

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. 289.

FEBRUARY, 1915.

ONE PENNY.

Lyceum Banner Portrait Gallery.

Mrs. Johnson (Attercliffe, Sheffield).

The Sheffield Lyceum District Council are pleased to have the opportunity of giving some account of the life of Mrs. Johnson who is well known as the Mother of Spiritualism in Attercliffe. Born at Wolverhampton sixty-three years ago, Mrs. Johnson attended the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, being a teacher and worker there until after her marriage, forty-four years ago on Christmas Day. She is the mother of eight children and has thirteen grand-children, eleven of which she has taken to the Lyceum, and all have won special prizes. Her eldest grandson, George James Johnson, was the first infant to be named in the Attercliffe Society 21 years last November. The first public meeting was held in the Attercliffe Vestry Hall twenty-five years ago, Mr. W. E. Inman being the speaker and demonstrator. Mrs. Johnson's eldest son, George, was the first to reveal Spiritualism to his mother (he, at the time of his first investigation, being a very earnest Lay Preacher in the Church of England); much to his mother's distress, as she (like many more have done) thought he was going the wrong way, but he pleaded with his mother to search for herself, which she did, and was so convinced of spirit return that she determined to work and spread the truth she had learned. Both mother and son had much opposition to fight from family and friends, but they faced it bravely and came out conquerors.

But the beloved son did not live many years on this plane to help her in the good work she had started on, but her interest in the Cause was intensified by his transition, as he continually manifests his presence and loving help. He passed away March 29th, 1896, at the Manchester Infirmary after an operation, and was interred at Tinsley Park Cemetery, Sheffield. His last wish to his mother was that she would never give up, and besought them to commence a Lyceum, which

they did. Although very often under great difficulties they struggled on, and to-day we owe much to the perseverance of our Lyceum mother, and the helpers she had for the splendid Lyceum we now have of over 150 Officers and Lyceumists. Mrs. Johnson has been a conductor many years, and obtained a special prize, of which she is very proud, for three years' attendance, being neither absent nor late. On the opening of our Church, five years ago, she was honoured by laying a stone, and she is still a very active and earnest worker, and is eagerly looking forward to the Conference to be held in Attercliffe in May. We wish her a very happy and long life. Her help and sympathy are sought for far and wide, and she gives all a loving welcome, and is never tired of spreading our gospel. She has entertained most of our platform workers.

CHARLES SAXELBY.
J. K. JONES.



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.

THE LYCEUM MANUAL OFFICERS' EDITION is now ready, which contains, in addition to the ordinary Lyceum Manual, A. J. Davis (abridged) Lyceum Manual; Marching and Calisthenics (illustrated); Marriage Service, Interment Service, Naming of Children Service, and hints on teaching infants and youths and maidens. Price to Lyceums in the Union, 2/6 per copy, post free, or 27/- per dozen, carriage paid. To other Lyceums, 2/9 per copy, post free, or 30/- per dozen, carriage paid. Order from the Lyceum Union's Office, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

"SOME REMINISCENCES." By the late Alfred Smedley, including an account of Marvellous Spirit Manifestations—Medium in a Cage—Spirits materialise, hold conversation, and dematerialise in full view of all present—Spirits make Wax Mould of their feet, etc. In Cloth, gilt lettered, 14 illustrations, price 2/-, reduced to 1/-, or post free 1 1/2. 9/- per dozen, carriage free. SPECIAL OFFER: 25 COPIES 12/6 CARRIAGE FREE.

Girls' Own Corner.

BY MRS. GREENWOOD.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn
Feb. 7	395	75	213	122	356
Feb. 14	357	77	205	126	408
Feb. 21	396	409	215	144	406
Feb. 28	342	322	213	124	356

Pearls.

FEB. 7.—"To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of education. Make them men first, and religious men afterwards, and all will be sound."—*Ruskin*.

FEB. 14.—"Fame only comes when deserved, and then it is inevitable as destiny, for it is destiny."—*Longfellow*.

FEB. 21.—It is not what a woman does, but what she is, that a man loves and finds lovable.

—*Norma Lorrimer*.

FEB. 28.—"Our real world is full of dreams: we dwell in airy castles, and our joys are our aspirations."—*Robert Blatchford*.

WAS IT A DREAM?

In dream state I found myself in a country cottage, and noticed two old people quietly talking to each other. They were happy in each other's company—almost like lovers—for he watched her face in its varying expressions in gently stroking her silvery hair, so soft and beautiful, and called her "My Mary!" She responded with a lovely trust in her gaze, and evident tender regard for him who had been her best friend for many years. He was "My William!" and this possessive element had always been prominent. I could tell in some unaccountable way that it had grown about them much as climbing roses cling to and cover up the rough exterior of the cottage wall. They were watching the sunset. The sun's rays were losing their brightness, seeming more like reflections of a dying glory as the moments passed, whilst the room itself was cosy, bright and comfortable. I wondered why those two seemed excited and yet quite happy, but presently William's attention was caught by something appearing in the distance as he watched it coming nearer, nearer until the little company of bright beings carrying something tenderly, were clearly defined. Mary! he called, they are coming! Come let us meet them, my beloved! and down the path they went together.

I moved also, not in the manner one moves from place to place, but as if I was carried forward and the motion was delightful. I thought to myself, "Painters must have understood this mode of transit, and was the reason for their angels having big wings. The peculiarity of it all was, I was unseen by my friends, and yet I could participate in the scene around me and understand the import of every action. I watched the on-coming party, whose graceful gliding movements and radiantly happy faces bespoke the happening of something of great importance.

"Mother mine!" said the first of the group, "we have brought you a precious gift to care for; it is tiny, but perfect, a bundle of love just sent as 'luggage in advance.'" "Yes!" said another, "it has left a young mother, only for a very short time, and we must hurry away to bring her too." They laid

the little one, which was enveloped in a billowy mass of white, in the arms of Mary, and were gone before any further questions could be asked.

"Come Mary," said William to the astonished lady, "let us take it home and have a look at it," and back they went to the cottage where Mary quickly sat down on a low stool and began to unwrap the mysterious bundle, just to have a look at it, as William had said. A beautiful baby was revealed. As the little head, curly and soft, lay on her arm, they both said, "this is wonderful! God is good to us!" Presently two little brown eyes opened, peeping into life, and William and Mary both said, "My sweet; My pet!"

Whilst this was happening I noticed a rich rose coloured light spreading over the tiny group, the light of love, and in its glow I left them, for my dream—as dreams often do—shut off that scene, and instantly I was conscious of another place, the atmosphere of which was depressing, and for a time I was unable to see anything. Grey, grey, grey everywhere. Sorrow sat, stood, moved about the place, I felt tears like rain were falling, sad hearts were there. Gradually my eyes became accustomed to the dimness and I saw a young girl wife lying still and unconscious on her bed, and around her were beings busily engaged in covering a form which I perceived was gradually and slowly freeing itself from that that lay on the bed. These were unseen by earthly friends or perhaps their sorrow would have been lessened. The angels—for such they were—were singing:

"Come away! Come away,
We will guide you o'er,
'Tis almost day!
Come, come away,
To yonder shore . . ."

And she went.

The scene changed and I was back at the cottage before the arrival of the convey of angels that had left the home of grief with the one they were bearing home.

Once more the aged couple watched for the promised visitors. William shaded his eyes with his hand, and Mary too, to try to see who was coming, when a sudden inspiration came to him, a thought dispatched from the coming group like a telepathic message. "I believe it is Jennie! our Jennie!" he said, and they clasped hands in their agitation.

And it was so. Re-united; blessed thought.

PERMANENT SECRETARY FUND, 1914.

Further subscriptions to hand for the above Fund have been acknowledged, and the donors thanked on behalf of the E.C.: Darlington Lyceum (Bondgate), 5/-; Barrow in Furness, 5/-; Mrs. Preston, 2/6; South Shields (Eldon Street Lyceum), 2/6; Hull Lyceum, No. 1, 10/-; Mr. A. E. Sutcliffe, 10/-; Shipley Lyceum, 2/6; Bury Lyceum, 5/-; Wallsend Lyceum, 2/6; Hebden Bridge Lyceum, 5/-; Plaistow Lyceum, 2/-; Mr. Smedley, 5/-; Mr. Wheeldon, 2/6; Mr. Gull, 3/-; Mr. White, 2/6; Mrs. Bodell, 2/-; Mr. Holland, 1/-; Mr. Hawkins, 2/-; Belper Lyceum, 5/-; Winnipeg Lyceum, 4/-; Warrington Lyceum, 3/-.

JESSY GREENWOOD, *Hon. Sec.*
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."

LUCY AIKEN'S MISSION.

In relating to you these incidents in illustration of the work of the spirit, and its influence upon mortals, you are not to suppose they are fictitious,—truth is ever stranger than fiction; and the events of daily occurrence in the lives of human beings are more marvellous, more significant, in their bearings towards the mission and destiny of individuals than any tale of a novelist can possibly seem to be; while, in reality, he who weaves his web of fiction, filled with startling scenes and incidents, with which to regale his readers, finds the foundation of all that is most real, startling and beautiful, in his romance in the passing events of daily realistic life.

Yet another instance will we relate to you of the earnestness, depth of feeling, intensity of power, and persevering patience displayed by spirits in the pursuance of the work they have to perform for the benefit of mortals.

A terrible accident had happened in one of our large cities. A factory boiler exploding had dealt destruction all around; but by far the saddest result might be seen in an upper room in a tenement house not far away. A man, once strong and active, but now reduced to a mere skeleton, lay breathing the hours away in misery and pain.

His spine had been seriously injured from the effects of the explosion, rendering him a helpless, hopeless invalid, but not mercifully inflicting upon his body a fatal injury. Ah, no! Doomed to live, in agony and pain, deprived of strength, the days rolled by bringing no cheer to his heart save the blithesome presence, at morn and evening, of his cheery faced young daughter, who, in her frail person, alone stood between him and starvation.

This maiden of sixteen summers was employed in a cotton mill, which, from morning till night, she toiled for the small sum of sixteen shillings per week, out of which she was compelled to buy food for herself and parent, pay the rent, and provide medicine for her father. After this had been done it would seem that nothing could remain for clothing, and yet Katy was always neatly clad in clean garments of her own making.

Time passed on, and our cheerful young friend found herself wearing out, breaking down under the burden imposed upon her. Health gave way, her strength became exhausted, and at length a distressing cough set it, which the dispensary doctor, who attended her father, declared to be the herald of incipient consumption. It seemed that her work at the mill must be given up; but if this were done, what would become of her invalid father, as well as herself? Ah, who could tell!

UNSEEN HELPERS.

Thus matters stood with those of whom I write at the commencement of our story. Katy still kept at her post, in spite of pain and fatigue and despite the remonstrances of physician and others; and it was

found that she could accomplish as much labour, and perform it as satisfactorily as the strongest and smartest hand in the place. The cause of this amount of endurance on the part of a fragile girl, whose every breath was fraught with pain, was a mystery to all who knew her; but not to the angels. They brought her the power, day by day, to accomplish her work to the satisfaction of all; they magnetised her weary frame night after night, thus holding the ravages of disease at bay, even though they could not deliver her from suffering and pain.

The humblest of God's children have spirit friends and attendants, as well as the highest and grandest; spirits who watch over, guide, and direct those under their charge, are with the poor and lowly as well as with the wealthy and great; none are forsaken, none forgotten, all are cared for and blessed with angel ministrations.

In this case, the spirit mother of Katy brought strength and power to her daughter, aided by wise and good magnetic physicians of spirit life, who loved to benefit the needy, and soothe the suffering. And the father, upon his bed of pain, was enabled to behold his daughter attending to his wants, ministering to his necessities, and caring for him in every loving way. Surely a sight to cause rejoicing among the angels, who delight to behold good deeds and noble acts performed for others.

A SPIRIT'S EFFORT TO REACH HER FATHER.

Katy's father met with the accident at a mill owned by a corporation, the president of which, a stern, overbearing man, had but a few years before lost a lovely and only daughter of fourteen summers. This beautiful spirit had long sought to influence her father, in order to convince him of her continued existence, but all in vain, until now she had turned her attention to the needs and necessities of the lowly and suffering, and had entered heart and soul into the work of relieving their distress. For ten weeks following the accident the corporation paid the expenses of the suffering man, but at the expiration of that time all help ceased, and, as we have said, there was no resource but Katy's scanty earnings for the needs of the invalid and herself.

Lucy, the spirit daughter of the rich man at the head of the mill, had become aware of these facts, and, being strongly attracted to Katy, sought in every possible way to lighten her burdens.

She now redoubled her efforts to reach and influence her father, for she felt that something must be done for the relief of the young working girl and the suffering man. As yet her efforts were uncrowned with success; but still she continued them unceasingly, for she felt that it was her mission to penetrate the crust of worldliness that had gathered around her father's spirit, and to draw him upward toward the higher and better life.

Time passed. In spite of all that attending spirits could do, Katy was surely breaking down under the wearing labour imposed upon her; for the physical system could not withstand the strain brought to bear upon it. One day she fainted at her work, and it was a full hour before she was brought to her senses by the efforts of the frightened girls who clustered around her; then, weak and pallid, she was taken home, to be placed under the care of a physician who was in attendance upon her father. This was a time

of sore trial to the members of the little family; but, although they knew it not, spirit helpers were working for their benefit.

(To be continued).

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

DISTRICT VISITORS' QUARTERLY REPORTS.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.—There are 14 Societies in this district, 6 of which have no Lyceum. No interviews have been sought.

Smethwick.—I found a great improvement since my last visit. The younger Lyceumists seem to take greater interest. There is an improvement in the attendance of the youths and maidens. They should now secure Leaders for groups. Fare 1/1.

A. O. THOMAS, D.V.

BOLTON DISTRICT.—There are 9 Societies in this district, 2 of which have no Lyceum. Interviews have been sought. The re-opening of the Lyceum at Hindley is hopeless; the re-opening of the one at Platt Bridge is hopeful.

Horwich.—Nov. 8th, 39 present. Many came late. Adult recruits, and old service men and women wanted at once. Pleased to see both Conductor and Musical Conductor are back again to duty. For pronunciation, expression, punctuation and unanimity in their chain recitations they excel, and are the best I have visited. Questions and responses pertinent and relevant were fine. I understand groups are to be instituted. Fare 1/-.

Radcliffe.—Nov. 15th, 42 present, 30 in time. The morning was very cold, and the heating apparatus very faulty, but for all that we had a glorious session. The reading, responses and exercises were quite a surprise, and I am pleased to say the amalgamation has given us a fine Lyceum. Fare 1/-; postages 3d.

JAMES KNIGHT, D.V.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—There are 10 Societies in this district, 2 of which have no Lyceum. No interviews have been held.

West Bowling (Co-op. Hall). The morning was very wet which marred the attendance. In the afternoon there was a good session. A little more variety in the marching would be an improvement. Fare 1/6.

Carlisle Road (Ivy Rooms). A steady plodding along. The good instruction given in the groups is the important feature here. Fare 1/6.

In the afternoon I visited **Otley Road Lyceum.** It is in need of assistance from adult members. The children, on the whole, are remarkable for good conduct. Tram fare 2d.

Keighley still maintains a standard of good work. The children are attentive. At pearls, questions and answers they are smart. Marching and calisthenics good.

MARY L. STAIR, D.V.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 12 Societies in this district, 3 of which have no Lyceum. No interviews have been sought.

Brighouse (Commercial Street). I visited on October 25th. There is a decrease in the attendance. More enthusiasm is required. It requires a Leader who can make Spiritualism interesting and exercise a personal influence. They succeed in physical exercises, but not in mental activity. Fare 5d.

Halifax (Alma Street). I visited on December 6th, in the morning. It is not growing in numbers, otherwise it is in a healthy condition. They have a good Liberty Group. The officers also take their part in the management of the Society. Fare 10½d.

Hebden Bridge. December 6th. In the afternoon I visited this Lyceum. It has been hard hit by removals, but the workers plod bravely on. The sessions are always interesting. Fare 1/5.

SETH ACKROYD, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—There are 17 Societies in this district, 5 of which have no Lyceum. No interviews with them have been sought.

Leeds. October 4th. I opened a Lyceum at Woodhouse Street, with 12 scholars, when a nice little session was held, and needed help given. Fare 1/5.

Wakefield. November 22nd. A punctual start. A good number present. Chain recitations good. Also good recitations, solos and pearls. Both morning and afternoon sessions were good. Fare 1/-.

Normanton. November 29th. This is a small Lyceum, the work falling on the shoulders of two or three faithful workers.

I stayed at the evening's service and made an earnest appeal to the Society's members for more workers. Miss Smith, of Leeds, ably seconded my effort. Fare 1/6.

Osselt. This Lyceum was re-opened on November 29th, assisted by a number of Lyceumists from Dewsbury. I visited them on December 6th, when a very good session was held. Fare 4d.

Leeds (Psycho.) I visited on December 20th, when a very interesting session was held. Responses, recitations, solos and pearls very good. Fare 1/3.

J. COLBECK, D.V.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.—There are 20 Societies in this district, 9 of which have no Lyceum. Two interviews have been sought and one held. Result, the re-opening of the Southport Lyceum, and also that of *Seacombe* on October 11th. Mr. Ross (Daulby Lyceum) conducted; also on the 18th, 25th, and November 1st I again visited. Pleasant sessions. Numerically small. Workers required here. Lyceumists please note. Expenses 2/4.

Crewe. October 18th. Late start, 54 present. I beg to suggest that simpler words be used. Reading rather quick. Singing nicely rendered. Marching: leader's step is too long for the little ones to keep up with. Calisthenics good, but too quick. Groups: leaders too much in evidence except one. A good session on the whole. Expenses 2/9.

Liverpool (Daulby Street). November 15th. Prompt start; nearly fifty per cent. of the 33 present were late. Good session, but not up to the usual standard. Reading and singing good. Marching: Carriage not good. I was pleased to see the breathing exercises being practised. Calisthenics good except uneven time. Groups: Leaders too much in evidence except one. Expenses 2/4.

GEORGE A. MACK, D.V.

LONDON DISTRICT.—There are 25 Societies in this district, 14 of which have no Lyceum. Three interviews have been sought. Result: No time to spare to teach the children our truths.

Brixton (Stockwell Park Road). I was at the re-opening here. Mr. J. W. Parker, the conductor, is an old Lyceumist and conductor, and intends to make this Lyceum one of the best in London. Fare 1/-.

Plaistow. There is a great improvement here. Pearls and recitations very good. The hall is too small for calisthenics. Fare 2d.

Holloway (Grovedale Hall, Grovedale Road). This Lyceum is keeping up to its standard. The pearls, recitations, marching and calisthenics were all good. A very happy session. Fare 10.

Tottenham. This Lyceum is well conducted, though small in numbers. Pearls, recitations, marching and calisthenics good. Fare 1/-.

Peckham. Prompt start. Pearls and recitations good. In the marching and calisthenics there is room for improvement. They have formed groups, and had a good session. Fare 1/-.

Battersea. I am pleased to say there is a marked improvement here in the general tone of the session, and the marching and calisthenics. Pearls and recitations good. More officers are needed here. Fare 10d.

Plumstead. I regret to report that this Lyceum has been affected with the war. Some of the Officers being engaged at the arsenal have to work on the Sunday, and some have gone to the front. Pearls, recitations, marching and calisthenics good. Fare 8d.

Little Ilford. This Lyceum has lost its conductor, who has gone to Canada. The new conductor does his best to explain the various recitations. Pearls and recitations good. Fare 2d.

During a recent visit to Bournemouth I had an interview with the members of the Society here, and was pleased to find several of them favourably inclined to starting a Lyceum, and hope to learn of such being done at an early date. Postages for the quarter 1/2.

M. CLEGG, D.V.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.—There are 20 Societies in this district, all but one have a Lyceum, and I hope that one will be re-opened shortly.

Nelson. October 4th. A splendid Lyceum and a credit to the Lyceum cause in all departments, particularly the musical section. Fare 4d.

Burnley (Hammerton Street). October 18th. Readings well rendered, good discussion. Marching faulty in step. Calisthenics: carriage and energy can be improved upon. Fare 2d.

Accrington (Abbey Street). October 25th. A very creditable session considering it is a small Lyceum. Sympathy and harmony prevailed. Fare 1/2.

Colne. November 22nd. Prompt start. Sweet singing, reading good, and splendid comments. Marching fair. Calisthenics very good. Fare 9d.

R. LATHAM, D.V.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.—There are 15 Societies in this district with a Lyceum attached, the number without a Lyceum is not known.

Dearnley. October 11th. This Lyceum seems to hold its own against difficulties. Goodwill and harmony prevail. Fare 1/7.

Oldham (Elliott Street). November 15th. Small attendance in the morning; good attendance in the afternoon. A very fine session throughout.

Todmorden (Halifax Road). Rather late in starting, but a very interesting session with the little folk, who give great promise of much good in the future.

Todmorden (Eagle Street). This is a finely equipped and well organised Lyceum, everything is so well rendered. Great interest was taken in the groups. Fare for combined visits 2/6.

Chadderton. December 13th. Punctual start. Several from other Lyceums who assisted in various ways to make the session interesting. Fare 2d.

Royton (Spring Garden Street). December 20th. This is a new Lyceum in connection with the Central Spiritual Church. They have a membership of 47. A very fine session.

WILLIAM CHISNALL, D.V.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT.—There are 10 Societies in this district, 4 of which have no Lyceum. Three interviews have been sought and two held. Aberdeen Society thought such a step premature, being so far north; Camperdown Society will not make a start again until next season.

Dunfermline. A very good attendance and great interest shown. Singing and reading well done. But it is in calisthenics this Lyceum shows up best. A harmonious session, and everything points to further improvement by personal interest of parents.

Glasgow (Berkley Street). I was invited to conduct their Open Session, and found the same eagerness in response and efficiency in calisthenics. Pearls given by Lyceumists were of much value, this being a special item of this Lyceum. Perhaps the officers of the Society could see their way in future to give the Lyceum any other Sunday of the month but the one before a holiday for Open Session, as this affects their attendance very much, and they need every encouragement, they are worthy of it.

Glasgow (S.M.U. Royal Institute). I found a good Lyceum here, though newly opened, under the conductorship of Mr. Duncan. Very useful comments given by the conductor on the lessons, and eagerly followed by the children. Hope they will continue on lines they have started upon.

Edinburgh (Queen Street). A very interesting session, but the attendance was down since last visit, owing to very bad weather. The children are kept to time as the conductor sees that nothing lags, and this seems to hold their interest upon all that is done. The Musical Director is worthy of mention here, owing to his ability and great painstaking with the children.

Dundee (Overgate). This Lyceum has been badly hit by emigration. Still, much good is being done, and the children are more efficient this time than last visit.

Dundee (Ratray Street). An improved attendance is very marked here. More children are attending and stronger interest is aroused. Many of the children who attended Camperdown Lyceum have been enrolled here owing to Camperdown Lyceum being closed. Progress is being made, and a harmonious feeling prevails. Visiting expenses *nil*. Postage and stationery 2/-.
DANIEL URQUART, D.V.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.—There are 14 Societies in this district, 5 of which have no Lyceum. Three interviews have been sought in the Doncaster neighbourhood on September 27th to try and revive lapsed Lyceums. Bently Society promised to try again when it had become more settled in its workings. Dolphin Chambers and Wood Street are lacking someone enthusiastic enough to push the question forward. Expenses 3/-.
SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

Sheffield (Paradise Street). November 8th. A nice improvement. Large Liberty Group, which adjourned to the meeting in the room below to hear Mr. Vickers.

Attercliffe. November 22nd. Large attendance, but few elders. Fine sentiments expressed by the Conductor, Mr. Vickers.

Chesterfield. December 13th. The usual originality and subtle handling of children, which gives this Lyceum such success, was demonstrated. I hope other elders are taking note to fit themselves for similar service in the near future. Fare 2/2.

Darnall. December 27th. A small Lyceum. I was glad to see the leaders doing their best under the adverse circumstance to maintain the Lyceum. May they not weary in well doing. Fare 4d.
R. BOWMER, D.V.

STOCKPORT DISTRICT.—There are 11 Societies in this district, 5 of which have no Lyceum. No interviews have been sought.

Macclesfield. Only a small attendance and a late start. The session was good. At the close I pointed out to the officers that punctuality was necessary to ensure success. I also advised them to display a little more energy in their efforts. I hope to find a marked improvement at my next visit. Fare 1/11.

The Stalybridge (Bennett Street) Lyceum has closed owing to the passing on of Mr. Croasdale.
J. MARSTON, D.V.

TEESIDE DISTRICT.—(Neither number of Societies nor Lyceums stated).

Gurney Valley. October 11th. Present 40. Responses good. Marching and calisthenics fair. Pearls, recitations and solos very good. Groups in good order. Improvement since last visit.

Bishop Auckland. Re-opening on November 15th. Present 27, including 4 from Shildon. Responses, recitations, solos and pearls good. Short addresses by adults. I visited them again on December 16th. Late start. 16 present, majority of them adults. Responses and pearls good. Marching not allowed by trustees of the building. One group was formed.

Darlington (Bondgate). November 22nd. Present 26. Responses good. Pearls (by boys only) good. Two groups were formed, one for children and one for adults. Fare 1/4.

Shildon (Hydesville). November 20th. Present 28. Responses good. Reciting, solos and pearls very good. Marching and calisthenics very good. No music, conductor marking time. One group lesson was good.

Darlington (Northgate). December 20th. Late start; present 48. Responses fair. Marching and calisthenics good. No pearls, recitations or groups, owing to the naming of a child. Fare 1/4.
FRANK COATES, D.V.

TYNESIDE DISTRICT.—There are 39 Societies in this district, 28 of which have no Lyceum, with which no interviews have been sought.

South Shields (Robinson Street). Improved attendance. Responses very good. Punctuality in the attendance is desirable. The marching could be improved. The Lyceum session fairly good. Fare 1/-.

Jarrow. This Lyceum still maintains its standard of efficiency. A number of absentees were noticeable. Fare 1/-.

South Shields (King Street). Very pleased to find a good improvement since my last visit, and trust it may continue. Fare 1/-.

Gateshead (Rectorv Hall). Punctuality could be improved. I would like to hear of this Lyceum seeing to the lack of attendances.

South Shields (Fowler Street). A poor attendance owing to the rain. Those present tried to make the session interesting. The discussion on Lyceum improvement was interesting. Fare 1/-.
WILLIAM HALL, D.V.

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

BELFAST.—Lyceumists and members paid their last respects to Harold Irwin, aged 12 years, the first Lyceumist in Ireland to pass to the higher life.—D. Smeltzen, Secretary.

DAISY HILL.—Passed into spirit life on January 11th, Adam Hodgkinson, President, whose mortal remains were interred at Westhoughton on January 14th.—E. Woodward, Secretary.

DEARNLEY.—Charles Frederick Augustus, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, passed away on January 15th, aged 12 years, a Lyceumist.—L. Bamford, Conductor.

ROYTON (Union Street).—I regret to announce the passing on of one of our Lyceumists, Charles Horsfall, aged 22 years.—Annie Haslam, Secretary.

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S VISIT TO KEIGHLEY.

In accordance with the announcement in our last issue the Executive paid a visit to the above historic town on January 6th and 10th. We say historic town advisedly, because it was in the above named town that Mr. David Richmond first taught of spirit return, and demonstrated the fact by spirit pheno-

mena in 1853. This was its first appearance in England. So while the Christians have their Nazareth, the Mohammedans have their Mecca, the American Spiritualists have their Hydesville, the English Spiritualists have their Keighley, where Spiritualism was first proclaimed in 1853, as already stated.

The second Lyceum that was started in England (Nottingham starting the first one in 1866) was at Keighley, on July 23rd, 1870.

It was at Keighley where *The Lyceum Manual*, *The Spiritual Songster*, *Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young*, and *The Lyceum Banner* were first printed, and continue so to be. The name of Keighley will hold a prominent place in the history of English Spiritualism and the Lyceum movement when it is written.

All the members of the Executive, with the exception of Mr. Mathison, were present, and enjoyed their tea, well served in a warm ante-room, which was a welcome change to cold, wet weather prevailing outside.

The business meeting was opened with an invocation by the President, after which the minutes of the last meeting were considered, along with the Secretary's general report; Lyceum Banner report; Treasurer's report; Permanent Secretary Fund report; and the reports of the various sub-committees.

Mr. J. E. Coward (Ulverston) was appointed D.V. to the North Lancashire and Cumberland District; Mr. W. T. Masters was appointed D.V. to the Nottingham District, in the place of Mr. P. Farnath (resigned on account of pressure of other duties). The final stage of the selection of Music Sheets (from the *Spiritual Songster*) was reached. A list of same presented and adopted. These will soon be offered for sale and the full list duly advertised. Parliamentary Rules were adopted and their publication decided on, a copy of same will be mailed to each Lyceum whose contributions for 1915 are paid.

The Vice-President was appointed to attend the next meeting of the U.D.C., along with Mrs. Nurse.

The appointment of the General Secretary for another term of five years was deferred till the next Lyceum Conference.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The circular urging the adoption of Study Groups, etc., was referred to the Education Committee.

The letter from Bolton L.D.C. appealing for three dozen copies of the *Lyceum Manual* could not be entertained without receiving instructions from the Lyceum Conference. The letter from the Rochdale L.D.C. appealing for leave to alter its name to South East Lancashire L.D.C. was duly approved. A letter from Lincoln for the Executive to hold its meetings on July 10th and 11th there, guaranteeing £2 2s. towards travelling expenses, was accepted with thanks. The meeting for October 9th and 10th is still vacant. Invitations for same are invited.

The following Lyceums made application for membership, which were duly endorsed and ordered to be placed on the Union's Roll: Birmingham (Handsworth), Parkgate, Sheffield (Paradise Square), Southport, and Toronto (corner of Brunswick and College Streets). The meeting was adjourned at 10.35 to Sunday after the morning session.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Although the morning session was an ordinary one there was a good attendance, the members of the Executive being in attendance, and taking an active part in the same, No. 3 series of hymn sheets being used for the occasion. The chain recitations elicited much comment of an educational nature. After the marching and calisthenics each member of the Executive was invited by Mr. Summers, the able conductor, to briefly address the Lyceum.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

A full muster of scholars and officers, along with a large number of adults, assembled at the Open Session, conducted by the President, Mr. Vickers. The following were invited to a seat on the platform: Miss Stair, the Lyceum District Visitor; Mr. Barnes, President of the Bradford Lyceum District Council; Mr. Gladstone, President of the Keighley Society; and Mr. Summers, the Keighley Lyceum Conductor.

"Come, sweet angels," was the opening hymn, and was feelingly sung. Mrs. Nurse rendered the invocation. Mr. Latham led the S.C.R. "The Divine Order," and offered lengthy comments on the same. M.R. "Scatter the germs of the beautiful" was led by Mr. Hargreaves, and ably commented on. A number of Pearls of Wisdom were contributed by members representing all sections of the Lyceum, some of them being pearls of exceptional value. Mr. Knott led the G.C.R. "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," and ably ex-

plained the inner meaning of the same. Then followed the marching, conducted by Mr. Summers. During the various evolutions, the initials A.J.D. (Andrew Jackson Davis) were clearly outlined by the Lyceumists. The Lyceum is to be heartily complimented on the same. The calisthenics were equally well executed. Recitations were contributed by little tots of girls who had to be lifted on to a chair in order to be seen, and solos were sweetly sung.

Mr. Owen, who was unable to stay till the evening's service, briefly addressed the Lyceum on the initials S.C.P.L. found on the Lyceum Badge, as signifying Sacrifice, Courage, Perseverance, and Love, each of which he aptly illustrated with story or anecdote. The whole of the session was full of life and interest.

THE EVENING SERVICE

was fairly well attended, and an appreciative audience listened to the speeches of the various members of the Executive. After the opening hymn, "Sweet Summerland," Mr. Kitson offered the Invocation. The President, Mr. Vickers, briefly explained the nature of the Executive's presence on that occasion, and added he would reserve his remarks till a later period, so as to give the speakers, some of whom had to leave by an early train, an opportunity to address the meeting.

Mr. Stewart (Glasgow) was not insensible of the power behind him, not only on the platform but the spirit people. As a body they were there on behalf of the children. It was reported of Michel Angelo that on one occasion, on seeing a large block of marble, he stopped and contemplated it with deep interest, and on being questioned as to what he saw in the rough stone, he remarked, "An angel, a beautiful angel." He had the block removed to his studio, on which he zealously worked until there stood revealed to the astonished throng the possible beautiful angel the sculptor had seen in the rough block of marble. And of every child, no matter how rough the exterior, there was the possible angel, and it was the mission of the Lyceum training to reveal it to the world.

Miss Hesp invited her audience to take an imaginary walk with her on a beautiful spring morn and see all nature bursting into life and activity. A second walk when the richard trees were in bloom, lovingly tended by the nursery man. A third walk when the rich ripe fruit hung on the trees fully rewarding the nursery man for all the love and watchful care bestowed upon them. This was used as a lesson and applied to the little child, with all its possibilities; the tender watchful care of its parents, its careful training and ultimate unfolding into splendid manhood, or womanhood, showing that due parental care and loving tuition well repaid the parents for all the care and training bestowed upon the children.

Mr. Hargreaves dealt with the value of religion in these times of national stress, and added, "We do too much of preaching about the brotherhood of man, and too little of its practice. The day of practical application of our glorious teaching was now present. He commented on the awful consequences that must follow on the slaying of each other on the battlefield. It was for Lyceumists to teach this, and help the rising generations to rise superior to brute force, and ended his earnest appeal for Brotherhood by reciting "A pretty good sort of a world."

After the singing of "The Roses of Life," Mrs. Nurse remarked that each member of the Executive was a worker. They were practical Lyceumists, and not merely testifiers in public. She proceeded to give quite a number of instances of cases that had come under her own observation of the beneficial effects of the Lyceum training.

Mr. Knott related some stirring and pathetic incidents in the life of an orphan boy, whose mother, in spirit life, had led him on in the path of duty until the time of revealing herself arrived, thus removing all doubts of the after-life, and at the same time showing her guardian care. He could vouch for the facts and the incidents, for he was the orphan boy. He made a rousing appeal to Lyceumists to stand by their principles in this time of war. Their work on the battlefield was not to kill, but as ambulance and red-cross attendants to tend the wounded and bear them away from danger. The duty of Lyceumists was not to slay but save.

Mrs. Greenwood, under the control of "Earnest" spoke as with a benediction as the time was short. He commended the able and forceful remarks of the various speakers who had so ably presented the case for Lyceum training. He wished to add that all were travelling the same road, and by and bye each would see the visible result of their daily lives, whether they had yielded to passion's power or calm resolution, and concluded by reciting the poem "Hidden Life."

The President briefly summed up the evening's efforts, and appealed for the able and continued sustenance of the Keighley Lyceum; returned thanks to the local friends for

their splendid welcome and entertainment, and trusted that much good would result from the Executive's visit to Keighley.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Secretary.

A VALUABLE PRESENT.

Dear Sir,—Will you allow me a little of your valuable space to return thanks to the Liverpool (Romer Street) Lyceum for its valuable present of a *Lyceum Manual*, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the Star of Progress Lyceum, Liverpool, to our Conductor, Wm. M. Cretney, to be lent at his discretion to our soldier friends." I appreciate this token of the Lyceum's love, which reminds me of the many happy hours spent with my fellow co-workers. I may also add they send me a copy of the LYCEUM BANNER each month.

PRIVATE WM. M. CRETNEY,
Royal Army Medical Corps.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council held its meeting on Sunday, January 10th, 1915. All the Lyceums in the district were represented, with the exception of Slaithwaite, who came later. The meeting commenced at 10.50, owing to the late train service. The final business was quickly gone through, but the question of the adjudicating competition occupied some considerable time, owing to the situation of the district, no Lyceum being able to be visited by a Judge from a distance unless he stayed overnight, and this the Council seemed unwilling to ask anyone to do, so it was ultimately decided that the Secretary should judge all Lyceums except St. Paul's, Alma Street, Mr. France to be the judge for this one. Nominations for office at the annual meeting, on April 4th, to be in Secretary's hands not later than February 16th, 1915. Delegates to the U.D.C. meeting, to be held at Manchester, were Messrs. Ackroyd and Ellis. Delegate to the B.S.L.U. Conference at Sheffield was W. Burrows. The Open Session in the afternoon was very good, many of the delegates taking part. As I was an enforced absentee, I have no report of the evening meeting.

W. BURROWS, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

With reference to my report under this heading, which appeared in the January issue of the LYCEUM BANNER, it occurs to me that the term "fund for benevolence," mentioned therein, may be somewhat misleading, and I would take this opportunity of stating that the fund referred to is the "S.N.U. Fund of Benevolence," of which Mrs. Stair is the Secretary.

W. J. CRETNEY, Council Secretary.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the above Council was held at Heeley on Sunday, December 27th, 1914. Mr. Vickers, who was voted to the chair in the absence of the President, opened with prayer. For the first time in its history it was an entire male council (ladies please take the hint). Reg. Bowmer was elected to act as Secretary, in the absence of Miss Mason, who has gone south for the time being. Minutes of last meeting were accepted, also correspondence. Messrs. Stabler and Papworth then gave U.D.C. report, which, after much ventilation relevant to the temperance question, was accepted with thanks. Thereupon we resolved to send a motion to Conference, "That a Temperance Sunday be held once per year and the S.N.U., Ltd., be asked to co-operate with us on that day." Mr. Stabler also tendered his resignation to Council, on account of his removal to Brighouse. His services to the district are here acknowledged. We wished him God Speed in his new appointment. The Education Committee's report was given by Mr. C. Haseldine and accepted. The D.V.'s report was listened to with interest and also accepted. We resolved to join the S.D.C. in a united demonstration at Conisboro', on August Bank Holiday, 1915. Nominations:—Mr. Ernest Vickers, President; Vice-President and E.C., Mr. George Magnus, E.C. The delegates took part in the afternoon Lyceum Session. The evening meeting was conducted by the Council. Messrs. Rawlinson, Haseldine, Bowmer, Humphreys and Vickers addressed a moderate assembly. Thanks to Heeley friends for successful Council.

REG. BOWMER, Sec., *pro. tem.*

UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council will hold its next meeting on February 20th and 21st, at the Ford Lane Lyceum, Pendleton, Manchester. There will be a public tea and social on the 20th. Tea at 5 p.m. Tickets 6d each. All delegates requiring accommodation to stay overnight must write Mr. A. O'Neill, 1, West Wilton Place, Cross Lane, Salford, before February 10th. A good muster of delegates for the Sunday is earnestly desired.

Order of Business:—Elect chairman, minutes, correspondence, motions, open council, place of next meeting, votes of thanks.

NOTE.—Mr. Batten, of Bolton, desires that the report of speech on the Temperance resolution at the last U.D.C. meeting be corrected as follows:—"That while our movement *does* teach temperance we must not dogmatise." J. E. ELLIOTT, Sec.

THE SHEFFIELD SPIRITUALISTS' L.D.C. EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The above Committee presented its report to the Council meeting at Heeley, December 27th, 1914, and the following education scheme was unanimously adopted:—All Lyceumists between the ages of 4 and 10 years to be given lessons as indicated in the *Lyceum Manual*, Officers Edition. Leaders of Groups to have a preparation class once per week.

Lyceumists from 10 years of age to Liberty Group to form Stage I.

Liberty Group to form Stage II.

An annual examination to be held for Stages I. and II. in December.

In case suitable teachers cannot be found for either of these stages in various Lyceum papers on the subject quoted by the syllabus, could be composed and read by willing Lyceumists.

SYLLABUS. STAGE I.

The origin, aim and purpose of the Lyceum movement.

The origin of modern Spiritualism by the Fox sisters.

The methods adopted by spirit people to prove their existence after death.

STUDY II.

Study the religious systems of the world, including those before the advent of Christianity, from which it will be seen that the idea of an after life, as survived after bodily death, has been uppermost in the minds of the people in all ages.

A study of the chronicles of the doings in bygone ages, the discovery of tablets and figures sculptured on walls, obelisks, etc., in ancient Babylonian, Roman and Egyptian cities, will disclose this fact.

Spirit phenomena, physical sensing, hearing, seeing, materialisation, automatic writing.

A research into spirit phenomena will be encouraged. One or two questions in the examination will give scope for such experiences and credit will be given accordingly.

Matter, molecule, atom, compound, physical and chemical change.

Conservation of energy and matter.

Printed syllabuses will be distributed amongst Lyceums in the district as soon as possible.

It is desired that all Lyceumists and officers shall participate in this scheme to ensure its success.

CHARLES E. HASELDINE,
56, Burcot Road, Meersbrook, Sheffield.

Correspondence.

A FEW THINGS WHICH LYCEUMISTS SHOULD KNOW.

In our last issue Mr. James Lawrence, in a letter headed as above, propounded a series of questions and suggested that Lyceumists should supply answers in order to show their knowledge concerning the Lyceum movement. The questions were as follows:—

- 1.—Who was the Founder of our Lyceums?
- 2.—What gave the idea of such institutions?
- 3.—Where, and when was the first Lyceum opened?
- 4.—Who is the President of the B.S.L.U.?
- 5.—Who is the Vice-President?
- 6.—Who is the General Secretary?
- 7.—Who were the principal compilers of the *Lyceum Manual*?
- 8.—What were the names of the original Lyceum Groups?

The following have sent in replies as follows:—

- 1.—Answer.—Mr. Andrew Jackson Davis the remarkable spirit seer.
- 2.—A.—Mr. Davis seeing a spiritual Lyceum and followed it in the material.
- 3.—A.—In the Dodsworth Hall, Broadway, New York, U.S.A.
- 4.—A.—Mr. Ernest Vickers.
- 5.—A.—Miss Alice Hesp.
- 6.—A.—Mr. Alfred Kitson, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, near Dewsbury.
- 7.—A.—Mrs. Emma Harding Britten, Mr. Alfred Kitson, and Mr. H. A. Kersey.
- 8.—A.—Daisy, Rose, Lily, Bluebell, Daffodil, Violet, and Sunflower.

JOHN WM. ANDERSON, age 14 years,
Member of the Newcastle, Royal Arcade Lyceum.

(Continued on page 26).

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

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ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 1915.

Helps to the Study of the Lyceum Manual.

Spirit of the Lord, on all shall be outpoured, No. 3. This has reference to a prophecy made by the prophet Joel, of which the following is the full text: "And it shall come to pass afterwards, that I will pour out my spirit (power) upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit (power)." Joel ii, 28, 29.

Superfluous [Sū-per-flōō-us], No. 135. More than enough; unnecessary, or useless.

Supernal [Sū-per-nal], No. 314. That which is above or in a higher region, or world. The realms supernal, fair and bright, are the spirit spheres.

Suppressed [Sup-prest], No. 115. That which can be put down, kept back, hidden, or concealed. It is affirmed of the Word of God as it is revealed in the mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms called the Book of Nature *cannot* be suppressed.

Talismanic sentiment, No. 103. A talisman is a kind of charm worn to protect the wearer from evil influences and other kinds of dangers. Similarly persons who can make the following sentiment a part of their being:—"My country is the universe; my home is the world; my religion to do good; my heaven wherever a human heart beats in harmony with mine," wears a kind of moral and spiritual charm that protects them against suffering from a too narrow view of life, its duties and responsibilities. They fully recognise that humanity is far greater and grander than nationality.

Talmud, No. 117. Instruction, doctrine or belief. The term is specially applied to a book containing the Jewish explanations of the Old Testament. The way in which it was obtained was:—"The early spiritual leaders of the Jewish people, accepting the Old Testament as divine, naturally made it an object of much study and attempted to furnish explanations of the more obscure passages. These explanations were handed down, orally, from generation to generation, till they gradually acquired the authority due to inspired writings, and were finally committed to writing,

called the Talmud. There appears to have been two sources of those oral explanations and amplifications: the Palestinian and the Babylonian. The first one is called the Jerusalem Talmud, and was written in the fourth century A.D.; the second one is called the Babylonian Talmud, and was written in the fifth century A.D., and is nearly four times as big as the first one. It has two parts: the text, or *mishna* (written in Hebrew, and the commentary, or *gamara* (written in Aramæan). The Talmud is arranged in six orders, consisting of sixty-three treatises, and 525 chapters. When the book was produced it was so highly prized that it became the second rule or standard of Jewish faith and practice, ranking next to the Old Testament, and no Jew was required to believe any doctrine, or follow any religious, moral, or ceremonial precepts except those recorded in the Old Testament and Talmud. The Christians long attached little importance to it. Now it is being admitted to be a storehouse of valuable information regarding the religion of the Jews in its later developments.

Thumb-worn creeds, No. 87. The various creeds believed in by the Roman Catholic and the Protestant Churches, which are memorised and recited throughout Christendom.

Tolerance [Tol-er-ance], No. 122. The tolerating or enduring of offensive persons or opinions.

Transcendently [Tran-sen-dent-ly], No. 139. Being superior in excellence. So the spirit children are much superior in appearance and excellency of form than the children of earth.

Transient [Tran-shent], No. 207. That which is of short duration; not lasting. So when we sing, "For our stay will not be transient in that happy spirit land," we are to understand that our homes in the spirit world are eternal, and not for a few years.

Tuition [Tū-ish-on], No. 223. Care over pupils, to teach them spiritual truths and moral duties.

Undulating, No. 148. Like the motion of waves. So "Undulating plains" are those where the ground has a wavy appearance, gently rising and falling.

Universal exponent, No. 115. The term "universe" means all worlds, sun, moon, planets, comets, stars, etc. "Exponent" means to explain, and make clear. So, no matter what preachers say concerning God; no matter what Bibles and sacred writings they may quote as their authority, we are here taught, "That nature" (as displayed on the earth, and in the heavens) "is the universal exponent of God; and reason is the external exponent of nature. Nature and reason combined constitute the only true and reliable standards of judgment." Note the name of the writer of this beautiful recitation. Christians have called him an Atheist, or a person who does not believe in God. Does he deserve such a name?

Unpliant [Un-pli-ant], No. 59. That which cannot be bent. So in daily life, when we are tempted to do wrong, it may be while at school, at the factory, workshop or office, we are to remain firm to what we feel to be right and just, heeding neither the threats of our opponents, nor the promise of the favours of our friends.

The Two Worlds reaches us regularly. Its pages are full of reports and articles pertinent to the movement. On January 22nd there was reproduced in its pages the article appearing in our last issue on "Christ and Anti-Christ." Due reference was given to THE LYCEUM BANNER.

THE LYCEUM RECITER.

MY BABY BOY.

Gently aside,
 The coverlet pressing,
 See, Mother's pride,
 Heaven's sweet blessing.
 From snowy bed,
 His angel face peeping.
 Hush, softly tread—
 My baby is sleeping.
 Dimpled each side,
 My rosy faced treasure—
 Drooping lips hide,
 His bright eyes of azure.
 Golden his hair,
 On lily brow curling—
 Lips—rubies rare—
 Has my little darling.
 Hushed now his glee;
 No laughing, no chattering.
 On Mamma's knee,
 No tiny feet pattering.
 Rosy and coy,
 His pillow caressing;
 Dear Baby boy,
 My hope and my blessing.

H. T. WHORLOW.

GOOD MORNING.

Good morning, dear children, and how do you do,
 This beautiful day bright and fair?
 The flowers and the grasses are nodding to you,
 And breathing the perfume of prayer.
 Did you notice the robin out there in the tree,
 His song almost bursting his throat,
 Did you quite understand all his musical glee?
 His mate did, I'm sure, every note.
 There are voices about us, plaintive and sweet,
 All over earth's wonderful land,
 And lives that are living close down at our feet
 Whose language we don't understand.
 But there are lives purer and fairer than these,
 That walk by our side every day;
 Their footsteps are noiseless as midsummer breeze
 That roams over valleys away.
 They bring us pure lessons from heavenly shrine,
 And murmur soft words in our ear;
 But we are so deaf to these voices divine,
 That oft'-times we fail e'en to hear.
 'Tis soul that must listen, 'tis soul that must see,
 To know these bright visitors true.
 O, may all your lives in such harmony be,
 That angels may whisper to you.
 "Good morning, dear children, good morning," they
 say,
 May each one reply in good cheer,
 "Good morning, sweet angels, from over the way,
 We're glad for your presence so dear."

EMMA TRAIN.

LIFE'S GAUGE.

They err who measure life by years,
 With false or thoughtless tongue,
 Some hearts grow old before their time,
 Others are always young.
 'Tis not the number of the lines
 On life's fast filling page,
 'Tis not the pulse's added throbs
 Which constitutes our age.
 Some souls are slaves among the free,
 While others nobly strive,
 They stand just where their fathers stood,
 Dead, even while alive.
 Others, all spirit, of life and sense,
 Their's the mysterious power,
 To live, in thrills of joy or woe,
 A twelvemonth in an hour!
 Seize, then, the moments as they pass,
 The gift of life is thought,
 Warm up the hours, let them glow
 By fire, or fancy fraught.
 Live to some purpose, make thy life
 A gift of use to thee,
 A joy, a good, a golden hope
 Through all eternity.

A. HENRY.

"THE GARDEN OF LIFE."

A great and wonderful wilderness,
 Long ago, was this Earth of ours.
 But the great Creator of countless worlds,
 Designed it a "Garden of Flowers."
 So He placed therein His labourers,
 Men and women with children sweet,
 To make this wonderful garden for Him,
 With glorious beauty complete.
 Each man and woman, boy and girl,
 At their own little plot must toil,
 We must dig, and plant, and carefully weed,
 To reap the best fruits of the soil.
 So when the great "Master" comes to review,
 He shall not see wasted hours,
 But all of us at our allotted tasks,
 Ready with fruits and sweet flowers.
 For each little plot must be perfect,
 Else t'will mar the beauteous design,
 Entrusted to us by the Master,
 To fulfil His purpose divine.
 Then patiently watch lest sweet flowers,
 Are early strangled by weeds,
 Remembering always—we reap what we sow,
 So carefully choose your seeds.
 Just try the seeds of kindly thought,
 Loving words—that bloom as sweet flowers,
 So the fruit we reap will be precious indeed,
 And a golden harvest be ours.
 Then when the dear "Master" calls us home,
 Every one will be ready to greet,
 With a bounteous harvest of loving deeds,
 To humbly lay at His feet.

LUCY CHAPMAN KNIGHT, Cardiff.

(Continued from page 23).

REPLY No. 2.

- 1.—Answer.—Andrew Jackson Davis.
- 2.—A.—His visits to the spirit world.
- 3.—A.—In Dodsworth Hall, Broadway, New York, U.S.A., on the 25th of January, 1863.
- 4.—A.—Albert Wilkinson.
- 5.—A.—Mr. Brinklow.
- 6.—A.—Mr. A. Kitson.
- 7.—A.—Mrs. E. H. Britten, A. Kitson, and H. A. Kersey.
- 8.—A.—Ocean, Water, Stream, Brook, Sea, River.

SIDNEY AND NELLIE DOYLE, North Shields, Ripon Hall.

REPLY No. 3.

- 1.—Answer.—Andrew Jackson Davis, the famous clairvoyant of America.
2. A.—It was Andrew Jackson Davis who visited the Summerland and saw the children in their spirit homes, and it gave him the idea of having Lyceums on the earth-plane similar to those he saw in the spirit spheres.
- 3.—A.—The first Children's Progressive Lyceum was held in Dodsworth Hall, Broadway, New York, U.S.A., on the 25th of January, 1863.
- 4.—A.—Mr. Ernest Vickers.
- 5.—A.—Miss Hesp.
- 6.—A.—Mr. Alfred Kitson.
- 7.—A.—Emma Hardinge Britten, Alfred Kitson, and H. A. Kersey.
- 8.—A.—Fountain, Stream, River, Lake, Sea, Ocean, Shore, Beacon, Banner, Star, Excelsior, Liberty.

ALICE TURNBULL, aged 12½ years,
North Shields, Rippen Hall Lyceum.

[Miss Alice Turnbull's answers are correct.—Editor.]

OUR BADGE.

Dear Sir,—On looking over last year's Report I find that 1567 Badges had been issued from headquarters during the period under review, and, allowing for many remaining unsold as yet, there must now be hundreds in every district where our Lyceums are established, considering the years which have passed since its introduction.

Yet how seldom do we meet a Lyceumist displaying his or her (should be) precious emblem, save for a brief while on Sundays. This is hardly as it should be. Group Banners are ostensibly for use during Sessions, but the Badge, in my opinion, is designed for wider usage and influence. It becomes a token of recognition, consequently of no practical value during the course of a Session only, when all taking part are known to be either attached members or supporters.

Its place is in the gaze of the great world outside, where those "not of us" may see it and have an opportunity of inquiring as to what it stands for, and where those "of us," even in a strange land, may at once recognise a fellow enthusiast.

Last year I visited places where, in the aggregate, there are 70 Lyceumists, and only noticed 5 Badges worn on weekdays. I sometimes wonder as to the reasons for such abstinence. Is it shame? is it backwardness? or is it simply thoughtlessness? An idea that the portrait of our beloved Founder is for Sunday show only?

Whichever it be, I would like to see the habit of its display extended. In furtherance of that desire, I intend carrying with me, during the current year a book, wherein to enter the names of the persons, and their respective Lyceums, whom I may meet wearing our symbol on any of the six week days.

Then, at the close, I will compare results, publish same through the BANNER, and, with the help of friends who are interested along with me, forward a substantial award to the Lyceum whose members have thus given it the best advertisement.

Like such outward signs as the "Blue Ribbon," the "Y.M.C.A." badge, &c., it would serve as a strength in temptation for every youth and maiden, leave alone adults, wearing it; they would think several times before bringing it to visible disgrace.

With New Year Greetings, I am, &c.,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

JAMES LAWRENCE.

THE STRENGTH OF THE MANCHESTER LYCEUM DISTRICT.

Dear Sir,—I have been instructed by the Manchester Lyceum District Council to write asking if the D.V. for Manchester will give an explanation, through the BANNER, regarding the number of Lyceums inserted in his report which appeared in the November BANNER? He states that there are 33 Societies, 12 of them have no Lyceums. As our late D.V.

during her term of office, which lasted a number of years, never reported more than 12 Lyceums, and several of these have now been closed some time, it seems strange that since March of this year 21 have come into existence. If our present D.V. is correct in his report then we can have but two answers to our question, they have either opened recently and have not had an opportunity of appearing in the Platform Guide, or our late D.V. has been neglecting these Lyceums by not reporting them to our Council. We do not wish to cause our D.V. any unnecessary trouble but we think an explanation is due in fairness to the late D.V. In the report which appeared in September he reported 9 Lyceums, so in two months we have an increase of 12. As we have only six Lyceums connected with our Council we should like to know where the others are situated.

A. O'NEILL, Secretary.

[The above letters were crowded out of our last issue.—EDITOR.]

SPIRIT IDENTITY.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—An experience of special interest to Spiritualists occurred to one of the members of our Lyceum, in connection with the mining of H.M.S. Formidable. Thomas Kent, who was Guardian, and who took a prominent part in the Liberty Group, up to joining the Navy last May, unfortunately went down with this ship, but he had always said to his mother "I have signed all my papers as a Spiritualist, so you see I am not ashamed of the true doctrine which you have always taught me. You may be sure if I go down I shall soon be with you." And sure enough, before official news reached his home, he had already manifested himself to his mother, saying, as he smiled and held out his hands, "It's all right, Mother, I've come." She is, happily, an experienced clairvoyant, so that the official notice she received four days later was unnecessary, as she already knew his fate. We miss him from his place in the Lyceum, but we are proud of him, knowing that he has done his duty.

KATHLEEN CRAWSHAW, Hon. Sec., Lincoln Lyceum.

GOOD SPEAKERS AND WHERE THEY ARE TO COME FROM.

To the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—It is with deep regret that I notice from time to time, reported in your LYCEUM BANNER by our D.V.s., more adult workers are needed in certain of the Lyceums they have visited. If more of the members of Societies would pay a visit to our Lyceums on our Open Session day they would soon be taking an active part in helping to train the children. There are a great many Spiritualists who have no knowledge of what is taught in the Lyceum. In giving my opinion on how a better condition could be brought about in our Lyceums, is for Spiritualists to visit their Lyceums and hear what the children are taught, and how they are trained, and if it appeals to them as being better and the teachings more truthful than what their children are receiving in the orthodox Sunday schools, then to encourage their own children to become Lyceumists, and attend themselves as often as possible. If they will do this, in a short time the question as to where good speakers are to come from will be answered. If the members of the Mother Societies would give a little more time and thought to the welfare of the children the prospects of the future of our movement would be brighter, for it is from our Lyceums we must look for the coming good speakers.

BEATRICE EKE, age 15, Heaton and Byker Lyceum.

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.

HYDE (Clarendon Street).—On Christmas Day we held our annual tea party and entertainment. Over one hundred and fifty sat down to tea. The entertainment provided by the Lyceumists was a huge success; the hall was crowded. The troupe "Pink and White Mascots," contributed a fair share of the evening's amusement. Too much praise cannot be given to the children, in action song and dances they did exceedingly well. Everybody was in high glee and pleased because we had with us our Conductor, Private G. Hill, and Private S. Burgess, who were over on furlough. We sincerely thank all friends who kindly helped to make Christmas Day a day of pleasure, both for young and old, and we hope that all Lyceumists the world over had as good a time as we in Hyde. On January 9th the "Pink and White Mascots" appeared in the Oddfellows' Hall, Stalybridge, to help our Stalybridge friends.—A. S. Wright, Secretary.

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, and received a visit from Mr. Clegg, who gave us an inspiring address. The individual efforts of the children again reached a very high standard. On Thursday, January 7th, we held our Annual Festival, commencing at 5-30 p.m., when about 50 children sat down to a splendid tea. Afterwards they played games until 8 o'clock, when we had a number of individual efforts. The next item was the prize distribution. This ceremony was performed by Mrs. G. F. Tilby. Following this was a very humorous performance, each Lyceumist being given a present, bought at a shop on the platform, owned by Un-Selfridges; Manager, Mr. Patsy Cohen; the presents being bought by a millionaire Jew, named "Dirty Dick." The first character was taken by Mr. B. W. Stevenson and the second by Mr. J. Darkins.—J. W. Puxley, Secretary.

ROTHERHAM (Percy Street).—The first Sunday in the New Year was our Open Session, with a good gathering of Lyceumists and friends. Mr. Marklew, our old worker and new Conductor, performed the ceremony of naming Mrs. Jackson's baby (Lilly), spiritual name, "Faith." A pretty spectacle was seen in five Lyceumists (girls) reciting poetry, each commencing with a letter in the baby's name. After a well-chosen address by our Conductor we brought a splendid session to a close. On Saturday, December 28th, we held our children's treat, all partaking of a good tea, followed by games and a "Bran Tub," each child dipping for his or her prize. Heartiest thanks to those who helped to make it a united success. Now, Lyceumists, let us have a successful and educational year, by all doing "your own share" each and every Sunday, as well as through the week.—H. Blaymire, Secretary.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after January 29th.

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

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

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

ACCRINGTON (Abbey Street).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, when various individuals helped to make the morning session a success. Also on Sunday, January 10th, we had our election of officers, when the following were elected: Conductor, Mr. Eastwood; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Holden; Guardians, Mr. Haworth and Miss Smith; Leaders of Marching, Mrs. Ireland and Mr. Haworth; Leaders of Calisthenics, Misses Kenniford and Hargreaves; Musical Conductor, Mr. Eastwood; Secretary, Mr. Redmond. Our prayer is that every official and Lyceumist may strive to do his and her best to make this Lyceum a success in the district.—Mr. Redmond, Secretary.

ACCRINGTON (China Street).—On Saturday, January 16th, we held our annual tea party, distribution of prizes and concert. Over one hundred attended. Mr. Will Edwards presented the prizes. Mr. Fazakerley, our conductor, in the chair. Mr. Edwards performed his part very ably. His good advice, mixed with witty remarks to the recipients, put all in good humour. A touching incident was that where one of our Lyceumists, who is now a territorial, stepped forward to receive a *Lyceum Manual*. We hope he will make a study of the Musical Reading, No. 215, "Triumph of Love." A splendid evening's concert followed, which was duly brought to a close with votes of thanks.—Hubert Thompson.

BIRKENHEAD (Bridge Street).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our annual election of officers, which resulted as

follows:—Conductor, Mr. J. Thompson; Assistant, Harry Edwards; Secretary, Miss W. Wilkinson; Treasurer, Mr. Pearson; Musical Conductor, Mr. Wilkinson; Marching Conductor, Mr. Taylor; Calisthenic Conductor, H. Edwards; Leaders, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Woodley, Miss F. Holyhouse and Miss Wilkinson; Captain of Guards, Harry Edwards. On Saturday, January 9th, we held our Annual Tea Party, when about sixty Lyceumists sat down to tea, which was provided by Mr. Roberts, President of the Society, to whom our best thanks are due.—Winifred Wilkinson, Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMSBURY.—Pleasant Sunday afternoons and enjoyable socials have been the feature of this month's working in our Lyceum. The speakers for the month were Messrs. Thompson, Bromage, Page and Shergold, respectively; and solos and recitations were given by Lyceumists, making the sessions very bright and cheerful. On January 16th we held a Tea and Social, which was well attended. There was always much amusement, and altogether was a distinct success, inasmuch as it has gained for us several new members. A delightful evening was spent at Smethwick Lyceum, on January 20th, the majority of our members attending. Further socials are being organised and everything points to a revival of our Lyceum to its former high standard.—H. Bromage, Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM, HANDSWORTH.—On Sunday, December 27th, we held our election of officers as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Geo. Cook; Secretary, Mr. A. E. Jenkinson; Assistant Secretary, Mr. A. J. Pearson; Musical Instructor, Mr. B. P. Mulbery; Pianist, Miss Hilda Jones; Committee, Mr. J. Smith, Sen., Mr. J. Smith, Jun., Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Poplar, Miss N. Jones, R. Webb and A. Butler. A vote of thanks was given to the Committee for their work for the past year. I trust that during the coming year our Lyceumists may make good attendances and make our Lyceum the largest in the Midlands and a credit to the Cause.—A. E. Jenkinson, Secretary.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—On January 3rd, our monthly Open Session was held. Several recitations were given, also solos and pearls. One of our old Lyceumists, George Gorlick, was present in khaki, having joined the "Pals" regiment at Leeds. Another of our young men, known as Mr. Tom Meadows, is going to the front as a transport driver, with good wishes from his fellow Lyceumists and hopes for a speedy return.—H. Swan, Secretary.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On December 30th we held a Social and Dance, and afterwards held a watch night service, which was conducted by one of our members. On January 2nd we held our annual party and prize distribution. It is pleasing to note that the Lyceum was able to purchase prizes, assisted by friends interested in our Lyceum work. The following Saturday, January 9th, we were entertained by the Eckersley Mandoline Band, and all present spent an enjoyable evening. On Saturday, the 16th, the elder girls' class gave a floral social, by which the sum of £3 16s. was realised. On January 23rd we held a special social for the children, by which the sum of £1 4s. was cleared.—John Grindrod, Sec.

BRIERFIELD.—On Sunday, January 10th, we held an Open Session, when a good number were present. A good number of pearls and recitations were well rendered by our Lyceumists. We also had the great pleasure of witnessing the beautiful ceremony of naming a baby of one of our Lyceumists, performed by Mrs. Rhodes, who gave its earth name "Rene" and spirit name "Peace." Our speaker for the day, Mrs. Bentley, of Manchester, gave a few encouraging remarks on the Lyceum. We brought a bright session to a close by singing "Let us be happy."—R. Dilworth, Secretary.

BRIGHTON.—Exceptionally interesting sessions have been held during the month. Mr. Walter Howell has kindly given addresses in a breezy humorous manner. Mr. Tom Charman, who was paying a visit to the town, won unstinted appreciation for recitations, and also displayed artistic talent in a few demonstrations of impromptu caricature drawings. Miss A. Rattenbury showed talent in a pleasing contralto voice; we hope to hear more of her. J. Rhodes (Guardian) conducted the session on the 24th and gave a short address upon light rays, demonstrated by coloured glass, also illustrating by a reflecting mirror how each soul must be clean and untarnished in order to truly reflect the divine nature inherent in every individual.—Herbert Everett.

BRIGHTON (Windsor Street).—We held our first meeting on January 3rd, when the name of the Lyceum was decided, and the following officers elected:—Conductor, Mrs. Curry; Treasurer and Musical Conductor, Mr. Fred Curry; Secretary, Miss M. Morton; Captain of the Guards, Mr. Curry; Guards, the Misses E. Johnson and E. Morton; Marching and Drill Conductor, Miss Hoskins. Owing to insufficient numbers, we

were unable to form groups, but hope to do so when the attendance is increased. Our meetings are much enjoyed by all, the social programme being an important feature. We expect to welcome more members very shortly.—Marjorie Morton, Sec.

BRADFORD, CARLISLE ROAD (Ivy Rooms).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we had our Open Session. It was a very bad morning; rather a poor attendance. Mr. Wm. Barnes was the Conductor; Mr. Wm. Bolton, drill instructor; Mr. H. South, musical director. We had a very good session. After the usual marching and calisthenics, Mr. Harry South again favoured us with a musical treat on the piano, eliciting an encore. Miss South gave us a recital, entitled, "The Slave." Miss Dorothy Simpson a recitation, called "The Toast." Both recitals gave every satisfaction. We are looking for better things with the advance of the year.—J. P. Simpson, Secretary.

BRADFORD, EAST BOWLING (Harker Street).—The opening of this Lyceum took place on Sunday, January 17th. Twenty-five scholars were enrolled. This is very encouraging for the first Sunday. Trusting our numbers will increase, and success attend our efforts. We mean to press forward.—A. E. Carter, Secretary *pro tem*.

BRADFORD, WEST BOWLING (Bowling Old Lane).—On January 6th, we held our Christmas Treat for the children, when they had a good tea, and games afterwards, and all enjoyed themselves. At the close each scholar was presented with a patriotic handkerchief and a new coin, also an apple, orange and nuts. We have transferred the Lyceum from the Co-op. Hall to the Church at Bankfoot.—A. Haley, Secretary.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—We held our annual meeting on January 9th, which ended favourably. We are making steady progress. Our President's greetings to the Lyceum were appreciated. Peace Sunday was duly observed. Several of the Leaders spoke briefly on the object of the same. We are sadly in need of *Lyceum Manuals* for the increasing numbers of our scholars.—A. Bench, Secretary.

BURY, (King Street, off Rochdale Road).—On Christmas Day we held our annual tea party and entertainment. About 115 persons sat down to tea. During the entertainment songs and recitations were given by Mrs. Adcock, Miss J. A. Henderson, Annie Wood, Alice Henderson, Clara Henderson, Alice Wilson, Lillian Adcock, Richard Flock, John Chadwick, Henry Metcalfe, Willie Adcock, Alfred Henderson, Victor Adcock, James Gregory. Character recital, Miss K. and Master Goulding. Glee were also rendered by the choir. A very interesting and amusing sketch by members of the Society and Lyceum, entitled "Last car to Brox." A car was erected on the platform, and the hall beautifully decorated, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon.—Jos. Wood, Secretary.

CHADDERTON (off Brook Street).—On Sunday, January 10th, the election of officers for the ensuing six months took place as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Dixon; Secretary, Mrs. Oldfield; Marching Conductors, Mr. Oldfield, C. C. Martin and Mr. H. Oldfield; Guardians, Miss Gertrude Hateley and Master Leonard Hamer.—Mrs. M. Oldfield, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our election of officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. Delicate; Assistants, Mr. Heath and Ernest Hobster; Secretary, Mr. Widdowson; Guardian, Mr. Welch; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Sydal; Guards, Lena Elliot and Hilda Welch; Musical Conductors, Mr. J. Hobster, Florrie Marsh and Hilda Welch; Group Leaders: Liberty, Mr. Heath; Excelsior, Mr. Welch; Stream, Ernest Hobster; Fountain, Evelyn Elliot; Banner Bearers, Evelyn Elliot, Ada Elliott, Hilda Welch, Florrie Marsh and Mr. Hobster. On Sunday, January 10th, we held our usual Open Session, when the following recited:—Ethel Wale, Lily Driver, Ethel Briggs, Alice Delicate and Lena Elliot. A quartette was well rendered by Mrs. Widdowson, Evelyn Elliot, Ernest Hobster and Mr. Widdowson.—E. H. Widdowson.

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.—Sunday, November 22nd, was again recitation day at the Lyceum, there being an attendance of about 50 members and friends. A keen interest was taken in it by everyone present, and the efforts of the scholars proves that the past year of steady work has had a very beneficial result. The items contributed were as follows:—Pearls by Renee Fulyerd, Mary Prime, Effie Coombes, Marjorie Nortontaylor, Ida Worthington, Effie Coombes, Ronald Burling, Lennie Worthington, Bobby Coombes, Bert Emerson. Pianoforte solo, Bert Fulford. Recitations, Rona Davies, Mary Martin, Beatrice Emerson, Marjorie Davies, Douglas Emerson, Roy Davies, Jim Fulford, Ollie Moody. Songs, Cissy Hadler and Mary Dalziel, Maude Emerson, Pearl Le Breton, Mrs. Fulyerd, Harold Wright and Mr. Norton-taylor.—Miss I. M. Dalziel, Lyceum Secretary.

CREWE (Mill Street).—We commenced the New Year with an Open Session, and the officers for 1915 took their respective places for the first time. Mrs. Shearsmith, a former Conductor, and now resident in Manchester, paid us a welcome visit and gave good advice to all present. Misses Doris Kinsey, Lillie Greenwood and Mrs. Ford rendered solos, and Misses Phyllis Tapley, Vera Wright and Mr. Atherton gave recitations which were much enjoyed.—Gwendoline Baggaley, Secretary.

DARLINGTON (Bondgate).—On January 12th we held our annual winter treat, which was very much enjoyed. After tea and games, a very successful entertainment was given by several children, trained by one of our members, Mrs. Henry. Admittance was charged to non-Lyceumists, and we are pleased to report that we more than cleared expenses. Altogether the afternoon and evening were a great success.—Winifred W. Airey, Secretary.

DARLINGTON (High Northgate).—On December 30th we held our Christmas treat, when about sixty Lyceumists sat down to tea, afterwards spending the rest of the evening in games, etc. The hall was tastefully decorated with festoons and bunting. It was a pleasant sight to see the children pulling crackers, or rolling oranges, and generally enjoying themselves. On January 3rd we held our annual meeting and election of officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. Park; Guardian, Mrs. Railton; Treasurer, Mrs. Simpson; Secretary, Mr. Welding; Librarian and Musical Director, Master W. Simpson; Captain of Guards, Mr. Hodgson; District Visitor, Mrs. Roberts. On December 20th we spent a pleasant evening on the occasion of the wedding of one of our Lyceumists, namely, Mrs. Railton.—A. E. Welding, Secretary.

DARWEN.—On January 1st we held a tea party and entertainment. Tea was served by the men. Over 130 sat down to a capital tea. The entertainment was also a great success. The first portion was provided by the children, the latter portion by the adults. On Sunday, January 3rd, we held a re-election of officers, the following being appointed:—Conductors, Miss A. Riding, Mr. J. Shuttleworth, Mrs. Kirkham; Secretary, Mr. J. Nightingale; Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Kirkham; Guardians, Nora Todd, J. W. Townsend, Janie Grime; Calisthenic Leaders, Ethel Garsden, Mrs. Smerden, Minnie Bibby; Librarian, Ethel Garsden; Auditors, G. Kirkham, C. E. Howarth, J. Shuttleworth. The Lyceum is steadily improving, and if the same enthusiasm is kept up, the Lyceum will be in a fine position at the year end.—James Nightingale, Lyceum Secretary.

DEWSBURY (Bond Street).—On Sunday, December 27th, we held our half-yearly meeting and the election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. E. Wilson; Assistant Conductors, Miss Ida Moore and Mr. J. Whittles; Guardian, Miss Lilian Whitworth; Assistant Guardians, Mr. Joseph Colbeck, Miss Florrie Collier and Mr. H. Wilby; Leaders of Groups, Miss L. Kitson, Miss L. Whitworth, Miss E. Stott, and Mr. C. Phillips; Captain of Guards, Mr. C. Phillips; Guards, Mr. Joseph Colbeck and Mr. E. Whitworth; Secretary, Mr. E. Wilson; Treasurer, Mr. W. Hartley; Delegate, Mr. J. Whittles; Lyceum Visitor, Mr. A. Collier; Auditors, Mr. Cross and Mr. Colbeck; Registrars, Mr. Joseph Colbeck and Mr. E. Whitworth. On Saturday, January 17th, the young men held their annual tea and concert. A large gathering and enjoyable time.—E. Wilson, Secretary.

DURBAN, NATAL, S.A.—We commenced our ninth year on Sunday, December 6th, when the officers for the ensuing year were elected. On Sunday, December 13th, the anniversary services were held, each service being well attended, and the proceedings were very harmonious. The distribution of prizes and the social was held on 17th December, when a splendid programme was presented to a large attendance of members and friends. This Lyceum is the only one in Durban, and is the largest in Africa. Two of our members—John McLaren and Jack Dunn, are now on active service in South Africa. We extend our best wishes to all Lyceums, and trust that peace will soon dawn, and no more will nation against nation rise.—T. J. W. WHEATLEY, Hon. Secretary.

FLEETWOOD (Kemp Street).—On Saturday, January 9th, we held our Lyceum Annual Tea, Concert and Prize Distribution, which was well attended. The tea being very generously given by Mrs. Hague, one of our Lyceumists and Church member. The concert being in the hands of two or more of our Lyceumists, Mr. and Mrs. Tuck, which also did them credit. Our Mossley friends well know their abilities in that way. I might say that all Lyceumists were free. A charge of 6d. being made to outsiders and friends. We had the election of officers, &c., on Sunday, December 27th. Mr. Griffiths being appointed Conductor; Mrs. Tuck, Assistant Conductor; Mr. Tuck, Musical Director; Mrs. Moore, Assistant Secretary and

Registrar. Steady progress being made.—J. C. Waller, Sec.

EDINBURGH.—On Sunday, 3rd inst. we held an Open Session, Mr. Niven (Conductor) presided over a large attendance. The following taking part: Solo, Mrs. George Stewart, Ellen Ross; pianoforte selections, Peggy Millar, Barbara Couper, Ella MacLennan, Edward Sanderson. Mr. Wollison gave a trance recitation. Essay 'Mistletoe,' John Stewart. Duet, Allen and George Smith. Mr. Neilson (a former Conductor) was with us and said a few words regarding public opinion and the war settlement, advocating the binding together of all nations, in place of separate armed camps; the reduction of armaments; and nationalising of all armament production; the allowing of choice of Government to all small States; and drastic reform in foreign diplomatic relations.—M. Neilson, Secretary.

GATESHEAD (Rectory Hall).—On Christmas Day we held our Annual Lyceum Tea and Social. Tea was provided to 55 children and 14 adults, after which a most enjoyable evening was spent. All children up to the age of 16 were admitted free, and all over that age were charged a small sum to help to defray expenses. Our Lyceum Sessions could be made more interesting if each member would realize how much is derived from individual effort. Recitations, pearls, &c., have been lacking of late, but I sincerely trust that the usual subscribers to this part of our session, will be substantially reinforced ere long.—W. Hall, Jnr., Hon. Secretary.

GLASGOW (Berkeley Street).—Sunday, 27th December, was our Annual Toy Service and Open Session. The toys gifted were afterwards taken to East Park Home for Infirm Children. The prizes won during 1914 were presented by Mr. Thomson, Vice-President of the Parents' Association. Mrs. Roehead, Vice-Conductor, presided. On 29th December, Mr. Thos. Roehead, Organist, was presented with a Travelling Bag and Music Case, in recognition of services to the Lyceum. Officers for 1915 are:—Conductor, Mr. Hamilton; Vice-Conductors, Messrs. Stewart and Burnett, Mrs. Roehead, and Miss Bessie Rainey; Roll Keeper, Mr. C. Roehead; Treasurer, Mr. Blakeley Rainey; Organist, Mr. T. Roehead; Captain of Guards, Mr. McLaughlan; Group Leaders, Mrs. Roehead, and Miss Reid; Guardian, Mrs. Wylie; Marching Conductors, Mr. Orr, Miss Bolton.—James Shaw, Secretary.

GREAT HARWOOD (off Westwell Street).—Open Session held, January 3rd. Silver Chain led by Mr. Baxter; Musical Reading, by Arthur Holt, Joe Thornley, and Ada Waterhouse; Golden Chain, Mr. Crooks. Recitations by Benny Crooks, Irene Bullen, Alice Wylie; songs by Mr. Baxter, Joe Thornley and Albert Crooks; Will Thornley and Benny Crooks; Miss Holt, Harry Hindle, Fred Hindle, Richard Leaver, Mrs. Holt, Florrie Owen, Annie Leach. Officers elected for the year: Conductor, Mrs. Smith; Assistant, Mrs. Ainsworth; Secretary, Louie Holt; Marching Leaders, Ada Waterhouse, and Arthur Holt; Calisthenics Conductors, Edith Bullen, and Alfred Ainsworth; Guardians, Mrs. Holt and Mr. Crooks; Sick Visitors, Matilda Crooks and Florrie Owen.—Louie Holt, Secretary.

HALIFAX (Alma Street).—The above Lyceum held their Prize Distribution, Tea and Concert, on January 17th. Over 150 sat down to tea. After tea the following took part in a splendid concert: Elocutionist, Mrs. Gee; songs by Miss Doris Berry; violin solos by Mr. Harry Thornton; recitations by Masters W. Whiteley, and Jack Thornton. A recitation by 15 of the Lyceum scholars and dances by the same were very well rendered; and a sketch, 'The Cricket Match,' by 8 young ladies was also well given. Prizes were distributed during the evening, showing a fine record of attendances, 7 having not missed a single attendance during the year. Votes of thanks brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.—W. Burrows, Secretary.

HALIFAX (Raven Street).—On January 16th we held our free tea and prize distribution. After tea solos and recitations were given by the children. Mr. Ingham, our President, occupied the chair. Mr. James Parker, M.P., distributed the prizes, and at the close of his address the chairman presented him with a *Lyceum Manual*. The book was a great surprise to him, and was accepted with pleasure, adding that it should have a prominent place in his library. The children were then given a "Go-as-you-please" time, which they did not forget to put to good use. A most pleasant evening was spent.—Levi Blackburn, Secretary.

HIRST.—On December 25th we had a tea and concert for the benefit of the widow of our late President, Ronald Johnstone. On January 3rd we had our election of officers as follows: Conductor, G. W. Johnstone; Assistant, Minnie Johnstone; Secretary, T. Teasdale; Treasurer, Beatrice Richardson; Guardian of Groups, Mrs. Johnstone; Captain of Guards, Annie Montgomery; Assistant, H. Teasdale;

Guards, Cris Chambers, and R. Johnstone; Conductor of Calisthenics, E. Elliott; Choirmaster, T. Teasdale; Music Conductor, S. Cable; Auditors, S. Cable and Mrs. Stoddart; Recitations, Ivy Johnstone, Mabel Charlton, and Maggie Charlton. A dialogue by E. Copland, Tom, Sarah and Jane Elliott. Solos by H. Teasdale. A number of pearls were also given.—Thomas Teasdale, Secretary.

HOLLINGWOOD (Byron Street).—I am pleased to report that our Lyceum is progressing in an excellent manner. A spirit of enthusiasm prevails throughout the members. We have a splendid Conductor in our friend, Miss Jessie Anderson. The other officers doing their part nobly and well. Marching and calisthenics are good. There is also a good response of pearls, recitations and singing. Hoping to continue in strength and unity, upward and onward.—H. Taylor, Secretary.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street).—On Boxing Day we held our annual tea and entertainment in the above hall. A good number sat down to tea, which was augmented at the concert. Mr. Fernihough, President, occupied the chair. Proceeds was for the Building Fund. Recitations, songs, duets, and a sketch, entitled 'The Bobby's Courtship,' was presented by the young men and women and children of the Lyceum, which was very much enjoyed by the audience. Miscellaneous items were contributed by the Lyceumists; dressed to represent the English, Russian, French, Belgian nations, and then recited 'The noble sisterhood.' The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks. Our afternoon lessons are of a high standard. Liberty Group well attended by adults.—R. Frost, Secretary.

HUDDERSFIELD (Ramsden Street).—We held our Open Sessions on Sunday, January 10th, afternoon and evening. In the afternoon we had our Prize Distribution, our Conductor, Mr. Ellis, distributed the prizes; there were 19 first class, and one second class. We had a good attendance. The marching and calisthenics were good, but there is much room for improvement. Recitations were given by Nellie Powell and Gracie Haigh. In the evening, owing to the wet weather, we had a poor attendance, but Lyceumists rendered their different items very well; recitations were given by Gracie Powell, Reggie Jagger, and Irene Crewe; and four of the boys rendered a quartette out of the *Manual*.—Emily Jagger, Secretary.

HUDDERSFIELD (St. Peter Street).—On Christmas Day and Boxing Day we held our Teas and Socials. We also had a Christmas Tree, and Mr. W. Wallace, as Father Christmas, paid us a visit on Christmas Day; and Mr. John Midgley took the part on Boxing Day to the evident delight of the children. After a few games, etc., on the first day our President, Mr. F. Fielding, presented the prizes from the Christmas Tree to scholars, not exceeding seven years old. I am pleased to say we had a splendid Christmas. On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our usual Open Session and Prize Distribution. There was a long programme. On Saturday, January 9th, a Tea and Entertainment was given by the Lyceumists.—John Midgley, Secretary.

[Please observe Rule 3.—EDITOR.]

HULL, DAIRYCOATES.—On January 10th we held our first Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, which are as follows: Conductor, Mr. Downs; Assistant, Miss Watson; Treasurer, Mrs. Powell; Secretary, Mrs. Downs; Musical Directors, Miss Priestman, and Mr. E. Wann; Guardians, Mr. G. Brown, and Mr. T. Brown; Librarians, Misses L. Pould, and C. Moor; Captains of the Guard, Cryal Hallstadius, and Henry Havelock; Guards, Dora Downs, and Evelyn Green; Leaders, Mr. J. Holdsworth, Mrs. Powell, and the Misses Watson, Harrison, L. Gould, and C. Moor; Sick Visitors, Misses Priestman, Watson, and Huzzard; Auditor, Miss Ethel Watson. Votes of thanks were passed to all retiring officers. We are pleased to report good work done.—E. Downs, Sec.

JARROW (Market Square).—On Boxing Day (26th December), we held our Annual Tea, when there was a good attendance of Lyceumists, and we spent a very enjoyable day. Miss Isabella Graham sang two solos, and Master Tom Abbott gave a recitation. During the evening Mr. McEwan presented all Lyceumists with Christmas Cracker, which caused a great deal of amusement and pleasure. Misses J. Wake, and H. Poole gave the fruit. I take this opportunity of thanking all those who helped to make our day a happy one.—A. Poole, Secretary.

LANCASTER.—First Sunday in the year, what a day to look back upon; well earned, prizes received; songs, recitations, addresses, and clairvoyance by Lyceum friends; then the presentations! I'm sure the audience will remember our faces for many a day. Proud winners of firsts, the serious, yet determined looks of the seconds and thirds, prophesying of higher records next year. Our New Year's treat was champion. A grand tea, and excellent exhibition of Lantern

slides by Mr. Moorby (one of our committee). Mr. Kirk is again Conductor, assisted by Miss Sharples; Guardian, Miss Bretherton; Musical Conductor, Miss Bilsborough; Captain of the Guard, Mrs. Preston; Minute Secretary, other officers as before. Mr. Preston (Leader), on furlough, visited Lyceum on January 10th.—J. Sayle.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On December 27th, 1914, we had our elections of Officers and Leaders, when the following was duly elected: Conductor, Miss A. Clarke; Assistant, Miss Revell; Secretary, Mr. J. Wicks; Treasurer, Mr. L. Goldsmith; Leaders, Miss Yark. Mr. Wright. Mr. H. Waterton, Miss D. Goldsmith. On January 3rd we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists took part: Recitation by Miss E. Wicks, Master L. Crossley, Mr. H. Waterton; solos by Miss Yark, Master A. Veary; duet by Masters S. Eaton, H. Cartwright; duet by Misses P. Goldsmith, M. Thorpe.—Mr. J. Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—We held our Christmas Tea on Saturday, January 2nd, at the Butchers' Hall, Queen Street. Prizes were given to the scholars. On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, conducted by Mrs. Whitmore. Solos and recitations were given by the following scholars: Recitation, Mr. C. Watts. Solos, Mrs. Whitmore, A. Spence, B. Veary, and W. Harvey. Marching was also gone through. Conducted by Miss West. Altogether we had a pleasant time.—Miss West, Secretary.

LINCOLN.—On January 10th we celebrated the Lyceum's eighth anniversary, having a most enjoyable time. Miss Swadden, of Nottingham, kindly consented at very short notice to conduct our services for the day, and she gave us a rare treat. Thanks are due to Mr. Cotten for printing the Streamer, with our 1915 motto, "The Workers Win," and our hopes in this time of war, "God speed the Right." Recitations were given by A. Crawshaw, G. Norwood, E. Andrews, E. Tomlinson, P. Cotten and A. Bailey; while the special hymns for the occasion were enjoyed by all. The final success was mostly due to Mr. Dobby, who took such trouble to organise this first honouring of our Lyceum birthday.—K. Crawshaw.

LIVERPOOL (Romer Road).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held a very good session. Pearls were given by the children and adults. A solo was rendered by Miss Rigby. The election was as follows: Conductor, Mr. A. Roberts; Assistant, Mr. S. McCard; Secretary, Mr. W. J. Cretney; Musical Conductor, Mr. C. Lawson; Guardian, Mrs. Guppy; Sick Visitor, Miss Malloy; Captain of Guards, Alfred Cretney; Guards, Bessie Philip, and Elsie Bell; Leaders of Groups, Liberty Group, W. J. Cretney; Excelsior Group, Mrs. Guppy; Stream Group, Miss Malloy.—W. J. Cretney, Secretary.

LONDON, BATTERSEA.—On 16th January, at Holborn, the first Dance-Social took place, and was a grand success, seventy friends were present from all London, a programme of twenty-five items gave everyone a delightful time. Miss Lister recited. Mr. Edgar Lunnon's fine songs, and Mr. Burrows' fine bass voice, and Mr. and Mrs. Alcock Rush's contributions were greatly admired. The veteran, Mr. John Adams, rendered a humorous story. Mr. Percy Smyth acted as M.C. and was afterwards assisted by Mr. Williams. Cleeres Quadrille Band equalled its best, and the refreshment interval in the Salon gave all an opportunity to make new friends and to renew old friendships. The success attending this function brought a determination to have another one on March 27th.—Percy Smyth, Secretary.

NORTH LONDON, HOLLOWAY. On Saturday, January 16th, we celebrated our New Year's Tea and social evening. The following Lyceumists rendered recitations and songs: Misses N. C. Whorlow, Mrs. Ellis, Lily Eyles, Vera Oliver, Lulu Wing, Olive Birch, Dorothy Rand, Maria Carter, Miss Sims, Master C. Ellis, C. Rand, and Mr. Sims with sleight of hand tricks. During the evening we had a welcome visit from Santa Claus, Mr. H. S. Whorlow and his imps. C. Ellis and C. Forsyth added considerably to the enjoyment of the younger members. At the interval our beloved President, Miss M. Hall, distributed four silver medals, given by the Conductor: for Pearls, Lulu Wing and Charlie Ellis; for Essays, Dorothy Rand, John Taylor.—J. Forsyth, Conductor.

LONDON, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, December 27th, at the Annual Election of Officers, the only change effected was an exchange, viz., Conductor, Miss M. A. Welblove; Secretary, F. J. Miles. At our Open Session, January 3rd, owing to the indisposition of our Conductor, the service was conducted by the Secretary, who gave an address on "Sympathy." The pearls and individual efforts were very poor, owing no doubt to the festivities, and the expectation of our Annual Tea, which we held on Thursday, January 7th, when all passed an enjoyable time, the only regret being the absence of the Conductor, our sympathies went out to her, notwithstanding the fun we had.—F. J. Miles, Secretary.

LONDON, PECKHAM.—On January 2nd we held our Annual Christmas party. Everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves, thanks to Mrs. Porter Woodrow, Misses Clark and Sadler, who helped so much. On Sunday, 24th, we had another interesting time, the naming of Mrs. Page's baby, which received the spirit name of "Great Heart," earthly name, Constance. Mr. Richards, our Conductor, performing the ceremony. Now we are looking forward to the visit of the B.S.L.U., on April 11th. Will friends please note date? I am sorry to say our numbers have fallen off lately, owing to the war. We hope it is only temporary, and that we shall soon pull them up.—S. Clarkson, Secretary.

LONDON, PLAISTOW (Braemar Road).—On Saturday, January 2nd, we held our New Year's tea and entertainment, about 46 being present. The Lyceumists provided the programme, together with solos from our organist. During the evening our Conductor rendered the balance sheet, which recorded a good progress, both financially and in attendances, and we hope for better things during the present year. At the close of the evening prizes were given to the Lyceumists for the attendances made during last year. On Sunday, 10th, the following officers were elected: Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Askins; Secretary and Organist, Miss A. Monk; Treasurer, Mrs. Titmuss; Guardian, Miss B. Manning; Leaders, Miss T. Manning and Mrs. Waterfield. Many thanks to all friends for the past support.—Mrs. A. Askins.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—We had a very pleasant visit on January 24th from the London District Council, when Mr. Myers Clegg and Mr. P. Smythe spoke some very encouraging words to the scholars. Regret was felt that the Secretary to the Council, Mr. W. Rainbow, who is our Guardian of Groups, is compelled to resign his post owing to not being able to give enough time to his work on account of the war. Mr. Askins (Delegate from Plaistow) has kindly promised to carry on the work until the A.G.M. in March next. We are looking forward to the 27th January, when we hold our Prize Distribution and Tea.—H. W. Atthey, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, ARDWICK (Maskell Street).—On Saturday, January 2nd, we held our tea and entertainment. During the latter the prizes were distributed by Mr. Poulton in an able manner. Besides games and dancing the children produced the "Fairy Ring," in which they acquitted themselves with credit to their instructors (Mr. Higson and Miss L. Coleman). A sketch entitled "Mixed Pickles," caused much mirth and laughter. Songs were rendered by Mr. A. Sims, and a recitation by Miss Poulton. All spent a most delightful evening. During the month we have had visits from Mr. Barrington, of Tootingham, London, who made some very helpful remarks.—Miss Quigley, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, CHEETHAM HILL.—We held a very pleasant party on New Year's Day. After the tea songs, recitations, solos, etc., being given by the Lyceum children. After the various efforts of the children had been gone through, the prizes were distributed, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by a sketch entitled "Aunt Jane," given by the elders of the Lyceum.—J. Gershon, Secretary.

MANCHESTER (Princess Road).—We held our New Year's party on New Year's Day. The Minstrel Troop helping to make it a success. Thanks are due to our good friend and worker, Mrs. Foster, for catering, etc. We had our election, Mr. Bentley elected Conductor. On Sunday, 17th, our friend, O'Connor gave the Liberty Group a lecture on "Socialism," which was very interesting. It is to be continued, along with questions, on the 31st, when Mr. O'Connor will answer. We hope to have quite as many there. We are glad to report a little improvement in the attendance and recitations, and hope it will continue.—Dora Parker, Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH (Waterloo Road).—On January 1st we held the Annual Treat. During the evening a number of prizes were given out to the scholars. The Election of Officers took place on Sunday, 29th December. Conductor, Mr. C. H. Roeder; Conductor, *pro tem*, Mr. Geo. Martin; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Lofthouse; Guardian, Miss M. Bessant; Secretary, E. W. Buckingham; Treasurer, Mr. Pugh; Musical Conductor, Mr. Hobson; Pianist, Charles Roeder; Assistant Pianist, Miss Ivy Bessant; Registrar, Thos. Drew; Captain of the Guards, Albert Edwards; Guards, Albert Wells. H. Lofthouse, and Mr. Cartwright; Leaders of Groups, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Lofthouse, Mrs. Harrison, William Smithers, Miss M. Mattock and Miss J. Lofthouse.—E. W. Buckingham, Sec.

MIDDLETON (Gilmour Street).—On January 3rd we held our Open Session in the evening, which was well attended by old and young Lyceumists. The session was one of the best we have had. Recitations were given by Miss M. E.

Whitehead, and Mr. H. Williamson; solo by Misses Horrock; duets by Mr. and Mrs. Liddle; Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Liddle; quartette by Mrs. Marcroft, Miss A. Wilkinson, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. Liddle. Pearls were also very good, and we hope our future will be to gain the object in view, which is success.—John Liddle, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON AND BYKER.—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, conducted by Mr. B. Westgarth. Recitations by Arnold Patterson, Jennie Jobson, Clara Dixon, Lily Taylor, Haakon Etherington, Beatrice Eke. Mr. Eke, Margay Whitfield. Solos by Miss J. Hughes, Mr. Hunter, Mr. B. Westgarth. On January 10th, 25 books for good attendance were presented to the scholars by Mr. Hunter, in his remarks he said it gave him great pleasure to see the way they came forward every Sunday to make the sessions a success, and was sorry he could not attend every Sunday, owing to work. We held our Lyceum tea on New Year's Day, everyone seeming to enjoy themselves, the time going too quickly for some.—Mrs. R. Hunter, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE (Rutherford Street).—On Sunday, January 3rd, our Open Session was well attended. We had solos by Mr. G. S. Dawson, Miss C. Duckworth, and Miss F. Claques, "Little feet are passing"; duet by Misses Claques and J. Stokoe; pearls by Misses Claques, Chrissi Anderson, V. Greenwell, Mabel Stokoe, Hilda Blackhall, and Master J. W. Anderson; and recitations by Master J. W. Anderson, "If you have a grey haired mother"; Miss Chris Anderson, "That's not the way at sea"; Miss Violet Greenwell, "The open window"; Miss Hilda Blackhall, "The way to rise"; and Mrs. A. Anderson, "Your Mission." Alteration in officials: Conductor, Miss E. Curtis; Assistant Conductor, Mr. G. S. Dawson; Guardian, Miss F. Claques; Librarian, Ernest Curtis.—Alex. Dawson, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Bentink Road).—On January 3rd prizes were distributed by Mr. Maisters, our D.V., when encouraging remarks were made to all. January 17th, we held our election of Officers for 1915: Conductor, Miss Swadden; Assistants, Miss Read and Miss Pearl; Secretary, Miss Read; Treasurer, H. Stowe; Organist, F. Stowe; Assistant, H. Lewellyn; Guardian, L. Mercer; Guards, J. Metcalfe and E. Lacy; Captain of Guards, A. Read; Marching Conductor, A. Read; Assistant, May Savage; Calisthenics Conductor, May Woodward. This Lyceum through the war has lost two ardent workers in Mr. Coles, late Marching Conductor, and Mr. Watkins, Musical Conductor. A vote of thanks being passed for the services of retiring officers. Motto for 1915, "The Workers Win."—M. Read, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—On Sunday, January 17th, we held our Open Session, under the able Conductorship of Mr. W. N. Platt. There was a good response to the call for recitations; and solos were well rendered by two of the Lyceumists; also numerous pearls were given. The readings and singing were gone through in an excellent manner, and we hope that they had a beneficial effect on the friends present. The marching and calisthenics were also done in a vigorous and helpful manner. After the marching, prizes were distributed by the President (Mr. Clayton) to the Lyceumists for attendance during the past year. The session was brought to a successful close by friends and Lyceumists singing together No. 311 in the *Manual*.—Joe Clayton—Secretary.

OLDHAM (Union Street).—On January 2nd we had our Lyceum Tea Party and Entertainment, which made a very happy day. There were also prizes presented by our President, Mr. J. T. Standish, to the prize winners, and during the month we have had a good session. Recitation by Frances Rooks, Mary Hargreaves, Winnie Rooks, Miss Redden, Mrs. Hargreaves, John Wood, Edward Beaumont; solos by Elise Pointon, Mabel Chapman, Miss Ashton, Mrs. Clegg, Albert Fallows, George Beaumont, Richard Wood, Robert Roberts; duets by Lily Renshaw and Frances Rooks. Our Liberty Group has had two lessons, one by Mr. John Wood, on "Keep Smiling," and another by Mr. William James on "Thought for the New Year."—F. Grimes, Secretary.

PRESTON (Clarke's Yard).—Sunday, January 3rd. Open Session. Recitations were given by Alice Spencer, Nellie Nicolson, Robert Fishwick, Will Beetham, Annie Fishwick, Nellie Spencer, Lizzie Chambers, Florrie Chambers, Mabel Cartmell, Rena Colis, and Jack Cartmell; songs by Miss Beetham, Mr. Margerison and Miss Clark. We held our annual tea party and prize distribution on January 16th. There was a fair gathering of Lyceumists, parents, and friends. Mr. Moorby entertained us with ventriloquism, which added much to the delight of the children and the pleasure of the evening, he sang a song, all joining in the chorus. Mr. Simmonds, our President, and the friend of the children, distributed the prizes, speaking words of encouragement to each recipient.—Ellen Savage, Secretary.

PRESTON (Lancaster Road).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we commenced the New Year with a pleasant Open Session. The Silver Chain was well commented on by our new conductor, A. Hodson. Recitations were given by Miss Howarth and J. Cusack. A solo was sung by Wm. Rae, and duets were given by Misses Downhan and Walker, and J. Cusack and D. Rae. We were given a reading, with a great moral in it by A. Hodson, and at the close we added new names to the register, and we hope all other Lyceums had to do the same, and so start the New Year on the progressive track.—Wm. Rae, Secretary.

PONTYPRIDD (River Street).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session. Mr. Ricardo conducted. Recitations were rendered by Doris Eveleigh, Mary Jones, Gladys Ricardo, Aggie Williams, Florrie Bowdne, Morris Cellers, Harry Reynolds, and George Davies. Solo by Dolly Snow. On Thursday, December 31st, we held our Christmas Tree and Tea for the children, which proved a success. Followed by an interesting concert, after which Father Christmas appeared in costume and presented each child with a prize for good conduct and attendance during the year. It was a very pleasing sight to see the little one's faces as they greeted Santa Claus. We closed the evening's enjoyment by singing the doxology.—Mrs. Rowlands, Secretary.

RISHTON (Eachill Road).—We held our monthly Open Session on Sunday, January 10th, Miss Isherwood conducted the session. Recitations by Amy Waddington, Lizzie English, Rita Omerod, and James English; also solo by Ivy Dixon. We had our Assistant District Visitor, Mr. Ashworth, of Accrington, with us, and he gave us a lesson on the pronunciation of words, which was very interesting. We hope to have another visit from him soon. On Saturday, January 16th, we had our annual coffee and "bun treat" in the afternoon, when about 50 took part in enjoying themselves with games and toys for the children. At night the Lyceum held a social and dance, which was very well attended by both scholars and friends. Lyceum prizes were distributed by Mrs. Holden, of Church. We all spent a very pleasant evening together.—Eva Omerod, Sec.

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—We held a very enjoyable Open Session on Sunday evening, December 27th, under the conductorship of Mr. L. Holt (Conductor). The responses of the children were extremely good. Pearls were given by Misses E. Turner, E. Taylor, J. A. Wood, E. Robinshaw, M. Whipp, Alice Brown, and Masters H. Hudson, L. Bamber, Eric Berry, F. Lomas, W. Benson, F. Holt, A. Wright, L. Holt, (Conductor). Recitations by Misses J. A. Wood, E. Taylor, E. Turner, Masters J. Hitchon and H. Hudson. 392 *Manual* was sung very effectively as a duet by Misses J. Isherwood and P. Turner. Some suitable and interesting remarks from M. Holt (Conductor) and Mr. Wright concluded a very successful session.—Mary Taylor.

ROYTON (Spring Garden Street).—On Sunday, January 24th, we held our first Open Session, conducted by Mr. C. Stretton. Good readings, pearls and recitations were given. A trio by Misses B. Chadwick, A. Rogers, and Master G. Wood. A solo by Mr. P. Barrow. We had a record gathering, having also with us friends from our neighbouring Lyceums, and a good amount of visitors, some of them joining us in the marching and calisthenics. Altogether we had a very successful evening.—P. Barrow, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, ATTERCLIFFE.—On Sunday, January 17th, we held our usual Open Session, when we had with us Mr. E. S. Spencer, the resident speaker of Handsworth, Birmingham, who gave a very interesting sermon to both children and adults. We were very pleased to see such a large number of our church members present, as it encouraged the officers of the Lyceum to go on with the glorious work. On Sunday, February 7th, we are expecting to have with us Mr. Kitson, and we are eagerly looking forward to his visit, when we are hoping to have a splendid time together. This month, every Attercliffe Lyceumist is proud to see the photograph and sketch of Mrs. Johnson, "the mother of our Lyceum" in the BANNER.—E. Pegg, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—December 25th, we held our usual Christmas Concert, the young men of the Lyceum being prominent with a sketch "The Two Thompsons," and an amusing song in unison. Miss Thickett and Mr. Oliver gave solos, Willie Bowmer recited; Mr. Harry Whitehead also assisted. We thank the many friends who encouraged the Lyceum Christmas Eve effort. £2 10s. being raised for Society Building Fund. We held Lyceum Children's Treat and Christmas Tree, January 7th, over 100 Lyceumists and friends enjoying good tea and social evening. Sweets and oranges were distributed to the children, and each one received a toy from the tree. The children also had a happy time scrambling for nuts and we heartily thank donor for same.—G. Stevenson, Sec.

SHILDON (Newlands Avenue).—During the last month we have had fairly good sessions, considering the festive season. On Thursday, January 7th, Mr. Thomas Brown, who has attended our Lyceum ever since it commenced, had his 21st birthday party in the Church, kindly loaned for the occasion. A good supper was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Brown. During the evening a presentation was made by Mrs. Weirs to Mr. T. Brown of a gentleman's dressing case from the Glee Party. Other presentations were made by members and friends. Games, dancing, and songs followed. The pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." On January 10th Mr. Smith presented Mr. Brown with a *Lyceum Manual*.—John Wilson, Secretary.

SHILDON (Shildon Road).—On December 27th we held our election of officers, which resulted as follows: Conductor, Mr. Clay; Assistant, Mrs. Graham; Secretary, Robert H. Evans; Treasurer, Mrs. Park; Guardian, Elizabeth Shields; Sick Visitor, Mrs. Gregory; Auditor, Mr. Clavert. On December 30th, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Clay, all the scholars had a evening's pleasant treat. During the past year we have made an increase of 12 scholars. Our sessions have been pleasant and instructive; and we enter the New Year in the hope of all receiving further blessings.—Robert H. Evans, Secretary.

SHIPLEY.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, January 10th, conductor, Miss Tordoff. A good number being present. The golden chain recitations and musical readings were very nicely rendered, comments on the same were given by the conductor. Marching and calisthenics were very good. Recitations, readings and solos were given by many of the scholars. It was altogether a very instructive and enjoyable session.—Harry Claughton, Secretary.

SOUTHAMPTON (Cavendish Street).—On January 20th we gave a splendid concert in aid of the Red Cross Society. The children, numbering 25, did their parts very well, and rendered their parts with credit to themselves and teachers. The Secretary of the Society, Mr. Spier, kindly supplied the programmes which were sold. The hall was kindly loaned by the Church Treasurer, Mr. Handy. And Mr. Baker, another Church member, kindly decorated the hall with flags and bunting, which gave it a cheerful effect. The children were frequently *encored*. We have been requested to repeat it in aid of the Church Fund. It is the first we have attempted, but we hope to give more and better in the future.—Mrs. F. Penton, Conductor.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—On New Year's Eve we had a most enjoyable social. Various games were taken part in, also other items of interest, such as songs, recitations, etc. Mr. Eyres entertained us with some of his sleight of hand tricks and comic songs, which were most amusing. Mrs. Peel rendered two monologues. Banjo selections by Mr. Peel, and a recitation by Miss E. Jessop. Light refreshments were partaken of. The children also had oranges and crackers. Some of the Lyceumists received books from Mrs. Scholes. A little dancing was thoroughly enjoyed, Mrs. Vaughan being the accompanist. The social was brought to a close by the singing together of "Auld Lang Syne." All helped to make it a success.—Miss Elsie Jessop, Secretary.

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Eldon Street).—Lyceum going on as favourably as can be expected considering the times and the wretched weather. We continue to have well attended sessions, and a lively interest is kept up in the work. We have commenced a Saving's Bank to teach the children the habits of thrift, and about 30 have already joined. On Sunday, January 17th, Mr. Lawrence, of Newcastle, paid us a surprise visit, he was listened to with interest and pleasure. On the 24th we were favoured with an address by Mr. Fenwick, straight and to the point. We hope to welcome Mr. Fenwick as a working member.—Wm. Woodall.

STOCKPORT.—On Sunday, January 11th, we held our annual meeting, at which our election of officers for the ensuing 12 months took place. I am very sorry to have to report a great falling off in our attendance, and also in members generally, but now that we have two "Live" visitors, we expect to again bring our Lyceum up to its original standard. As one of the few Lyceum Churches I think we can hold a very proud record in stating that about 80 per cent. of the speakers who occupy our platform are Lyceumists, which speaks well for our movement. Best wishes to all Lyceumists.—J. Bell, Secretary.

TODMORDEN (Halifax Road).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, when the following gave recitations: Miss D. Ashworth, and G. Howarth. Readings by M. E. Ashworth, S. Ashworth, and O. Sutcliffe. And a solo by Miss C. Howarth. The above, along with the chain recitations, etc., made a happy session which was closed with hymn 306 in the *Lyceum Manual*.—Mrs. P. Barker, Secretary.

TORONTO, CANADA.—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Lyceum Sessions, which was conducted by our newly elected Conductor, Mrs. Stier, and was assisted by Mr. Fred Brooks in Golden and Silver Chain recitations, which were very interesting. There was a good attendance and each one gave a pearl, and one or two gave recitations, and there was also a solo by Mrs. Cardy. The Lyceumists went through with their marches and calisthenics, which were led by Mr. Decks. Before the conductor closed the session; many of the Lyceumists also non-Lyceumists joined in wishing us all a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and every success to the Lyceum. The Conductor closing the sessions with a few well chosen remarks.—Polly Stier, Secretary.

WAIHI, AUCKLAND, N.Z.—We have just held our Open Session, and, owing to the growth of the Lyceum, had more responses to the pearls, recitations, etc., than usual. Pearls were given by Misses L. Lewis, C. and W. Morton, Masters G and N. Morton; Musical Monologue and Song, by Mr. H. Victor. A recitation by Miss Hilda Hearn was exceptionally good; others by Clara Morton, Norman Morton, Teddie Hearn, Freddie Carbutt, and W. Morton were also given. Miss Grange gave a piano solo; and readings were given by Miss G. Grange and G. Morton. Our Annual Christmas Tree and Social in connection with the Lyceum will be held on 18th December, and as the Lyceum has made such progress since Mr. Victor's arrival, the number of presents will have to be much larger this year. Wishing all Lyceumists a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.—Miss Morton.

WAKEFIELD (Dixon's Yard).—We held our yearly meeting on December 20th for the election of new officers, and the following were elected: Conductor, Mr. J. T. Hargate; Mrs. Hargate and Harry Lockwood, Assistants; Secretary, Mr. A. Harding; Leaders, Mrs. J. T. Hargate, Miss E. Petch, Noah Cope, and Bertie Stokes; Guardians, Lucy Hargate, George Cope; Librarians, May Turner, Albert Petch; Organist, Mr. Slater. We have lost three of our Lyceumists who have joined the "colours," but we earnestly hope and trust we shall soon have them back amongst us again. To all Lyceumists we send our best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.—A. Harding, Secretary.

WIDNES.—On Sunday evening, December 27th, it pleased the Lyceumists to be able to help the Society by giving a Service of Song, the title of which was "My Dream, or The Land of Harmony." The composer of this was our Musical Conductor, Mr. J. W. Jones, Mr. Jones was also the reader, whilst the chair was occupied by Mr. Hitchmough, an elder Lyceumist. The service described the Summer Land in its truest beauty. Though attended by few people, the service was fully enjoyed, and was worth good praise.—B. Kayes, Hon. Sec.

WINDHILL (Schoolhill).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, and we do hope that the peace and unity that attended our first session of the year will continue all along, month by month. After the usual items, recitations were well given by Whittle Alderson, and Ernest Clark. Solos by Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Copley, Misses Gott and Hearthill. A duet was well rendered by Misses I. Halestone and A. Crapper; and readings of great interest were given by Miss Nellie Alderson and Mrs. Copley. Altogether a most happy time was spent.—Miss M. Gott, Secretary.

WINNIPEG (Polson Street).—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, when solos were rendered by the following: Mr. Higley, Albert Pearson, and Mrs. H. Forrest; recitations by Violent Vernon, and Maria Vernon. Mrs. Leach offered a prize to the one who could sing best from memory "Angels Lead my Footsteps," which was won by Uncana Somalidsom. The Ladies' Aid gave the children a Christmas Tree on December 20th, when all the children received toys, candy, etc. Then ten of the little ones took part in a dialogue and they just looked lovely in their fine array. The annual distribution of prizes took place on January 2nd. We should like to wish all Lyceumists a Happy New Year.—(Mrs.) Edith Vernon, Secretary.

YORK (Cromwell Road).—Sorry to report that the Lyceum is closed on account of the Government taking the Church. The Lyceumists were greatly disappointed at not having their usual Tea and Concert on Boxing Day. The Conductor, Mr. Dawson, kindly entertained the children to tea on 6th January, at his residence. It was very nice to see all the Lyceumists joined together again. After tea we had games and many Lyceumists recited. Later the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Banks. The children appreciated it with loud applause. We then separated after a very enjoyable time. We are all ready to start in earnest when the Church opens, and our motto will be "The Workers Win."—Ida Reed, Assistant Sec.