings good. Recitations by Sisters Hateley; solos by Mrs. Buckley, a friend, and the Lyceum children, Harriss and Hazlehurst. Mr. Buckley accompanied and gave us lively tunes for marching and drill. December 12th we had a social, about 50 friends and scholars present. We have decided to have them once a fortnight and have engaged Mr. Buckley as pianist; we trust they will prove a success. Thanks to all friends who came forward to help our effort.—James Lawson, Sec.

**CHESTERFIELD.**—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our usual Open Session, which I am very pleased to report, was the best we have had for some time, and I sincerely hope that this will be the beginning of better sessions for the year 1915. The following gave recitations: Evelyn Elliot, Selina Elliot, Ethel Briggs, Alice Delicate, Alice Smith, Lily Driver, Ethel Wale, Lily Marriot, Mr. E. Cowell, Mr. Heath, and Mr. R. Bowmer, D.V. I would like to take this opportunity to tender to all Lyceums at home and abroad the very best wishes for a prosperous and progressive New Year.—Edwin H. Widdowson.

**CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND.**—On Sunday was held the election of officers for the Lyceum. The retiring Conductor, Mr. Nortontaylor, spoke laudably of the work of the officers and members during the past year, and the Treasurer's report showed the finances of the Lyceum to be in a very satisfactory position. The following officers were elected: Conductor, Mr. Nortontaylor; Treasurer, Mr. H. Emerson; Secretary, Miss I. Dalziel; Musical Conductor, Mrs. Fulyerd. The singing of the Doxology closed a very harmonious meeting.—Miss I. Dalziel, Sec.

**DAISY HILL** (Mabel Street).—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our yearly meeting for the election of new officers, and the following were elected: Conductor No. 1, Mr. Woodward; Conductor No. 2, Mr. Withington; Secretary, Mr. Ernest Woodward; Marching Conductor, Mr. W. H. Towers; Calisthenics Leaders, Miss Annie Woodward and Jessie Lilly; Organist, Martha Woodward, assisted by Mr. W. H. Towers; Leaders

for marching, Betsy Hope, Rachel Fairbrother, Ernest Birchall and Frank Groves; Guardians, Bella Pass, Mr. J. Powers; Librarian, Miss Jessie Lilly; Auditors, Mr. Withington, Mr. Joseph Powers; delegates, Ernest Woodward, Mr. Withington. We wish all Lyceums success and prosperity in the new year.—Ernest Woodward, Sec.

DOUGLAS, I.O.M.—We are making progress here. We have engaged the Oddfellow's Hall at a rental of £35 a year. It is one of the nicest halls in the district, and will seat 400. We intend opening it on the first Sunday in the New Year. Our cause has taken root here and will flourish. Although things are so bad at present we continue to have good meetings. I do not think that any church in this town is better attended. We hope to ultimately be able to build a new church of our own.—Geo. Mathison.

EDINBURGH.—On Sunday, November 29th, we had the pleasure of witnessing a most beautiful and interesting ceremony, namely, the naming of a baby belonging to a former Lyceumist. The service was conducted by Mrs. Stair, of Keighley. The child's name was Ethel, and was enrolled as our youngest member. After the naming, the Lyceum rendered very effectively the hymn: "The Roses of Life." The attendance was very large and everyone was impressed with the service, which had a very uplifting effect.—M. M. Neilson, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on December 6th, when we had a duet from Albert Crooks and Joe Thornley; also two quartettes by Alfred Ainsworth, Arthur Holt, Joe Thornley, Albert Crooks, and Benny Crooks; songs by Edith Buller, Mrs. Holt, Louie Holt, and Nora Wrigley. We had also two mandoline solos by Mrs. Smith, our conductor, accompanied by Mr. Pickup, our organist. Altogether we had a very pleasant session.—Mr. Crooks.

HIRST.—The usual Open Session was held on December 6th, when the following took part: Pearls, R. Johnstone, E. Copland, H. Teasdale, Mrs. Hutchinson, S. McSparron, G. Roy, S. E. Barton, M. Sproat, A. Montgomery, and Mr. Johnstone. Recitations and solos: R. Johnstone, M. Sproat, H. Teasdale, J. Elliott, A. Montgomery, E. Sproat, R. Richardson, Mrs. Teasdale, Mrs. Hutchinson, M. Johnstone, M. Charlton, Mr. Minto, Mrs. Johnstone. A most enjoyable session.—T. Minto, Sec.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street).—Sunday, December 13th, we held our election of officers as follows: Conductors, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Smart; Secretary, Mr. Frost; Treasurer, Mr. Walsh; Librarian and Guardian, Minnie Robinson, Thomas Davis; Guards, Ada Elkins, Ada Emsall, G. Butterfield, Mr. Frost; Leaders, W. Tickle, Thomas Davis, James Hamer, Thomas Tickle, Amy Davis, Alice Fernihough, Mabel Robinson, Sarah Butterfield; Musical Conductors, Albert Fernihough, Ivy Walsh, Emily Tickle, Sarah Tickle, Alice Fernihough; Marching Conductor, Walter Frost, Ada Elkins; Sick Visitors, Nora Smart, Ada Elkins, Albert Fernihough, Sarah Tickle; Auditors, Mr. Smart, W. Frost; Delegates, B.L.D.C., Mr. Frost, Mr. Smart.—R. Frost, Sec.

HYDE.—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session, when we had with us our good friend Mrs. L. Nurse, of Rochdale. We had a record attendance in the afternoon. Recitations were given by the Misses E. Schofield, R. Lee, and J. Oldham. After the exercises Mrs. Nurse spoke a few words to the Lyceum. The evening service was also well attended, the assistant conductor, Mr. Wilde, occupied the chair, our conductor, Mr. G. Hill, along with four other Lyceumists, having joined the army. The children sang "The Angel's Song" out of the *Manual*, after which Mrs. Nurse gave an address, pleading for a better understanding between parents and children. We all had a pleasant time.—A. S. Wright, Sec.

JOHANNESBURG.—I am sending you a newspaper cutting so you may see how splendidly the children are working for the Belgian Relief Fund. We hope to send another large consignment of new clothing in a few weeks. We are going to take the children for a picnic to the Zoo Lake on December 16th, which is a great holiday here. We do hope to have a fine day as the children (and adults) look forward with great anticipation to the treat. Remember us all to your Lyceums, to which we wish a most enjoyable time at Christmas, and a bright New Year.—Kate Mason and E. Cowdry.

[The cutting credits referred to show that the Spiritualist Sunday School sent 64 new articles, per Mrs. E. Cowdry, Conductor, which is a credit to the Lyceum.—EDITOR.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On December 6th, we held our Open Session under the conductorship of Miss A. Clarke, when the following Lyceumists took part: Recitations by Misses Clarke and Revell, Mr. W. Wright and Mr. H. Waterton. Duets by Misses E. Wicks, P. Goldsmith, Misses D. Goldsmith,

U. Waterton; and by Masters A. Veary and S. Smith. We had a fair attendance of scholars.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, December 6th, conducted by Mrs. Whitmore. We had with us Mr. Huxley, of London, who performed the ceremony of naming Mrs. Lewis's baby, its spirit name being "Helibor," which means "Christmas Rose." He also gave a short address, which was very interesting to all. Alice Spence and Bertie Veary rendered solos, which brought the session to a close. The Conductor and Leaders give a hearty invitation to all, both old and young.—Miss M. G. West, Sec.

LINCOLN.—Open Session on Sunday, December 6th, was very enjoyable, and we are pleased to notice that the children came forward so well to do their part. The Lyceum gave a Service of Song to the Coultham Street Society on November 29th, and it was quite a success, both in the afternoon and evening. We are delighted to have received our honoured President's "Greeting" card, and all join heartily in thanks and good wishes for his peace and prosperity in the Cause. The children are looking forward anxiously to their party on New Year's Day, and their anniversary on January 10th.—K. Crawshaw.

LONDON, BATTERSEA.—The month's attendance at this Lyceum has been well maintained. We have had one or two visits from our workers, Messrs. Brooking and Williams. On November 29th, Mr. Clegg kindly conducted. Mrs. Mower kindly took part during the month twice, and interested the children. A welcome visit of members and delegates of the London Lyceum District Council on December 20th brought us a red-letter day, Messrs. Clegg, Drury and Miles, of Kingston, speaking. Many children gave individual efforts, and the pearls were many and unique. We still suffer from lack of workers. The Tea Meeting on this date was a success and thanks are due to the helpers.—Percy Smyth.

[Typing almost too faint to read.—Ed.]

LONDON, BRIXTON, S.W.—On Saturday, December 12th, the Lyceum held its first Social of the season, preceded by a tea, at which some 40 Lyceumists assembled. This was followed by a splendid programme that lasted three hours. During the evening a group was formed and a display of marching and calisthenics constituted an important item. The following took part:—Mrs. Mannering, Miss Edlow, Mrs. Williams and Mr. C. Hutchinson. Solos, Mrs. Staton, Mrs. Foll, Misses Nancy McBride, Bradley, E. Bradley, D. Mayville, Elsie Boddington and Nancy Sterling. Recitations, Charles Nowell, Kathleen Bywater, Elsie Boddington and Nancy McBride. Doll sketch, Elizabeth Heath, Daisy Bowyer and Doris Nuthall. Dance, Miss D. Mayville. Monologue, Miss Gladys Theobald.—J.W.P., Sec.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, Dec. 6th, we held our Open Session. We had as our speaker Mrs. Stockwell, who gave us a very useful address on "Truth," which was much appreciated. We had some good pearls, and individual efforts were given by the following:—Duets by Ivy Chambers and M. Welbelove; also Connie and Amy Brown. Recitations by Lena Humphris, Dorothy Foreman and F. I. Miles; and a piano selection by John Chambers. All well rendered and received with enthusiasm. I am pleased to report the Lyceum maintains that arduous and enthusiasm which is so essential to its wellbeing.—F. J. Miles.

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—On November 28th we held a very successful Concert and Fairy Play, in aid of the Children's Christmas Festival. The work of the children was splendid, and all did very well, whilst great praise is due to Miss Florence Stead, who trained them. Mrs. Stoner also added to the success by her work at the piano. On December 6th we held our usual Open Session, when Mr. G. F. Tilby was our speaker, who gave us a very stimulating address. The individual efforts of the children were of a high standard, and shew a steady advance on their previous work.—J. W. Puxley, Sec.

LONDON, PECKHAM.—On Sunday, December 20th, we held our Open Session. There was a fairly good attendance. Individual efforts were good. Nancy Worell, song; Nora Clarkson, recitation; Leslie and Wilfred Williams, recitation; Charley Williams, violin solo. Pearls were very good indeed, especially from the young ones. Our marching has not been quite so good lately, owing to our Leader being away on business. We hope to pull up again soon.—Mrs. S. Clarkson, Sec.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—Our Lyceum is progressing steadily, three new members having been enrolled during the month. Individual efforts have been well rendered by little Ernest Newton, Albert Newton, Ernest Evans, Ronald Jones,

Lily Hassel, Rose Perry, Mrs. Povey, Mrs. Hassel, Mrs. Newton, Misses Emily and Lottie Firth, and Mr. Stow. The three monthly prizes have been won by Miss Rose Perry for highest marks obtainable for attendance, conduct and items, and she was presented with a very pretty silver bracelet. Mr. Self paid us a visit, bringing greetings from the Woolwich and Plumstead and North London Lyceums. Mrs. Hassel has started a Lyceum Developing Circle, which we hope will be of great benefit to all who attend.—Kathleen Jones.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—We are still progressing, though somewhat under difficulties, owing to our officers not being able to attend as regularly as they would like, but still we are moving. On Sunday, December 6th, a memorial service was held for the passing to the Higher Life of one of our scholars who had been with us since the Lyceum was started, and her smiling face is sadly missed, but four days later another little girl came to soften the loss in the family circle. We are glad to have back amongst us Mr. Croft, of Hull, whose kind help we are pleased to have at this time.—H. Watthey, Sec.

MANCHESTER (Maskell Street).—On Sunday, December 20th, we held our usual Open Session, when a very good attendance was recorded. Recitations were well rendered by Miss G. Stirling, Miss B. Stirling, Master G. McClelland and Master F. Stirling. Solos by Miss A. Sharp and Miss B. Stirling. We were also honoured by a visit from Mr. Vickers, President of B.S.L.U., who gave a very helpful address, which was closely followed by all present. This brought a very enjoyable session to a close.—Miss Quigley, Sec.

MANCHESTER, HARPURHEY (Mitford Street).—The annual general meeting was held on Sunday, December 6th, for the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months, with the following result:—Conductor, Miss E. Elliott; Assistant Conductor, Miss A. Markham; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. J. H. Farrer; Financial Secretary, Mr. Walton; Treasurer, Mr. Dolman; Guardian, Miss Walton; Musical Director, Master G. Smith; Assistant, Miss L. Smith; Calisthenics Conductor, Miss E. Smith; Marching Conductor, Mr. Hood; Captain of Guards, Mr. A. T. Smith; Guards, T. Nightingale, J. Walton, E. Hooper; Sick Visitors, Mr. Walton, Mr. Gilbert, Miss Powell, Miss K. Thomas, Miss Polly Thomas.—J. H. Farrer, Cor. Sec.

MANCHESTER, OPENSHAW (Beulah Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, December 20th, conducted by Mrs. Wilson. Recitations and solos were given by Lily Watson, Annie Campbell, Jessy Campbell, Lucy Cahill, Jenny Jones, John Watson, John Owen, Willie Price and Mrs. Price. Miss Emily Owen ably presided at the organ. The marching, calisthenics and readings were gone through with success. We again had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Driver name the child of two of our friends, and it was beautiful. The session was well attended. Several of our old scholars put in an appearance, and we were very pleased to meet again. Hoping they will once again endeavour to join us in our work for Truth.—J. A. Price, Sec.

MANCHESTER, SOUTH (Princess Road).—Our Lyceum is going on as usual, but we are sorry to report the transition of Mrs. Gilbert, an old worker. Our sympathy goes out to her loved ones. When our friends pass on let us try to realize they have only gone before. We held our Open Session, Mr. J. Henley being our speaker. He tried to impress upon the friends that if Spiritualism was good for them, it was good for their children, and why not send them to the Lyceum and have them brought up in the truth? We hope our friends will consider this matter. We wish all our Lyceumists everywhere a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.—Dora Parker, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, BENWELL (Co-operative Hall).—We held our Session on the 29th of November. Our Conductor, after a good response of recitations, spoke a few words and brought around several speakers' views on Brotherly Love to one another until he had reached his goal. Then he spoke of the Annual Christmas Treat, which was coming near, and a suggestion was put forward that the Lyceum give their Annual Christmas Tree to the Belgian children, and when this was explained to the Lyceum and the motion put, there was not a hand that did not go up, and our Lyceumists are all little ones, which made the sacrifice all the more commendable.—J. Scott, Sec.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON AND BYKER.—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session, conducted by Mr. Patterson. Recitations by Arnold Patterson, Lily Eke, Annie Shadforth, Lavina Wardle, Mary Wardle. Pearls, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Eke, Fred Eke, Beatrice Eke. 134 in *Manual* sung by Mr. Eke, Fred Eke, Alice Eke. Solos by Miss J. Hughes, Alice Eke and Mr. B. Westgarth. Election of officers

for the year:—Conductor, Mr. B. Westgarth; Assistants, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Patterson; Guardian, Miss J. Hughes; Assistant, Miss A. Shadforth; Musical Conductors, Mr. G. H. Westgarth, Mrs. Patterson; Treasurer, Mr. L. Pinkney; Guards, Mr. Hull, R. Hughes, J. T. Shadforth, J. Wilson; Leaders, Mrs. Hunter, Misses Hughes, Eke, Jobson, Dods-worth, Mr. Paterson and Mr. Hull.—Mrs. R. Hunter, Sec.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, WALLSEND.—Since entering our new Hall we have made good progress, and if only a few more of the older ones could find time to come to a session now and again, it would do so much to encourage the little ones. December 13th was our Open Session, and all did splendidly. Recitations were rendered by Florrie Innis, James McIntosh, Ella Finlay, Jeannie Oliver, Alfred Turner, Alex Jackson and Robert Jackson. A duet by Alice McIntosh and Jeannie Oliver was greatly appreciated, as was another by Florrie Innis and Janet Oliver. Arthur Emerson and Alex Jackson gave solos, which all enjoyed. With plenty of room, our marching and calisthenics are improving pleasingly.—Miss A. Lawrence, Sec.

OLDHAM (Union Street).—During the month we have had good sessions. Recitations have been given by Frances Rooks, Malisa Rooks, Florence E. Beasley, Miss Fielding, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Hargreaves, Mr. J. T. Standish, and Sydney Pointon. Solos by Babel Chapman, Miss Ashton, Hannah Baguley, Elsie Pointon, Lily Renshaw, Robert Roberts, Albert Fallows and Richard Wood. Duets by Lily Renshaw, Frances Rooks, Hilda Pointon, Lily Renshaw. Our Liberty Group has had a lesson by Mr. William James, on "Home Making, or what is a real Home," which lasted three weeks. During the month we are sorry to say that Mrs. Lewis, the mother of two of our scholars, has passed into the higher life.—Frederick Grimes, Sec.

PADIHAM.—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our usual Lyceum Open Session, under the Conductorship of Mr. G. C. Higham. On the whole we had a splendid session, being well supplied with recitations from Mr. W. Denbigh, Master A. Ward, Miss M. Wright and Miss F. Broadley.—C. H. Hoole.

PONTYPRIDD (River Street).—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our usual Open Session, which was ably conducted by Mr. A. Roston. Recitations were rendered by Misses Doris Eveleigh, Kitty Bowden, Iris Hughes, Gertie Hughes, Gladys Ricardo, Masters George Davies and Frank Ricardo. Miss Florrie Bowden ably rendered "In as much." Miss Dolly Snow sang "Sweet Golden Age." Master Bertie Worthing also sang for us. We had a very pleasant session.—Mrs. H. Rowlands, Sec.

PRESTON (Clarke's Yard).—On November 20th, at the evening service, the child of two of our Lyceumists, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, was given its name, attended by little girls in white, carrying flowers. Many members of the Lyceum were present and sang "Open the door for the children." December 6th, Open Session. This was the first Sunday for the new term, and we began well. Recitations were given by Alice and Molloy, Rena Colis, Nellie Nicolson, Will Beetham, Robert Fishwick and John Cartmell. Songs by the Misses Beetham, Moorby and Clarke. A bright and happy session. We hope our children will do their best to make every Open Session an interesting one.—Ellen Savage, Sec.

PRESTON (Lancaster Road).—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session. There was a large attendance. The silver chain recitation was well commented on by Mr. Jones, who also made an appeal that we all learn one mentally every month. Recitations were given by Miss Howarth, Miss Dickinson, Miss Jones, Mr. Jones and Joe Cusack. Duets were sung by T. Topping and David Rae, and Miss Walker and William Rae. We were given a treat with a duet on the piano by Ethel and Nellie Furness; also with one on the piano and violin, by Misses Porter and Walker. We had the best time of the year, but hope to do better with our new scholars next year.—Wm. Rae.

RAWTENSTALL.—We held our Open Session, December 6th, Miss C. Kilsby conducting. Miss Griffen, of Burnley, was district visitor. We had Silver Chain 42, Golden Chain 114, with questions and comments, and Musical Reading 218. Marching and Calisthenics were well gone through. The following contributed their efforts to entertain:—Recitations, Misses Olive Palmer, "The orphan"; Lily Stansfield, "Mr. Nobody"; Lily Wilson, "The mouse" and "Sunny June"; Sarah A. Rothwell and Dolly Whiddup, "Jenny Lee." Solos, Misses Griffen, Florrie Stansfield, Lily Stansfield. Duet by Misses Amy Kilsby and Sarah L. Barnes. A bright and happy session was brought to a close by singing 221. Election of officers took place December 20th.—Hoping for even better results in the future.—David Wilson, Sec.

READING.—The past month has been a most successful one. We have had excellent lessons from Stanley Taylor, Edward Parker, Miss Lovelock and Robert Deadman. Two concerts have been given in aid of the "piano fund," and were well attended and much appreciated. The Lyceum scholars produced a fairy play," also rendered a cantata, "The White Garland." Our attendances are good and much interest is manifested in the Lyceum work. There is no lack of workers. We are looking forward to another year of earnest labour, kindest greetings to the Editor and all Lyceums.—Mrs. C. Street, Conductor.

RISHTON (Eachill Road).—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Miss A. Haughton; Assistant Conductor, M. Isherwood; Calisthenics Conductor, H. A. Holden; Assistant, Omerod Edwards; Secretary, E. Omerod; Guardian, Hemsley Whalley; Librarian, Ronald Holden; Marching Conductor, Mr. Cooke; M. F. Haughton, Rod Conductor. We had a very good Open Session on December 13th. Recitations were given by Lizzie English, Rita Omerod, Jessie Steele, Elsie Ridgway, Eva Omerod and Joe English. Duet by Misses M. Isherwood and E. Omerod. We spent a very pleasant morning together. I do sincerely hope that our newly-elected officers will do their best to make our Lyceum a progressive one, and thus grow in wisdom and love.—E. Omerod, Sec.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—On December 12th we had our Lyceum Annual Tea and Entertainment. There were about 165 present. After tea, prizes were distributed by our esteemed Conductor, Mr. Holt, to the prize winners of the past year. Mrs. Lingard presided, and spoke very encouraging words for our Lyceum. We had a splendid entertainment. The children gave a grand display of the cantata, entitled "The White Garland." We also had a most amusing sketch by nine of the Lyceumists, entitled "Havin' their photographs taken." And two of our Lyceumists gave us a duologue, entitled "An old account." Solos and recitations were also nicely given. All credit is due to those who helped to make such a successful day.—Mary Taylor, Sec.

ROTHERHAM.—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session, with a good number of Lyceumists and friends present. The marching and calisthenics were excellent. Our Conductor, Mr. Chappell, gave a paper, entitled "Spirit bodies," which was highly appreciated, being very helpful. Ellis Kand sang "Joybells," No. 340, L.M. Recitations by Arthur and Cissie Bruce, May and Horace Hempshall; after which some good advice was given to the elders. Let us hope it will have the desired effect. This brought one of the brightest sessions to a close. On Saturday nights we have opened the rooms for pleasant evenings, with the object in view of bringing the elder Lyceumists and Society members closer together.—J. Cole, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, ATTERCLIFFE.—On Sunday, December 13th, we held our annual meeting, for election of officers for 1915, when we are hoping to make greater progress than we have done this year. We are severely feeling the loss of two of our Conductors, who have enlisted in the Army, and we earnestly wish they will not be long before they are able to join us once again. To all Lyceumists we send our best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.—E. Pegg, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Sunday, November 29th, Mr. Childs gave a paper in the Liberty Group, dealing with the subject, "Mediumship," in a most creditable manner. We held our Open Session on Sunday, December 6th. We had a good attendance, and the voluntary efforts of the children were excellent. About 18 junior Lyceumists gave recitations. We hope for better response from elders next Open Session, especially soloists, so that the programme may be more varied. We held the second Lyceum Children's Social, Thursday, December 10th, a good number of Lyceumists being present. On Sunday, December 13th, Mr. Hazledent gave a paper on, "Predestination and our Individual Liberty." Much discussion followed. The remarks of Messrs. Oaten and Vickers were exceptionally good.—G. Stevenson, Sec.

SHIPLEY.—On Sunday, December 13th, we held our Annual Members' Meeting for the election of officers for the coming year, 1915. The following are the elected:—Conductor, Mr. Oldfield; Assistants, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Cloughton and Miss Tordoff; Junior Teacher, Mr. Whitehead; Treasurer, Mr. Coles; Secretary, Mr. Cloughton; Guardians, Misses Doris Barker, Sarah Ann Robinson and Sarah Murphy; Leaders, Mr. Whitehead and Miss Sarah Holdsworth; Musical Conductor, Mr. Coles; Librarians, Miss Alice Robinson and Master Albert Tadman; Guards, Miss Winterbottom and Miss Alice Robinson. Various things were discussed for the advancement of the Lyceum. Mr. Jackson proposed a vote of thanks to all retiring

officers, seconded by Mr. Whitehead. This ended a very pleasant day.—H. Cloughton, Hon. Sec.

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Eldon Street).—On November 29th, Conductor and eight scholars paid a fraternal visit to Fowler Street Lyceum. Well received. December 6th, our first United Lyceum Session was held in King Street Mission. Our members who took part were as follows:—Solo, "Heart's flowers," Amy Large; "Happy Spirit Land," Alice Barnaby; "Hand in hand with Angels," Nora Menzel; "Clap your hands for joy," Maggie Walker; "Think gently of the erring one," John Parker. Recitations, "A noble boy," May Dietz; "What I live for," Isabella Woodall. Mr. Harris ably presided at the organ. December 21st, our Annual Christmas Social Gathering, where all members of Lyceum are expected to enjoy themselves free.—Wm. Woodall.

TODMORDEN (Halifax Road).—On Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session, when the following gave pearls: Misses D. Ashworth, G. Ashworth, E. Howarth, C. Howarth, A. Barker and Master H. Coates. Recitations by Misses E. Howarth, G. Howarth, C. Howarth, Mrs. Ormerod, Master J. Howarth, H. Howarth. Readings by Miss M. J. Slater, D. Ashworth, Mr. E. Ashworth and Master A. Howarth. We brought our session to a close by singing 306 in the *Manual*.—Mrs. P. Barker, Sec.

WAIHI, AUCKLAND, N.Z.—To-day we held our Open Session, and though few were present, the responses were good. After marching and calisthenics, the children recited pearls. Mr. Victor spoke a few words of encouragement to the Lyceumists, and one of our new members being present at a Lyceum for the first time, said it was a revelation to her to see the good work that was being carried on by the children. We intend holding a social, to bring the people together, and feel sure it will be a success.—Winired Morton, Sec.

WELLINGTON, N.Z.—On Sunday, November 8th, a resolution was passed by the children that instead of having their usual Christmas Tree and presents, to devote the sum of three guineas to the Belgian Fund. The children thought it a very good idea and were glad to be able to help, being quite willing to give up their annual enjoyment for the sake of their suffering brothers and sisters, who, we feel sure, are more in need of food and shelter than we are of enjoyment. We are also indebted to Mrs. Harris-Roberts, our platform Medium, for the gift of a new set of group banners, which are greatly admired and appreciated by the children, who, with the banners, assisted Mrs. Harris-Roberts in the explanation of colours, last Sunday evening. We are still progressing onward and upward in the cause of Spiritualism.—Alfred G. Miles, Sec.

WINDHILL.—We held our Open Session on December 6th, and there was a good attendance. After the usual proceedings, the following items were much enjoyed:—Recitations were given by Nellie Alderson, Albert Pickles and H. Alderson. Solos by Mrs. Copley, Messrs. E. Harrison and H. Alderson. Duets were well rendered by Misses Crapper and Hailstone, and Misses Copley and Hearthill. We hope to continue in unity, which is strength.—Miss Gott.

WINNIPEG (Polson Avenue).—On Sunday, November 29th, we had our election of officers, the following being elected:—Mr. John Parkinson, Conductor; Harry Forrest, Assistant; Miss Anderson, Treasurer; Mrs. Wm. Vernon, Secretary; Guardian, Mrs. H. Forrest; Captain of Guards, Ernest Vernon; Organist, Mr. Wm. Vernon, and Mrs. Ormerod, Assistant; Guards, Violet Vernon, Ruby Spencely and Maria Vernon; Teachers, Miss N. Hancock and Miss Elson Hancock. Sunday, December 6th, we held our Open Session, and we had a very good attendance. Solos were rendered by the following:—Elson Hancock, Mrs. Wm. Vernon, Mr. Pearson; duet, Violet Vernon and Mr. Wm. Vernon, solo, V. Vernon; recitations, Maria Vernon and Ruby Spencely. It was a beautiful session, and it felt good to be there.—Edith Vernon, Sec.

YORK (St. Saviourgate).—On Sunday, December 13th, the Lyceum held its Open Session. The two extra sessions were most successful. In the absence of our speaker, the local Lyceumists themselves supplied the services. The afternoon was devoted to solos and recitations, rendered mostly by the younger Lyceumists, and, of course, the marchings and calisthenics were gone through, to show the people that Spiritualists forget nothing when training the children. In the evening Mr. Hall, Conductor, took the chair, and spoke with fervour from S.C.R. 85, while the Secretary made a few seasonable remarks from G.C.R. 218. Recitations and solos were rendered, and also a pianoforte duet by Miss Longby and a lady friend.—Charles Rich, Sec.