

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. 291.

APRIL, 1915.

ONE PENNY.

Lyceum Banner Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Joseph Smith (Shildon).

The subject of this sketch was born at Shildon, on April 20th, 1866, and when he was but one year of age the family moved to Adelaide, (a colliery about a mile from Shildon), where they lived for twenty years. Although Adelaide was a small colliery village consisting of five houses, it was noted in the seventies for Spirit Circles, and Open Air Meetings.

Our subject, when a boy, listened at the windows of the cottages where spirit circles were being held, and wondered what they were doing within. At this time he was attending the Church of England Sunday School at Shildon. Playing truant one Sunday afternoon he, with some other boys, went to a Spiritualists' Open Air Meeting at a place called The Lime Kilns, Eldon Lane. He was greatly impressed by the speaker, a Mr. J. Mensforth, talking with his eyes shut.—The Rosses, Andrews, Mensforths, etc., the Spiritualists of those days, have nearly all emigrated. Shortly after attending the open air meeting, our subject attended the Primitive Methodist Chapel and Sunday School, Eldon Lane, and was for a time a teacher, but could never get "saved," in the orthodox sense. Eventually he left Methodism and went back to the Church Bible Class at St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland, but left on arriving at manhood's estate, and ceased to attend any place of worship except on special occasions.

Removing back to Shildon, a few years after, he chanced to see a handbill bearing the following announcement:—

"Spiritualism, Main Street Hall, Sunday, January 15th, 1899, Mrs. Naylor, of Middlesbrough, will give addresses on Spiritualism; also Psychometry Tests, and Clairvoyant Delineations, afternoon at 2, and evening at 6." He attended the services, and was favourably impressed, and finding the truth of the statement, "There is no death," he became a member.

On August 4th, 1901, the Children's Progressive Lyceum was opened by Mrs. Farren, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Our subject was duly appointed Conductor, and with the exception of one year, he has held that important office up to the present time, and fulfilled his duties faithfully and well.

He has also held the offices of Door-keeper, Vice-President, and for some years now President of the Spiritualist Church, Newlands Avenue, Shildon.

He has also acted as Delegate to several of the Lyceum Union's Conferences with credit.

I have personally known our subject the whole of the time he has been connected with Spiritualism. It has been one of my greatest pleasures to work with him. I have always found him honest, earnest and sincere, doing all he could for the benefit of humanity. I hope he may be long spared to carry on the good work to which he is so devoted.

JOHN BRASS.

Mr. Smith was the first Treasurer of the Teeside Lyceum District Council, and held that position for two years, when he became President, and has held that office since. He is a worker, and likes everyone about him to be the same. His Lyceum is a model one. At two o'clock prompt, you will find everyone in their place, *Lyceum Manual* in hand, ready for the bell to ring. From start to finish not a minute is wasted. Nothing is missed from the programme, everything

is gone through smartly and well, with a smile on the face. Say what a Lyceum should be, and Newlands Avenue Lyceum is that.

It has a Peace Brigade, Glee Party, Library, etc.

At the quarterly meetings of the Teeside Lyceum District Council you will find Mr. Smith's first thought is the welfare of the children, and that we are out to help them and make their lives happier for having been associated with them. Should a speaker show signs of losing his "head," you will hear Mr. Smith, as President, say, "Go canny there."

Our Lyceum District is proud of its President, and if we only had more like him in our movement, Spiritualism would spread more rapidly. W.C.P.



The Religion of Spiritualism in Relation to the Bible.

(Continued from March issue, page 43).

But the Christian can no more get away from psychic phenomena when he takes refuge in the New Testament than he could in the Old Testament. If anything he has plunged deeper into it. To wit: the promise of Jesus that those who believed in him should do greater things than what he had done (John XIV., 12); and Paul's exposition and definition of the spiritual gifts which were widely practised at the time (I Corinthians, XII).

There are one or two instances in connection with the ministry of Jesus to which I wish to draw your attention, as bearing on certain phenomena taking place to-day. The first one is the conversation with the woman of Samaria at the well (John IV., 7 to 29). How the woman marvelled when he was able to reveal a portion of her life which seemed to be like an open book to his clairvoyant powers. So much was she impressed with his psychic powers that she "left her waterpot, and went away into the city, and saith to the people, Come, see a man, who told me all the things that ever I did: can this be the Christ?" (verses 28 and 29).

This has often been cited as evidencing the divine sonship of Jesus. I do not care to contest that claim at this juncture, but rather to point out that if this marvellous power to penetrate into the past life of this woman is evidence of his divine nature, than by the same signs and marvellous powers of this nature in our midst to-day, do we claim a similar divine relationship with God. Over and over again have we witnessed this power to penetrate the past lives of people by our mediums. Let me give but one instance out of many: We were celebrating our Lyceum Anniversary at Batley Carr, Miss Burton (now Mrs. Bentley) being the medium. During the exercise of her psychic powers she selected a gentleman at the back of the hall, a stranger, and led him step by step recounting the most prominent incidents of his childhood days from four years of age upwards as if she had known him all her life. At the age of 14 years she described an incident in a game of cricket in which a boy of a similar age struck at him with a pocket knife, and to save his face he put up his hand through which the knife blade pierced and protruded through the back of his hand. The gentleman, on being asked if he knew anything about it, exclaimed, "My God, I do! But who has told you?" His wife, and their oldest son (married), all members of the Church of England, marvelled, and became convinced of spirit return. To the gentleman's credit be it recorded, that at the close of the meeting he personally thanked the lady, and showed to her the scars left by the knife blade on each side of his hand. Now my point is this. If the marvellous powers of Jesus, which enabled him to read the incidents in the life of the Samaritan woman, were a proof of his divine relationship to God, then all those who are able to exercise similar powers are entitled to the same relationship; and instead of Spiritualists, and especially mediums being denounced as godless people by their accusers own mode of logic, they are proved to be the most godly.

I now desire to call your attention to the wonderful draught of fishes that was made at the instance of

Jesus advising the fishermen (who had been toiling all night and caught nothing) to put out into the deep and let down their nets for a draught, and the draught was so great that the nets began to break (Luke V., 5-7). This incident is quoted by Christians as evidencing the divinity of Jesus. But suppose such advice be given to fishermen to-day by some clairvoyant, would Christians extol it as evidencing the divinity of the medium? No, they would condemn such as being mercenary, a rogue and a vagabond. Or supposing an incident was recorded in the newspapers where a materialised spirit gave such advice to fishermen in order that it might feast on broiled fish with them, as recorded in John XXI., 3-6, would such be looked upon with reverential awe? No, they would condemn such as being degrading to any religious movement, and belittling the dear departed. But if such things were right and commendable nineteen hundred years ago how can they be wrong and reprehensible to-day?

Thus we could go on citing instances and show how intolerable such would be to Christians if they were done by Spiritualists to-day, but one more must suffice at present.

Let us see how the disciples proceeded to elect a successor to Judas, who betrayed his master for gain. There were two candidates for the post, namely, Joseph called Barsabbas, and Matthias, "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, show of these two the one whom thou hast chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away, that he may go to his own place. And they gave lots for them; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." Acts I., 24-26.

Now, Robert Sullivan, LL.D., T.C.D., Barrister-at-Law, etc., says in his Dictionary of Derivations, when treating of sorcerer, that it is, "From the Latin *sors*, a lot; because lots were used for the purpose. Witches were formerly called *lot-tellers*."

The disciples then resorted to sorcery or witchcraft in order to determine who should fill the vacancy in the apostleship, and this act of sorcery was preceded by a prayer to the Lord, and the election of Matthias is in answer to the prayer.

Learning the true inwardness of lot-telling we are reminded that the Children of Israel employed *lot-telling*, sorcery, or witchcraft, as the mode whereby their several divisions of the "Promised Land" were apportioned to the twelve tribes. It was also the method employed by which the various priests, singers, etc., were assigned to their various offices in Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem. So let Christians be careful how they charge Spiritualism with being nothing but a species of vulgar fortune-telling, lest the Spiritualists retort that both the Old and New Testaments are full of fortune-telling, sorcery, and witchcraft, all practised under the sanction of the Lord.

We shall probably be told that the cases cited form no portion of the Christian religion, that they were but a means to an end: the establishing of a world-wide religion.

We would also remind our traducers that spirit phenomena is not the Religion of Spiritualism, that they are a means to an end: the proving that the human entity survives the process called death, without sleeping in its grave awaiting the Day of Resurrection; that the Day of Resurrection of the spirit

body is the day on which the physical body dies. That behind the phenomena there is a spiritual philosophy which deals with the *modus operandi* of the phenomena, showing they are not the result of miracles, but are in accordance with law. It also deals with man's spiritual nature, and his relation to the spirit world. The phenomena and philosophy of Spiritualism are as the two pillars, and the Religion of Spiritualism is the beautiful rainbow-tinted arch uniting the two, whose wide expanse covers the whole human family irrespective of race, colour, language or creed, and whose grand, noble dome reaches the heavens.

By Religion—from *re*, back, and *ligāre*, to bind—we do not mean a rebinding back to old forms, ceremonies, creeds and dogmas, that tend to fetter man's will and aspirations, but a re-union of man's divine relationship with his God, from which he has been so long divorced by priestly interests and class caste.

The Religion of Spiritualism is based on the recognition of the Fatherhood of God, which, also, implies the Motherhood of God. If there is the Divine Father there must be the Divine Mother, not as two separate beings, male and female, but the Divine source of the All-Creative Will and Sustainer of all that is created, and also the source of Divine Love to nourish care for and protect, the self-sacrificing love as is so beautifully typified by the Mother's loving ministrations. This Divine Will and Love, as typified in the father and mother natures, is the Over-Soul of the Universe, the centre and source of all life and being. The old Egyptians did not point to their God as sitting on a great white throne, nor as suffering an ignominious death on the cross for the sins of the world, but they pointed their worshippers to the noon-day sun, the Divine Ra, as being the robe and symbol of God, the source of all life, yet undivided.

The Religion of Spiritualism, teaches and insists on the recognition of the Brotherhood of Man, which also implies the Sisterhood of Woman as the complement of man, equal to, and sharer with man in the divine relationship to God.

Thus the Religion of Spiritualism does not object to, nor deny, the divine nature of Jesus, but on the other hand it insists on his divine nature, and claims the same divine relationship for *all* humanity, all being emanations from the Father-Mother God; colour, nationality, and social caste being but mere incidents of birth.

When this is fully recognised by society it will liberate womanhood from her long period of bondage and degradation and lift her to her rightful place in the home and affairs of daily life by the side of man, his equal and natural help-mate.

The Religion of Spiritualism does not recognise the fall of man in the past ages of the world's history, and so has no need of a special plan of redemption and salvation, it recognises a gradual ascent of man from a rude savage state up to the civilised position he holds to-day. Having no original sin to be relieved of each being is only held accountable for its own sins, errors, and transgressions of natural and moral law. As in the physical world we suffer for our mistakes, and must bear the pain until we are healed, so in the moral world we must suffer for our errors, our sins, and bear the pain, which is always intended as a corrective of our ways, until we learn to sin no more. Or to use the words of Paul, "Be

not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians VI., 7. No beliefs, doctrines, or tenets can save us from the evil consequences of sins, or rob us of the joys of right living.

Although we do not believe in the Fall of Man as recorded in Geneses, yet the story contains, a beautiful symbolical lesson that is applicable to all times and all peoples, and humanity would do well to observe it. The Garden of Eden symbolises the happy home, the centre of sweet, trustful, harmonious relations between father and mother, brothers and sisters. The serpent symbolises jealousy, sly, cunning, fascinating its victims whom it bites, filling its nature with envy, malice, and hatred. So sure as the serpent of jealousy is allowed to enter the little family Eden—Home, just so sure will that Eden be ruined, and the inmates will be symbolically driven forth into the cold unsympathetic world.

The same remarks are applicable to Lyceums, Societies, and indeed all walks of the social and political life. How often have good, flourishing Lyceums and Societies been ruined by this evil monster—jealousy—in the form of some ambitious person or persons more eager to gain self-aggrandisement than to work for "the greatest good of the greatest number"—caring not who received the praise if the children received the good, let the reader pause and think.

Also, although we do not accept the crucifixion of Jesus as an atonement for the sins of the world, yet it contains a beautiful symbolical lesson that is applicable to all times and people. Jesus being crucified between two thieves symbolises Truth—that truth that shall make its recipients free from the bondage of time-honoured, soul-cramping, and inspiration-fettering beliefs and traditions—being crucified between Selfishness and Ignorance, the two greatest enemies to human progress that humanity has to fear. Ignorance and Selfishness, either singly or combined, have deterred hundreds of thousands of people who have been convinced of spirit communion from acknowledging the same.

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

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

The Executive Council of the above Union will be held at London, Peckham, on April 10th, at 6 p.m., when all applications for membership will be duly considered. Lyceums who are desirous of joining the Lyceum Union should send in their applications at once.

On Sunday, April 11th, members of the Executive will address meetings in the Society's Hall, Lousanne Road, at 11 a.m., and at 7 p.m.

The Lyceum Open Session will be held at 3 p.m. No. 1 series of Hymn Sheets will be provided free of charge.

Tea will be provided for visitors—if they will kindly notify Mr. Clarkson, 10, Foxberry Road, Brocklev S.E., not later than April 7th,—price 6d. each.

Collections in aid of the Lyceum Union.

ALFRED KITSON, General Secretary, 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.

Girls' Own Corner.

BY MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD.

SESSION PROGRAMME.

APRIL, 1915.

Date.	Opening Hymn.	S.C.R.	Mus. Reading.	G.C.R.	Closing Hymn.
April 4	328	13	216	118	358
April 11	*14	†396	215	124	398
April 18	337	51	203	127	308
April 25	338	10	222	129	340

*Tune—Aurelia, or Missionary, Bristol Tune Book.
†Recite three lines alternately—Conductor and Lyceum.

Pearls.

APRIL 4.—“Know that we must trust and hope, and neither doubt ourselves, nor doubt the Good in one another.”—*Dickens*.

APRIL 11.—“Your mistake in life is that you do not look forward far enough.”—*Dickens*.

APRIL 18.—Do the work that's nearest,
Though its dull at whiles,
Helping, when we meet them,
Lame dogs over stiles.

—*Charles Kingsley*.

APRIL 25.—“There is not one hurried face that passes you in the street, that will not be impressive, if you can only fathom it.”—*Ruskin*.

A STRAIGHT TALK, DANGERS AHEAD.

I was beginning to think that the experience of being among those who have suffered from blighted affections as given in my last chat was not applicable to any of my girl readers, and I felt they were all fortunate in that respect, (though I firmly believe every phase of life holds its own lessons) when I received a letter which just hit off the point I wanted the girls to see. The letter ran as follows:—

“I feel I must write a few thoughts to you, as I am very sorry for any young person who has been disappointed like our sister. We all have our “ups and downs,” and from experience I should certainly say, be up and doing, work hard for the good of others, and by so doing you will forget your own troubles. These experiences come as stepping stones to something higher; let your mind run on spiritual things; work for the Cause of Modern Spiritualism, for I am sure that in time, and with the help and guidance from the Angel World, as in my case, you will win the lasting love of a true and honourable man, who will be a true companion in this life. May these thoughts bear fruit is the sincere wish of a Lyceumist and Worker, etc.”

This letter speaks for itself, and I thank my friend for her advice, and hope it will be read by some one who needs its help and comfort. I have just come across a little poem which made me think how beautiful is love in all its expressions. When a woman speaks proudly of her husband as “true and honourable man,” and “true companion in this life” she means it, and deeper than mere words, there is the consciousness of the spiritual help each gives to each. When you read these lines think of the time when the hey-day of life has passed off, and the stern realities of the battle have left their marks on face and hair, and then try to understand what it is that

carried both husband and wife through it all. Why, it is ‘Love’ of course. The following lines are an expression of a man’s love:—

WOMAN O’ MINE.

Woman o’ mine, woman o’ mine,
Sin’ first yo’ were my dear
We’ve tramped the road through rain an’ shine
For five-an’-forty year.

When first we met, thi grey-blue eyes e’en
Were like the skies of morn;
Thi locks were like the golden sheen
O’ sunshine on the corn.

And I was young and strong that day,
My lass, an’ twenty mile
I’d walk, an’ whistle all the way,
To meet thi by the stile.

Your fingers, through our hopes an’ fears,
In mine you’d intertwine.
God bless thi for the long, long years,
Woman o’ mine, woman o’ mine.

—*William Booth*.

Love is mistaken for fascination, very often with dire results. The morality of the nation suffers in consequence. Perhaps at no time has this feature of it been brought so vividly before us as the present. The number of girls who have, and will shortly become mothers through the influx of soldiers in our towns and villages is said to be appalling. The girls, forgetting all modesty, run after the men, allow themselves to be taken to places of questionable propriety, and like moths round the candle flame run into the very dangers which, inevitably, will singe their beautiful wings and deform them in every way. Some say, “What are their mothers doing to let them be out with unknown men.” Aye! there’s the rub! Mothers could answer the query best, but they are bound to admit they have no control over their girls after they have started working in the mill or workshop. This impotent whine makes one tremble for future generations. The old scriptural injunction is true all the time, “Spare the rod and spoil the child.” “Oh! I don’t believe in thrashing,” says one! Who said anything about thrashing? Is it necessary to have a nice whip or strap hung up handy? Yes, if you cannot use your tongue and influence. Then again ‘Love’s suasion’ is the rod, and coupled with firmness and insistence of obedience from babyhood upwards, the whip would be minus, and your own personality and influence carry the day.

What a lot of heads will shake over this statement, but have they ever tried to help their children to show honour and respect to parents? or has it been “he won’t do this, or I cannot make her do this, etc?”—the latter I am sure; and I emphasise the need for proper treatment in the early morning of life, and not when the girls are out of hand. Girls, do not be so silly over these lads in khaki, love them all of course, but remember “your own dignity and power and never descend to evil or meanness,” it is the highway to disgrace. When you go out for a ‘lark,’ do not forget the solemn fact, that your own purity and womanly modesty is the greatest asset you have. Preserve your own chastity and thus help to keep the boys straight.

Bluebell Guild.

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

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

My Dear Bluebells, and Readers All,

This month has been a quiet one for our Guild, as no new members have been enrolled, and only one letter has reached me.

I do wish more of you would become *active* members, and write to the rest of us. Why not at times write and ask questions when anything is puzzling you; then other members would help to solve the problem, or give good and helpful advice from their store of knowledge or own experiences?

The letter comes from near Huddersfield, and reads:—

“Dear Flora Belle,—I am very sorry that I have not written for a long time; but am very thankful to say that Annie has remembered me to you.

“We had a concert a fortnight ago, but we had not a very good attendance. But we have been asked to repeat it, and I hope that the next time it will be a success.

“I think that will be all now, as it is getting late. From your loving Bluebell,

“OLIVE EVELYN BAXTER.”

Thank you for your nice letter, Olive; and all best wishes for your next concert, with good audiences, and big profits.

Recently, the weather was so mild and bright that one thought spring, and its flowers, would soon be here; but now (whilst writing) Jack Frost holds sway again, and snow is on the ground. But we must “Hope on, hope ever,” and perhaps soon our emblematic flowers, the bluebells, will delight us as we wander through field and wood.

It seems the proper time to tell you the story of

THE THREE BLUEBELLS.

One morning, Fairy Belle jumped up quickly from her little couch, and said, “It is nearly spring, and I must hasten to my work!”

Her task (or, rather, pleasure) it was to help and tend the bluebells in a certain little wood. Thither she flew, and waved her tiny wand over the ground as she passed over it, whispering, “Wake up, bluebells, spring is near. Wake up, and put on your prettiest blue gowns, and make the world bright and glad!”

In one snug little corner, just under the soil, slept three wee bulbs; but now they awoke, quickened to activity by their beloved fairy’s charm. They began to work—rootlets pushed down and grew long and strong; shoots pushed up and grew into beautiful slender leaves; and then came the buds, which were kissed by the sunshine, fanned by the breezes, and watched over by Fairy Belle herself.

Then at last the buds opened, and the charming little bells danced in the light. How good it was to see all around.

They chatted together, and caused music—audible only to fairies’ ears.

After a time, footsteps were heard to be coming nearer and nearer—but, oh dear! how slowly they came. Soon the three bluebells saw a wee maiden of six coming slowly along, and weeping. Their kind little souls were sad, and they longed so much to chase away those tears, and replace the troubled look by smiles. As if in response to their desire, the child sat down near them, then lay down on the soft grass, alongside their own bed. She sobbed brokenly: “My poor mamma; I do wish she were not ill. I do wish I could make her glad, but it seems so long since she told me stories, and played with me.” Before long, tired and sad, the child fell asleep. Then come the bluebells’ chance! They bent their slender stems till their bells tinkled in her ear, and chanted in fairy-like, sweet tones:

“Cheer up, little one, our Fairy Belle

Says your mother will soon be well;

Take us to her, and we will sing

Our glad new song of cheery spring.”

Little Alice awoke, and said to herself: “What a nice dream; but I *will* take you three pretty dears to mamma;” and she did.

Oh! how it hurt them to be plucked, and grasped tight by a small hand. But they bore it bravely, for they had a mission of kindness to perform, and meant to fulfil it.

Later, in fresh water in a pretty vase, they stood near Alice’s dear mother’s bed. Alice had told her of her walk and dream, and been glad to see mother smile, and thank her for bringing the flowers. They tinkled gently, and the mother was helped by Fairy Belle to hear the words they sang, telling her of beauty and joy, health and strength. Visions of bright scenes came to her memory; she felt cheered and bright, and soon began to get better.

The bluebells were glad; and as their souls flew to the Fairyland of Flowers, they rejoiced that someone had been cheered because of their efforts, and knew the truth of “The best way to find happiness is to try and make others happy.”

With all good wishes,

Your loving sister,

FLORA BELLE.

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

MY DEAR CHUMS,

Our page for the last few months has been devoted to the big boys; this month I am coming back to the young boys who are still going to school.

Spring has come, and we are all wanting to be out in the glorious sunshine. Outdoor games are coming once more. Whips, tops, hoops, marbles, balls and other toys are being searched for in the toy-boxes, drawers and cupboards.

The singing of the birds and fine weather draw us all from our homes. We commence rambling in the

woods, visiting the ponds and walking over the moors. We are the boys who can watch a bird circle round its nest or watch them fly in search of food and never throw stones at them or steal eggs from the nests—at least I hope we are.

All nations rejoice and herald the spring in some religious festival. Easter has a special bearing on Spiritualists. It is the time fixed by Christians for their founder's crucifixion and ascension from the tomb. The real date is not known. Easter takes its name from the goddess Eāstre, a goddess of spring, in whose honour a festival was held in April.

My father passed-on (died) on the first day of April, 1885. You would think it strange if I placed flowers in my home and had a religious service to his memory on the first Sunday after the full moon nearest the 1st of April, instead of holding a service annually on the same date to commemorate his advent into spirit-life.

Easter is a Christian festival in celebration of the resurrection of Christ, and occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or next after the 21st March. When Britain became a Christian country, there was a change in name only; the practices of the people of our land to-day are still pagan. We know from experience people are still moonstruck, and its power still holds with us a charm. We all like the time when the full moon beams upon us, lighting up the whole of our surroundings, dispelling the manufactured rays of gas or electric light. Many a traveller in a foreign land has wandered along his lonely path with nobody for company but the moon, and has even felt as though the moon has been travelling with him. Thoughts of home have stirred his soul, and he has felt the responsive influence of those he loves in a distant home.

Man cannot rob nature of her powers, and the change of name from pagan to Christian or Spiritualist will not alter the influence of the celestial bodies upon his thoughts and feelings.

These things puzzled me very much when I was a young boy. I want to clear the air for my readers. If we can get to the foundation of things, we can begin to build thoughts of life which can be verified by facts. If they combat any previous idea, so much the worse for the idea and so much the better for ourselves. We shall begin to know and understand forces, the displaying of which in our lives will breed wisdom. We shall cease to be governed by convention and old ideas, and become leaders. Many people think Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. He re-discovered that land. We know now it was the seafaring Northmen who reached that land in 985. Possibly others in the past ages were aware of its existence.

Easter has a special relation to Spiritualism in the revelation that Christ rose from the grave and lived, walked and talked with men after his passing to spirit-life. Your relations and mine, who have passed into spirit-life, walk and talk and live with us. Their inspiration comes to us, and we do wonderful things. Mozart composed music when five years of age, died in his 36th year, and left over 800 beautiful compositions of artistic, operatic and other music. Inspiration from spirit-beings is the best explanation of his powers. Beethoven's entrancing symphonies have

expressed in music all the emotions of the human soul.

Truth has worked through nature and humans from the other side of life according to our capability of its reception. Zoroaster, in the 9th century B.C., founded the religion of sun-worshippers. Every day in these modern times, his Persian followers draw out of the folds of their costumes a small piece of carpet when the sun is at its height and offer incantations (prayers) to God, whose home they believe to be beyond the sun.

Was Zoroaster right? Let us see. I have a very tiny garden which was tended by two boys all last summer. It measures 3 feet long and 15 inches broad. We set six lily bulbs in the soil last spring. When the sun began to give warmth to the little garden, shootlets sprang from the bulbs. They grew and grew until by-and-bye buds appeared on the tops of the stalks. We watched, watered, manured and tended our plot. The buds changed from green to red. Many times on many different days we talked together, watching and waiting for the bursting of the buds into full flowers, until glorious sprays of red lilies bloomed for us. The last we saw of them was when they were grouped with many more flowers at the Lyceum's Flower Service in July.

What the sun did for these flowers was also done for the whole of the vegetation of the earth by which we physically subsist. So far I believe in Zoroaster's acknowledgement to the powers of the sun. Is it the home of God?

I have found God makes manifest through all life. *There* is the home of this divine universal power. God manifests through the rock, the flower, the animal, the human, and the spiritual according to the capability of expression of the material through which the spirit of life flows.

Do our boys realise this power when tempted to do wrong deeds? We feel within us a quickening of the pulse, a rising emotion, and if we are strong and good, we calm down again when we have decided we will obey the inward voice. Dear chums! I always hope and pray for you that you may always think of God's power, and the trust placed in you to live a good life and help others to be better. Our dear, good, helpful angels are ever watching over us, and I do sincerely hope they may never feel hurt at anything you may think or say or do, but ever strive to be honest and upright and helpful even as the angels are to us.

Your Sincere Chum,

GEO. FREDK. KNOTT.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council held its Annual Demonstration in the King's Hall, on March 21st, at which all the Lyceums were represented, to the number of 332, visitors 100, and instrumentalists 15, total 447. It was acknowledged to be the best yet held.

Each Lyceum had its representatives for the various competitions for prizes, namely: recitations, musical, and pearls. The following gentlemen were the Adjudicators: Messrs. Gwinn, Rush and Carpenter.

The competitors in the Recitation Contest were as follows: *Holloway* (Grovedale Road), Luke Wing and Dorothy Rand. *Kingston-on-Thames*, Dorothy Foreman, "The Little Shroud." *Battersea*, Miss Kate

Evans, "The Brook." *Stratford* (Idmiston Road), Miss Eva Connor. *Plaistow*, Miss T. Manning, "A Noble Vengeance." *Manor Park*, Miss Christine Collens, "Selected." *Brixton*, Miss Doris Maguire, "The Day." *Tottenham*, Miss Jones. *Little Ilford*, Master Simonds, "One by One." *Peckham*, Miss Dolly Richards, "The Charge Unknown." *Plumstead*, Miss Ivy Giles, "Children."

Competitors in the Musical Efforts: *Peckham*, Master Bruce Clarkson, "Sonative." *Manor Park*, Miss Trenmer, "Lead Kindly Light"; Miss Greta Maybole, "The Children's Home." *Plaistow*, The choir, "We are trying to follow the Angels." *Stratford*, solo, Reggie and Albert Tace. *Battersea*, Miss Alice Fairclough, "The Boguee." *Tottenham*, Mrs. Pövey, "When you come home." *Kingston*, Miss Connie Brown, "By and Bye." *Little Ilford*, solo, "The Chorister." *Plumstead*, Doris and Vera Osborne, "The Gift of Life," and overture, "The Triumphal March," Mr. Edgar Haddock.

The competitors in the Pearl Competition are too numerous to specify, several of the Lyceums having six.

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, neé Shelhamer, who has kindly given her permission for their reproduction in "The Lyceum Banner."

HAPPY RESULTS OF SPIRIT EFFORTS.

In a little while, under the generous treatment and kindly care bestowed upon them, both invalids began to show signs of improvement in their condition, and soon good Dr. Jones—who still continued to visit them—and who looked upon the visits and assistance of the proud capitalist with silent but approving amazement—declared that, with the approach of early spring, it would be advisable to remove them to some country place where they could enjoy the fresh air and mellow sunlight. Accordingly, Mr. Aiken took it upon himself to provide such a place.

A few miles from the city there is a quiet, peaceful village, where the flowers bloom, and birds make merry music through all the golden summer time. It is a lovely spot, where nature dons her fairest, freshest robes in which to charm the eye and delight the senses of those weary travellers who linger there in order to gain strength and repose of mind and body. In this pleasant spot, Mr. Aiken, the man of wealth, makes his summer home; and it was here he determined to find a place for Mr. Morrow and his daughter.

By this time Mr. Aiken had enlisted the interest and sympathies of his wife in the case of the invalids, and it was mainly through her exertions that a pretty cottage located in a quiet lane, and partly shaded by the branches of a magnificent old elm tree, was secured for them to live in.

In due time our friends were removed to this pleasant retreat, and it really seemed that the change was calculated to work a marvellous cure in both invalids, so rapidly did they acquire strength in the genial atmosphere in which they now dwelt. In a little time, however, it was seen that Mr. Morrow's

days in the form were numbered. The spinal trouble from which he suffered became aggravated to an intense degree, and all that could be done was to make his sufferings as light as possible by skilful treatment and care. All that kindness could do was done.

Mr. Aiken and his wife, who had grown wonderfully attached to Katy Morrow, spared no pains to make his last days peaceful and happy; and when his mortal eyes closed upon the scenes of earthly life, which they did in the latter part of August, it was with a knowledge that kind friends and faithful hearts were ready to care for the orphan daughter he was to leave behind.

In the meantime, Miss Katy was slowly but surely regaining health and strength in the glow of the new life which had come upon her. Skilfully nursed and attended by her physician and waiting woman, petted back into health by the loving sympathy of Mrs. Aiken and her husband, the roses began to show themselves once again on her cheeks, her form and features became rounded out with new vigour, until at length Dr. Jones declared her to be no longer an invalid, and said that he would now restore her name to the lists of the hearty and healthy ones of the land.

Each day spirit Lucy Aiken visited Katy Morrow, whom she had chosen for her medium, and through her instrumentality was enabled to come into spiritual communion with her beloved parents, although as yet they had no thought of such a thing. Already had the sweet spirit performed a wonderful work. By the influence she exerted upon her father, she had strengthened his higher nature and given it power to rise above the slough of worldliness, and self-interest and cold indifference to the needs of others, in which he had been long submerged, and had so sweetened and mellowed his spirit, and caused it to blossom out in deeds of kindness and even loveliness, that Katy Morrow expressed herself, in contrite tones, to her friend, Dr. Jones, for "ever daring to think of dear, kind Mr. Aiken, as unkind and hard-hearted."

As for the good physician, he was all wonder and amazement at the unaccountable change which had been wrought in the disposition of the wealthy master; but he took good care not to express his opinions before others, for he felt that here was something he could not understand.

Nor was this the only labour accomplished by the sweet spirit. Hitherto, Mrs. Aiken had been a restless, nervous, easily excited creature—one who often declared nobody understood her since her dear Lucy died, and who had many times made her husband unhappy and uncomfortable by her forlorn repinings. But since she had come into communication with Katy Morrow and her invalid father, and had witnessed their patient endurance and fortitude under suffering, as well as felt the influence exerted upon her being by the spirits gathered in their humble home, this unhappy lady seemed to be a new creature. She became calm and tranquil, and in her care and solicitude for others forgot to remember self or to complain of her many trials. Thus did the work of the spirit spread, until it included these two human beings in its loving embrace; the husband and wife seemed to understand each other once more. In these days they grew nearer each other, and from consulting each

(Continued on page 58).

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 Lyceum Union, May, 1891.
 Transferred to the above Union, as a Free Gift by the Founder,
 May, 1902.
 FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890, BY J. J. MORSE.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

ALFRED KITSON, Editor.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 4th, 1915.

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

Our issues for February and March are sold out. We again beg to impress on Lyceums the importance of ordering extra copies in *advance*, and not to wait till they see the Portrait and Sketch of their Representative before sending on their orders. We venture the opinion that Mr. Smith's many friends will be very pleasantly surprised with his portrait and sketch.

Next month will appear the portrait and sketch of Mr. John Marston, the District Visitor of the Stockport District, who is one of the old stalwarts.

Our next issue will be our first Double Number, price 1½d. It will contain, a full list of Lyceums' Statistical Returns, Statement of the Lyceum Union's Accounts, Reports, Conference Agenda, District Visitors' Reports, besides other valuable matter.

Our BIG LYCEUM BANNER was a big surprise to many of our readers who had never troubled to examine and compare the reading matter (text) of the LYCEUM BANNER with the other members of the Spiritualistic Press, and naturally thought they were conferring a favour on the Lyceum Union when buying a copy of the *little* BANNER. They have altered their opinion. Thanks!

We take this opportunity to record our best thanks to Mr. C. Peel, Nottingham; Mr. Alex. Dawson Newcastle-on-Tyne; and Mr. William Woodall, South Shields, for their willing co-operation in reducing the heavy charge for postage on each issue of the LYCEUM BANNER by having the parcels for the other Lyceums in their towns enclosed in their parcels, which they promptly delivered to their respective Lyceum Secretaries. There are other towns where this co-operative plan may be adopted. Volunteers among district Lyceums are invited. Tram fares incurred in distributing the parcels of LYCEUM BANNERS will be allowed. Friends in Accrington, Barrow, Bolton,

Bradford, Burnley, Darlington, Glasgow, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Oldham, Sheffield, and York are kindly invited to consider the suggestion. A full list of Lyceum Banner Distributors will appear in our Conference issue.

A number of non-Union Lyceums have sent in applications to the Union's Executive to be held at Peckham, London, on April 10th, to be placed on the Union's Roll of Membership. Will others who have the matter under consideration please hurry up so they may appear in the Executive's Annual Report. Chester and Ossett Lyceums, on re-opening have paid their contributions and retained their certificates.

We have received the following enquiry from Shipley Lyceum:

Dear Editor,—

Can you tell me why "Wisdom," in the Golden Chain Recitation, No. 116, is quoted as being of the feminine gender? This question was asked in our Lyceum and we have not been able to give an answer to satisfy ourselves, and we should be pleased if you would answer this in the LYCEUM BANNER.

H. CLAUGHTON, Sec.

The portion of the G.C.R. in question is copied from the third chapter of Proverbs, verses 13 to 17.

Answer. It was the custom of the ancients to speak of Wisdom as being of the feminine gender. The Greeks had their goddess, *Sophia*, or Wisdom; the Romans had their goddess *Minerva*, or Wisdom; and similarly, the Hebrews had their *Chachemah*, or Wisdom. Our beloved founder, A. J. Davis, speaks of Wisdom as appertaining to the masculine gender, and Love as appertaining to the feminine gender. God, the Over Soul of the Universe is the source and fountain of both.

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.

WIGAN.—On March 12th, Annie (late Lyceum Secretary), the beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Heaton, passed to spirit life, aged 20 years.

We loved to hear her voice,
 So kindly in its tone;
 But when God called she heeded Him,
 And left us here alone.

Yet not alone for ever,
 But near us night and day
 She guides us with a gentle hand
 Along the heavenly way.

MISS LILY BIRD.

BRIERFIELD.—I regret to report the passing on of Evelyn Spencer, aged 15 years, a member of our Lyceum.

ROBERT DILWORTH, Sec.

THE LYCEUM RECITER.

ANGEL HELPERS.

In the shadows of the evening,
When the day is near its close
And the stars bedeck the heavens,
And the moon in splendor rose.
Then the feet of loving angels,
Coming, going, without sound,
Visit homes where they are needed,
Shedding brightness all around.

For 'tis then that they can reach us,
When we're passive and at rest
Oh! 'tis then that they can help us,
And respond to our request.
Going forth to help another,
Wearied, suffering, and in pain,
Giving them of life's Elixir
To restore to health again.

Oh! 'tis then if we'd but listen,
We could hear their quiet tread,
And their voices as they whisper,
All is life; there are no dead.
They are ever, ever with us,
Though their forms we cannot see,
They're helping us dear brother
They are helping you and me.

Oh! dear friends just stop and listen,
Listen to the angel band,
As they hover round about you,
Try to make you understand.
Understand that quiet whisper,
That you sense within the soul
Trying hard to have you know it;
You are part of one great Whole.

Part of life in all its beauty,
All the glories that we see;
Of the love that's in earth's bosom,
It is all for you and me.
If we'd give that love to others,
Who are sick and sad at heart,
And assist them with their burdens,
We'd be doing then our part. SIGNE BEEBE.

ISN'T IT MOTHER?

When buttons come off and clothes are worn,
If accidents happen and rents are torn,
Holes in our stockings and holes in our socks,
Places to mend in our jackets and frocks,
Whom do we find is our truest friend?
Isn't it mother who's ready to mend?

If things all go wrong, and we've heavy hearts,
Squabbles and tumbles, bruises and smarts,
If fingers are cut or scratched or burnt,
If lessons are hard, and won't be learnt,
Whenever there's trouble, whenever there's pain,
Isn't it mother we come to again?

If sickness should lay us low on our bed,
With weary limbs and an aching head;
When fever renders us helpless and weak,
And steals the colour away from our cheek;
When suffering comes as it sometimes will,
Isn't it mother we look to still?

When sunshine enfolds our lives with light,
And everything goes smooth and bright;
If pleasures abound and sweet success
Fills us with radiant happiness;
When blessings are poured on her girl or boy,
Isn't it mother who's full of joy?

Whenever our sorrows bow us low,
Isn't it mother to whom we go?
Whenever we're tired by bitter grief,
Isn't it mother who gives us relief?
Even when grown-up women and men,
Isn't it mother we cling to then?

In time of sunshine, in time of rain,
In time of pleasure, in time of pain,
In time of sickness, in time of health,
In time of trial, in time of wealth,
Wherever it be, whatever the call,
Isn't it mother who's best of all?

IT'S QUEER.

"It's queer, when the world seems steady,
It really is whirling so;
It's queer that the plants get larger,
When no one can see them grow;
It's queer that the fountain's water
Leaps high in the sunshine bright;
And queer that the moon can never
Fall out of the sky at night.

It's queer that one clover blossom
Is white and another red,
When the same black earth surrounds them,
The same rain waters their bed.
It's queer that of all these wonders
We take so little heed;
And that, as for feeling thankful,
We seldom see the need.

We scold if the weather's chilly,
And fret at the hot sunlight;
Don't like to get up in the morning,
Hang back from the bed at night;
And queerer than all the queer things
Are surely those girls and boys
Who live in the world of beauty,
And rather see woes than joys."

HAPPY THOUGHTS.

Think happy thoughts before you fall asleep,
Remember something just to win a smile;
When weary limbs relax in slumber deep
That pleasant thought stays with you all the while.
Remember not the troubles of the day,
The tear you shed or grief which has depressed,
With resolution put them all away
Invite with smiling welcome placid rest.
The last bright thought shall be the first to greet
When hopeful in the morning you awake;
Thus happy thoughts fulfil their mission sweet,
And hearts from their own strength contentment
make.

L. DOUGLAS SHARPS.

(Continued from page 55).

other over the case of their humble friends, they began to counsel with each other over home affairs, until at last they appeared to be once again one in perfect harmony of thought and intention.

It had been decided that, after the death of Mr. Morrow, his daughter Katy should enter the home of Mrs. Aiken as companion and private maid to the lady—a decision that was agreeable to all parties, and which filled the mind of the dying man with content when he learned of it.

ANGEL VISITS NOT FEW NOR FAR BETWEEN

Three days had passed since the death of the worn-out body, and it had just been consigned to the bosom of mother-earth, there to rest forever. Katy Morrow and her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Aiken, were seated in their private sitting-room. The maiden looked pale and exhausted from the effects of the trials of the last few days. Mrs. Aiken was just thinking of advising her to retire to rest, and was looking at her for that purpose, when she was startled at beholding a change steal over Katy's face. At first Mrs. Aiken thought Katy had swooned; but in a moment she was undeceived. The face became transfigured and shone with an unearthly light, assuming the cast of features and expression of a man's countenance. Slowly they developed, until they appeared plain and unmistakable. It was the well-known face of Mr. Morrow, whose mortal linaments had but a few days before been covered up from sight.

The lips moved, and Mr. Aiken, whose attention had been directed by the frightened gestures of his wife, and who had started forward, caught these words: "I come to tell you I am happy; all pain is removed; tell Katy I am with her mother now; we bring our love, our blessing; we will care for her; we will bless you all."

(To be continued).

Correspondence.

HOW IS SOCIETY TO PREVENT WAR?

Dear Friend,—I have just finished reading an article in the "Daily News and Leader" for Saturday, February 27th, written by a G.G., the title of which is "Old Lamps for New." It is apropos of the change this war is bringing about in the minds of men generally. He says, "Apart from the unteachable prophets of barbarism in our midst, the gentlemen who wrote placidly about there being 'worse things than war,' and 'human nature being human nature,' and who, in face of the history of this enormous disaster, insult the intelligence by telling us that the way to prevent war is to prepare for it—there is only one question in the minds of men: 'How is human society to prevent the recurrence of this catastrophe?'" It is in response to (rather than in reply) this question that I write this letter.

There are many Spiritualists who feel very strong upon the various questions this war has brought to the surface, and since we preach the "Brotherhood of Man," irrespective of "sect, clan, or nation," and some of us avowed non-resisters, I think the time is *now* when we should make our influence felt. Some of us may have felt dissatisfied with the attitude, or lack of it, of our national bodies with regard to the war, but whatever our feelings are do not let us neglect our duty to those who are fighting "our battles" and posterity.

We spiritualists and religionists generally have been constantly charged with impracticableness, never was there a time when we could refute that charge better than the present, but to do this we must be organised. If it is too much for individual Lyceums to form a study group of their own, I recommend

Lyceumists and any other "ists" either, to put themselves into communication with the Council for the Study of International Relations, Central Buildings, Westminster, London. This is not an unworthy object of support for our B.S.L.U. and S.N.U., and thus show to the people that we are interested in "their" affairs just as much as "our own."

Yours most sincerely,

J. E. ELLIOTT.

[The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union is a member of, and subscriber to, the National Peace Council, 167, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, London, S.W.—Editor, L.B.]

GOOD SPEAKERS AND WHERE THEY ARE TO COME FROM.

With further reference to the above, which is still running through our progressive paper, I am sorry I have as yet had no reply to my previous letter re the "Progression of the various Lyceums."

However, I pass this on until I do receive some, but I think I am in a position to answer the above question finally before it closes, and for the benefit of all concerned I will state my own case as brief as possible.

I am President (and proud of it) of one of the finest churches in the country (the Stockport Lyceum Church), which is upheld entirely by the Lyceumists. Being President, I have taken the chair, and am pleased to say that 90 per cent. OF THE SPEAKERS WHO OCCUPY OUR PLATFORM ARE ACTIVE LYCEUM WORKERS. I think this speaks for itself as to where the future good speakers are to come from. I should also be glad to know if there are any other Spiritual Churches on these same lines and, if so, what are their platform workers?

Wishing the BANNER every success,

Yours fraternally,

JACK BELL,

President, Stockport Lyceum Church, and
Secretary, Stockport Lyceum.

SOUTH SHIELDS LYCEUMS DEBARRED FROM TAKING PART IN THE GOOD FRIDAY DEMONSTRATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS' SCHOLARS.

Dear Sir,—In South Shields on every Good Friday there is a procession through the principal streets of the town of Sunday School children and teachers. The scholars assemble in the Market Place and only occupy about half of it, then they march through the principal streets and then disperse to different churches and chapels (not their own).

Now, the South Shields United Lyceum Workers wrote in November asking the South Shields Sunday School Union, by whom the procession is arranged, if we could join them in their Good Friday Demonstration. I received in reply the enclosed letter asking for full particulars of our local body. After complying with their request I received the letter refusing our request.

I hope you can find room in the BANNER just to let people know the feeling among the heads of the Sunday Schools in South Shields, and oblige.

Yours, N. E. AINLEY, Sec.

Copy of the Refusal.

South Shields Sunday School Union,
27, Eglesfield Road, South Shields.

February 26th, 1915.

Mr. N. E. Ainley, Woodside Cottage,
Harton, South Shields.

Dear Sir,—Re your application on behalf of the South Shields United Lyceum Workers, for permission to take part in our Annual Good Friday Demonstration.

I beg to inform you that your application was put before our General Committee at their meeting last night, and I am instructed to inform you that they cannot agree to your schools taking part in the Demonstration.

Yours sincerely,

W. D. ALLEN, Hon. Sec.

[We have advised our South Shields Lyceum Workers to organize a Good Friday Demonstration on their own account, and distribute on the route thousands of copies of the correspondence declining their application, and also thousands of the Lyceum Union leaflet "A Lyceum, What it Is." If this course is adopted we venture the opinion no more applications will be declined.—Editor.]

The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

NOMINATIONS.

The following List of Nominations is liable to revision by the Executive Council. The Revised List will appear in our next issue.

President.

Mr. H. Hargreaves (Nelson), Mr. E. Vickers (Sheffield), Miss Alice Hesp (Leeds), Mr. George Fred. Knott (Rochdale), Mrs. Jessy Greenwood (Hebden Bridge), Mr. J. M. Stewart (Glasgow).

Vice-President.

Miss Alice Hesp (Leeds), Mr. H. Hargreaves (Nelson), Mr. Geo. Fred. Knott (Rochdale), Mrs. Jessy Greenwood (Hebden Bridge), Mr. E. Vickers (Sheffield), Mr. J. M. Stewart (Glasgow), Mr. R. Latham (Burnley).

Treasurer.

Mr. T. H. Wright (Sowerby Bridge), Mr. H. Hargreaves (Nelson), Mr. E. A. Keeling (Liverpool).

Executive Council.

Mr. H. Hargreaves (Nelson), Mr. Geo. Fred. Knott (Rochdale), Mrs. Jessy Greenwood (Hebden Bridge), Mr. E. Vickers (Sheffield), Mrs. Pickles (Burnley), Mr. George Mathison (Birkenhead), Miss Alice Hesp (Leeds), Mr. Harry Dobby (Lincoln), Mrs. A. E. Bentley (Manchester), Miss M. L. Stair (Keighley), Mr. W. Edwards (Accrington), Mr. C. Welsh (Chesterfield), Mr. J. T. Apedaile (York), Mr. J. Sutton (Darlington), Mr. M. Clegg (London), Mr. E. A. Keeling (Liverpool), Mrs. Hogg (Hull), Mr. W. Musroves (Blackpool), Mr. H. T. Batten (Bolton), Mr. J. Lawrence (Newcastle), Mr. D. Urquart (Dundee).

Auditor.

Mr. Will Edwards (Accrington), Mr. A. C. Eaton (Blackpool), Mr. John Ronaldson (Newcastle).

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR THE LYCEUM CONFERENCE.

We, the Rotherham Progressive Lyceum, urge upon the B.S.L.U. at this Conference to pass a resolution urging upon the Government the necessity of abolishing Child Labour; also the Half-time System for School Children, and that the various Lyceums send this resolution to their members of Parliament in the Constituencies.

H. BLAYMIRE, Secretary.

That the E.C. be authorised to grant to District Councils a loan of *Manuals* to assist in opening new Lyceums, and other propaganda work.

ED. WALSH, Sec., Bolton L.D.C.

That a charge of admission be made on all District Councils, and that the E.C. be instructed to fix same.

PENDLETON LYCEUM.

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.

REG. BOWMER, Sheffield L.D.C.

It was resolved to abolish the Permanent Secretary Fund, and that I send a resolution to that effect for the 1915 Conference.

R. ASHWORTH, N.E.L.L.D.C.

We have resolved to avail ourselves of the Trust Deeds of the S.N.U.

R. ASHWORTH, N.E.L.L.D.C.

That we avail ourselves of the Trust Deeds of the Spiritualists' National Union, and that we appoint a sub-committee of five (5) delegates, or more to carry the resolution into effect before the next Conference. The said sub-committee to become Trustees under the Deed, along with the Spiritualists' National Union Trustees.

HERBERT BULLER, Sec., Nelson.

NOTE.—Similar motions are to hand from Padiham, Burnley (North Street), Burnley (Hammerton Street), and Sheffield L.D.C.

That a Committee be appointed representative of the varying sections of opinion in regard to the mode or method of obtaining legal status for the Lyceum Union, for the purpose of arranging a compromise between their respective positions and thus clear the way for a satisfactory settlement of this outstanding question.

J. C. THOMPSON, Daulby St., Liverpool.

IMPORTANT.

Will the under-mentioned Lyceums please comply with the Union's Constitution by filling up the Statistical Form, supplied to the Lyceum Secretaries on December 26th, 1914, and returning it to the undersigned, along with their contributions, at once?

Barnsley, Bishop Auckland, Brighouse (Commercial Street), Brisbane, Burnley (Hammerton Street), Burwood, Christchurch, Cleckheaton, Crewe, Dundee (Overgate), Dunfermline, Gurney Valley, Hadfield, Hanley, Hull (Day Street), Krugersdorp, Leeds (Bethel Street and Church Street), London (Battersea), Manchester (Beulah Street), Oldham (Elliott Street), Perth, South Shields (King Street), Sydney, Waihi, and Wellington, New Zealand.

March 25th, 1915.

ALFRED KITSON, Gen. Sec.

Lyceum District Councils.

BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the above Council was held on Saturday, March 12th, at Radcliffe. Mr. H. Batten, President, presided, and gave a brief address.

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were accepted as a correct record.

A letter was read from Mr. Winder, Treasurer, regretting his inability to act as Treasurer, business requiring his presence in Dorsetshire.

A letter was read from Mr. Knight, D.V., regretting his inability to be present owing to failing health. We trust he soon will be well.

The delegate's report of the U.D.C. was accepted.

The Secretary's report showed that for seven Lyceums the total membership was 430, being a considerable increase over last year. He invited the Visitors present to have their names enrolled as Associate members.

The statement of accounts for the year showed a balance in hand of £4 18s. 10d.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. Batten; Secretary, Mr. E. Walsh; District Visitor, Mr. T. Robinson (Bolton); Treasurer, Mr. Manning; Auditors, Messrs. Woodward and Clegg; Delegate to the Lyceum Conference, Mr. E. Walsh; Adjudicator, Mr. Batten.

During the Social Mr. Batten, President, duly presented the Shield to the representative, Mr. Woodward, the Conductor, of the Leigh Avenue Lyceum, and in doing so gave particulars of the competition. Mr. Woodward, who suitably replied to the President's congratulations and good wishes, was greeted with applause.

Resolved—That the E.C. be authorised to grant to District Councils a loan of *Manuals* to assist in opening new Lyceums, and other propaganda work.

A vote of thanks was accorded to our Radcliffe friends for their excellent catering.

The following Lyceums were represented: Leigh, Radcliffe, Horwich, Bury, and the Bradford Street and Commission Street Lyceums, Bolton.

The next Council Meeting will be held at Beatrice Street Lyceum, Horwich, on June 12th, at 3 p.m.

EDWARD WALSH, Secretary.

BRADFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the above was held at Windhill on Sunday, March 7th. The meeting commenced at 11 o'clock, President, Mr. Barnes, in the chair. The following Lyceums were represented: Windhill, Shipley, Keighley, Ivy Rooms, Otley Road and Boynton Street. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Secretary, Mr. Whitehead, who has returned to Sheffield, Mr. Midgley, of Keighley, was elected Secretary, *pro tem*. The minutes of last annual meeting were adopted. Arrangements were made for the 1915 examination. Mr. Harry Barnes being appointed examiner. The Secretary's report and balance sheet were read showing that the Council were in a good position financially. The D.V.'s report was read and adopted. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mr. Simpson, Ivy Rooms, President; Miss Preston, Ivy Rooms, Vice-President; Mr. Haley, Bankfoot, Treasurer; Miss Stair, Keighley, D.V.; Mr. Wm. Barnes, Ivy Rooms, Secretary. Meetings were held in the afternoon and evening at which the following took part. Addresses by Messrs. J. Simpson, F. Naylor, Wm. Barnes, and Miss Stair. Recitation by Miss Holdsworth. Clairvoyance, Mrs. Hillas. The usual votes of thanks were passed to the Windhill friends on the motion of Mr. Haley, seconded by Mr. Hillas. A letter of condolence has been forwarded to Mrs. Wilkinson on the passing on of her son. Next meeting, Shipley, May 2nd.

W. BARNES.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council, was held at Dewsbury, Bond Street, on Saturday, March 6th. Miss Hesp, President, gave a hearty welcome to the good assembly of Delegates, Associates, and all who were present. The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted as being correct. Correspondence was also accepted. The following reports were all given, and found to be both good and correct: District Visitor, Lyceum Visitors, U.D.C. Delegates, Statistical returns, Secretary's, Treasurer's and Auditors'. A very good report was given by the Leeds Lyceum Study Group representative, (being Miss Tyne, of Leeds) and was accepted with thanks.

The election of officers for the coming year was as follows:— President, Miss Hesp; Treasurer, Mr. Russell; D.V., Mr. Colbeck; Secretary, Miss Ingle.

An Open Council was held, and much discussion arose from the fact, that many Lyceums are in need of help from the adult members of the Church and Lyceums. Will the elders please note this, and try to give the workers and the children encouragement to work for the cause of Spiritualism?

Votes of thanks were given to retiring officers, also to the Lyceumists and friends at Dewsbury, for the excellent way in which they worked to make the day a success, both financial and otherwise.

The next meeting will be held at Easy Road, Leeds, on Saturday, June 5th.

NELLIE INGLE, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Yearly meeting held at Vernon Street, Nelson, March 20th, 1915. Mr. Hargreaves in the chair, spoke about many topics, including B.S.L.U. Education Question, hymn sheets, demonstration, and past work. Minutes of previous meeting passed as read, and correspondence regarding Conductor of Barnoldswick, who has joined the colours. Treasurer's report and balance sheet accepted. D.V. and Assistant D.V.'s. reports accepted. U.D.C. report given by Mr. Eaton and Mr. Higham caused much discussion regarding Manuals to weak Lyceums.

Election of officers resulted as follows: *President*, Mrs. Pickles, Burnley; *Secretary*, Mr. Batley, Great Harwood; *Treasurer*, Mr. Chadwick, Nelson; *D.V.*, Mr. Latham, Burnley; *Auditors*, Mr. Higham, Padiham, and Mr. Pearson, Nelson; three assistant D.V.'s., Mr. Ashworth, Accrington; Miss Cartmell, Preston; and Miss Doult, Colne.

Resolved, that Secretary send letter to Mr. F. Driver, of Colne, who is sick. Credential report, 27 Delegates, 3 Associates, 4 E.C., 9 visitors. 43 persons present.

Resolved that we avail ourselves of the Trust Deeds of the S.N.U.

Demonstration deferred.

Resolved to recommend Lyceums to buy the new hymn sheets.

Resolved that the Manchester D.C. resolution come up for discussion at the next meeting.

R. ASHWORTH, Sec.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of above Council was held at Glasgow, when, with the exception of Overgate Lyceum, Dundee, all Lyceums in the district were represented. The minutes of last meeting were accepted and various reports commented upon and passed. Office bearers were thanked for their services, and elections for 1915 were as follows: Mr. J. M. Stewart, Glasgow, President; Miss Nan Smart, Dunfermline, Secretary; Mr. David Hamilton, Glasgow, Treasurer; and Mr. Dan Urquhart, Dundee, District Visitor.

The D.V.'s. report was very interesting, showing that progress is being made owing to more interest being aroused in Lyceum work throughout Scotland. Our congratulations go out to Mr. J. M. Stewart, our respected President, upon his election to the E.C. of our National Union, to us one of the most gratifying features of the Conference held at Glasgow last May. Scotland thus receives due recognition which knits us closer to our brothers and sisters across the border. Emigration has taken many from our midst during the past twelve months, but in spite of this our numbers remain practically the same as last year. In Scotland at present we have a total number of 302 Lyceumists made up as follows: Edinburgh (Queen Street), 71; Dunfermline (New Row), 28; Glasgow (Berkley Street), 80; and Scottish M.U. Royal Institute, 48; Dundee (Overgate), 30; and Rattray Street, 45. The attendance and efficiency shewn at our Sessions are very good, which augurs well for future growth and expansion.

DAN URQUHART, Scottish D.V.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING.

The above was held at Rotherham, March 21st. Meeting commenced at 10-45, Mr. Magness in the chair. Invocation by Mr. Reg. Bowmer.

The minutes of previous meeting were accepted as a correct record. The President's report was then given. The next business was the election of officers for the next twelve months. The following were elected: Mr. Jones, President; Mr. Truelove, Treasurer; Mr. Wimpenny, Secretary; Mr. Welch as D.V.; Mr. Chappell as Delegate to S.D.C.; Mr. Hazedine and Mr. Chappell be Delegates to U.D.C. A vote of thanks was then passed to the officers of the past year. Correspondence was accepted after a little discussion. The Education Committee was elected as before. Mr. G. Magness was then elected as delegate from the Council to the Conference this year at Sheffield. After a lengthy discussion on the S.N.U. Ltd. Trust Deeds, the following motion was ordered to be sent to the Conference: "That we avail ourselves of the S.N.U. Ltd. Trust Deeds." The financial statement was then read and accepted. In the afternoon the Lyceum Open Session was held, in which the delegates took part. The evening service was taken by the delegates, thus bringing another bright and successful day to a close.

E. WIMPENNY, Sec.,
16, Tickhill Square, Denaby Main, Nr. Rotherham.

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of the above Council (annual) was held at Royton, on Saturday, March 20th. Lyceums and Delegates represented: *Bacup*, Messrs. McKenna and Kershaw; *Heywood*, Messrs. Lord and Barley; *Oldham*, Mr. Hurst (Coronation Street); *Oldham*, Mr. Fallows (Union Street); *Rochdale*, Mr. Nurse and Mrs. Spencer; *Royton*, Messrs. Chisnall and Lord.

In the absence of Mr. Knott, Mr. James Lord, of Heywood, presided. Mr. Chisnall, as District Visitor, gave a good report of his stewardship. Mr. Lord, of Heywood, as delegate to the various meetings he had been appointed to, also gave a good report. We had for discussion the subject of knitting the Lyceums together. All the members of the Council took part in the discussion, which proved to be very interesting, so much so that we shall probably, at our future meetings, bring the matter forward again. This being the meeting of electing officers, the following were appointed: President, Mr. James Lord, Heywood; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Lord, Royton; Treasurer, Mr. Bailey, Heywood; District Visitor, Mr. Chisnall, Royton. Mr. Lord, of Heywood, was elected delegate for Conference. At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was tendered to all retiring officers, and also to Royton friends in providing and entertaining us, which proved very enjoyable indeed.

ARTHUR LORD, Sec.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after March 26th.

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, April 21st, to ensure insertion in the May 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, March 7th, we held our Open Session, when the following items helped to make the session a success: Opening hymn, 341; Silver Chain, 32; Golden Chain, 135; Recitations, Misses Hargreaves and Larkinson. Mr. Eastwood conducted—J. Redmond, Secretary.

ACCRINGTON (China Street).—We had our Open Session on Sunday, March 7th. Opening hymn, 363, "The Lyceum"; Musical Readings, No. 283, Miss Crabtree, and No. 222, Mr. Wallbank. Solo, No. 406, by Mr. Marfleet, also No. 409 by Alice Gordon. The following recited: Misses F. Unthank, Jackson, Ashworth, and E. R. Swift. There were 43 scholars present.—Will Swift, Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMSBURY.—It is with regret that we report the resignation of our conductor, Mr. Thompson. He has rendered valuable assistance to the Lyceum, and we all feel his loss greatly. His office has been filled by the Vice-Conductor, Mr. Shergold, who will, no doubt, put his platform experience to full advantage. This month we have had pleasant sessions, and especial praise should be given Mr. Morris for his paper on "Prayer." So delightfully simple were his thoughts expressed that every member present had no difficulty in understanding the subject. Mr. Morris's success should be an example to other Lyceumists. Everyone enjoyed a tea and social held on March 13th in aid of the Organ Fund, which was financially successful.—Herbert Bromage, Secretary.

BLACKBURN (St. Peter Street).—We held our Open Session on February 28th, Mr. Hopper conducting. Mr. Delsart, of Belgium, was our speaker, who gave us a clear description of the life and work of Spiritualists in Belgium. He informed us he had gained much information regarding English Lyceums, and said that when this terrible war was over he would work hard to bring their Lyceums in unison with ours. We had a very good time. We feel proud that we have such a speaker in our cause, and wish him every success when he has to return and take up the duties of the children's cause. We had several solos and recitations by Lyceumists which were well rendered.—Tom Edwards, Sec.

BLACKPOOL (Albert Road).—Our tea was well attended and was a success. About 250 were present. The concert was timed for 7 p.m., by which time the Church was full. The programme was varied, consisting of recitations, songs, duets, action songs, and items by the troupe. The action songs were mostly by the girls, little Nellie Barnes being amongst them; "The Pianoforte Song," given by the little ones, gained much applause, as did the song "Britannia's School." The troupe was mainly composed of the elder girls, who rendered some very nice songs. The prize-giving was, as usual, a period of blushing and bowing amongst the smaller children. We closed by singing "God Save the King."—H. Swan, Secretary.

BOLTON Bradford Street).—I am pleased to say our Lyceum is still progressing, and the numbers on the register are increasing rapidly. On March 6th we had a social, arranged by the mothers, which was a great success. The following Saturday, the young girls of the Lyceum gave a social, and their efforts were a complete success. On March 20th we held a Choir Social, when a party of friends from a neighbouring Wesleyan Church gave the "Village Wedding." We hope in time to be able to return this visit.—J. Grindrod, Sec.

BRADFORD (Otley Road).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, March 7th, conductor, Mr. Hale. There was a good response to the appeal of the conductor for items. Readings by Cyril Craig, Gerald Vinn, Hilda Raistrick, and Harry Vinn; Recitations, Cyril Craig, Gerald Vinn, Hilda Raistrick, and Arthur Vinn; Solos, Mr. Hale and Miss Richmond; duet, Mr. Horn and Miss Jones. Altogether we spent an enjoyable time.—Miss Elsie Ripley, Secretary.

BRADFORD, WAKEFIELD ROAD (Harker Street).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Open Session, which was very well attended. The following Lyceumists took part in the Session: Miss Ada Carter played for marching and calisthenics; recitations by Miss Snaith, Annie Ward, Nellie Hudson, Gladys Pammerton, Polly Stead, Masters George Snaith and David Snaith; Solos, Miss Annie Carter, 345 *Manual*, "Here the Angels"; Mr. Snaith, "God give us power." Several times has the flag of Spiritualism been hoisted in this part of the city, but it has fallen, but we mean this time, God giving us the power, to keep it flying.—R. Wilkinson, Secretary.

BRADFORD, WEST BOWLING (Boynton Street).—We held our Open Sessions on Sunday, March 7th. Our Conductor, Mr. Crofts, being present at the afternoon session. A number of good pearls were given; also solos and recitations were rendered by the members of the Lyceum, who were present in goodly numbers, and a very successful day was the result. I am pleased to report progress, despite the adverse conditions of the present day. I am sorry to report that we have a number of earnest Lyceumists down with sickness. I trust by our loving thoughts and the divine agency of our

Father God and the angel friends, they may be soon restored to health and strength to continue the good work.—Wm. Croft.

BRIGHTON (Manchester Street).—Sunday was, in a measure, a red letter day with us. Mrs. Clark gave the Liberty Group a splendid thought-provoking essay on "Astrology and a Free Will," which was well received. Our marching and calisthenic leader, Mr. Rhoades, evinces great interest in his instruction of the children. The social programme, as usual, was an all-round success, the following members contributing items: Mrs. Clark, Miss Zoie Brigden, Lily and Cassie Goodwin, Marie Myles, and Mr. Arthur Scoggins. A splendid feeling prevailed. We are looking forward to a visit from Mr. Severn, of Brighton, to our Liberty Group a week on Sunday. We are anticipating a fine time.—C. Moorey, Hon. Secretary.

BRIGHTON (Windsor Street).—We were pleased to welcome a visit from Lance-Corporal Bradley, a northern Lyceumist. He gave us a short interesting address on the word "Lyceum." Our Conductor described a few spirit children who were present with us, some being recognised, which brought home forcibly the truth that children from the other spheres do work in unison with us. This month pianoforte solos have been rendered by Mr. F. Curry and Miss E. Morton, and recitations by the Misses Hoskins, E. Johnson, and M. Morton. We feel convinced that when Spiritualists who attend our parent Society recognise and understand what a Lyceum is for, and the work which is done, our numbers will be greatly increased.—Marjorie Morton, Secretary.

BURNLEY (North Street).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary. Mr. Ernest Vickers, President of the B.S.L.U., being the speaker for the day. We had a splendid gathering, along with visitors from other Lyceums. Mr. Vickers conducted the afternoon session. Marching and calisthenics were heartily enjoyed. Recitations were well rendered by the children. A solo was given by Miss Laycock, "Nearer my God to Thee." Our friend, Mr. Chadwick, of Nelson, made the presentation to Miss A. J. Housin, of a gold pendant and chain from the Lyceumists and Society members, as a token of esteem, as she has attended our Lyceum 25 years without a break.—Beatrice Griffen, Secretary.

BURY (King Street, off Rochdale Road).—On Saturday, March 13th, we held our annual prize distribution. Mr. Charnley, the Conductor of Radcliffe Lyceum, presented same, and spoke words of encouragement to all prize winners, which was greatly appreciated, seeing that Mr. Charnley is an old Bury Lyceumist. A social evening followed, songs being given by Misses A. Wood and C. Henderson, and recitations by Mr. Thomas Kelly. On Saturday, March 20th, we held a Banner Social, a fairly good attendance. During the evening Mr. Kelly recited, and the two following sketches were given, both being amusing and instructive, namely, "Three Blind Mice" and "Larks for an Hour." Refreshments were served at each social.—Jos. Wood, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, March 14th, we held our usual Open Session, when the following gave recitations: Lily Driver, Lily Marriot, Ethel Wale, Alice Delicate, Ethel Briggs, and Mrs. Widdowson. This is our last Open Session before Anniversary, so I trust as many members as possible will take note so that we may have a much larger contribution on that occasion.—Edwin H. Widdowson.

GREAT HARWOOD (off Westwell Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, March 7th. The Silver Chain was led by Nora Wrigley; Musical Reading was taken by Willie Thornley, Florrie Owen, and Louie Holt; the Golden Chain was led by Mrs. Ainsworth. We had recitations from Alice Wylie, Willie Thornley, John R. Thornley, Mrs. Ainsworth, and Irene Bullen. Songs were rendered by Nora Wrigley and Florrie Owen.—Louie Holt, Secretary.

HAMILTON, ONT.—It gives me pleasure to report progress during the past year. Our membership is 60, being an increase of 42. The children's treat proved a success. Singing, recitations and games made a pleasant evening. We are also able to order a supply of the *Lyceum Manual*, of which we are in great need, owing to the increase in membership. We held our election of officers with the following results: Conductor, Mr. Gretton; Conductor of Marching, Mr. Frost; Leader of Calisthenics, Miss Frost; Secretary, Miss Etchells; Treasurer, Mr. Pritchard; Musical Conductor, Master Gretton; Guardian, Mr. Harrison; Librarian, Mr. Dove; Guards, Harold Earith and Wilfred Frost, who were also appointed Sick Visitors for the males, and Misses Adams and Palmer for the females. On March 5th we held a tea party, which was well attended and a success. We send fraternal greetings to all Lyceumists.—Miss Selina Etchells, Secretary.

HIRST.—We held our Open Session on March 7th, when pearls were given by Minnie Johnstone, Ronald Johnstone, Jane Elliott, Ettie Lapland, Sarah Elliott, Mabel Carlton, and Edmund Headley. A duet was sung by Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Harrison, and a solo by Thomas Teasdale. Recitations were given by Maggie Sproat, Ronald Allon and Ivy Johnstone. A dialogue by Jane Thomas, Sarah Elliott, and Ettie Lapland. Mr. Hall, the District Visitor, was with us, and gave a short address.—T. Teasdale, Secretary.

HEYWOOD.—We held our anniversary on Sunday, March 14th, which was successfully conducted by Mr. James Lord and Mr. Granville Kay. In the morning the calisthenics were conducted by Miss Barlow, and the marching by Miss Alice Lord. In the afternoon the calisthenics and marching were conducted by Miss Rosy Pickles and Miss Alice Lord, which was also successfully accomplished. In the afternoon we also distributed prizes to the Lyceumists for regular attendance, this being accomplished by Mrs. A. E. Bentley. In the evening Mrs. Bentley gave an address which was very pleasant to all, after the calisthenics and marching had been completed, which was conducted by Miss Doris Pickles and Mr. Archie Barley respectively.—Thos. Lord, Secretary.

HORWICH (Beatrice Street)—We are glad to report our Lyceum is making great progress, particularly in the afternoon session. The Liberty Group has a syllabus of lectures. Since my last report we have had Mediumship, Land Nationalisation, Optimism and Pessimism, impromptu speeches, man and spirit. Our District Council has arranged for interchange of conductors, which is working well. We have had Commission Street and Daisy Hill conductors.—R. Frost.

HULL, DAIRYCOATES.—On Sunday, February 28th, we held our first anniversary and prize distribution, when recitations, solos, duets, etc., were given by the members. A few children went through the calisthenics for the benefit of the parents. Mrs. Atkinson gracefully presented the prizes to the successful scholars, giving a few words of encouragement to each one. Mr. Downs, Conductor, presided, and also gave special prizes for essays on "Our first outing to Beverley Westwood," which were won by the following: The Misses Edith Wright, Lizzie Gould, Ida Watson, Charley Powell and Henry Priestman. The evening meeting was taken by the older Lyceumists, who gave addresses, solos, duets, trios, clairvoyance, etc. Special hymns were sung at each service.—E.D., Secretary.

HYDE.—Election of officers was as follows: Conductor, Mr. G. Hill (who will resume his position as soon as the war is over); Assistant Conductor, Mr. A. Wright; Secretary, Mr. E. D. Kelly; Treasurer, Mr. Bramwell; Guardians, Misses L. Whyatt and Mr. Jessop, Messrs. N. Cartwright and H. Fitton; Librarians, Misses A. Bailey and E. Horsfield; Leaders, Misses S. Burgiss and A. Dunn, Messrs. J. Wilde and N. Cartwright; Musical Conductors, Sisters E. and L. Horsfield; Calisthenic Leaders, Miss L. Whyatt and Mr. N. Cartwright. The balance sheet was passed as read, and the Auditor's report accepted. On March 20th, a concert was given at Ashton by our Pink and White Mascots.—E. D. Kelly, Secretary.

KEIGHLEY (Heber Street).—We held our annual tea and prize distribution on Saturday, February 27th, when about 150 sat down to tea, which was ably presided over by Lyceumists. In the evening a good concert was given by the members of Liberty Group. A sketch was well presented, entitled "A Leg of Mutton." About 40 prizes were distributed by Mr. Lonsdale. Mr. Sabey presided.—E. Shackleton.

LANCASTER.—A few young ladies, apparently, comprise the whole of the staff our Conductor has at his command to carry on his really arduous, and what seems at times, most thankless work. Certainly upwards of half-a-dozen of our usual Open Session entertainers filled their wonted places as follows with solos and recitations, the Misses Makin, Andrews, Hall, E. Towers, E. Pearson, Janey Kirk, and Master Alfred Hudson, and no doubt such as these shall herald in the dawn of a happier and more prosperous period in the existence of our Lyceum.—James Sayle.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On February 28th, Mr. Pridmore, the President of the Society, gave an address on "Temperance," which was well received by all present. On March 7th we held our Open Session, Miss Clarke conducted. The following Lyceumists took part: Recitations by Miss Revell and Mr. Bamer; solos by Miss U. Waterton, Masters A. Veary and S. Smith; duet by S. Eaton and H. Cartwright. We had a very good session and fair attendance of scholars.—Mr. J. Wicks, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Open Session, the same being conducted by Mr. Watts. Marching and exercises were taken by Mr. Reggie Bowmer, there being a marked improvement in this direction. A number of pearls were given, after which we were favoured by recitations and solos from Miss Winnie Harvey, Edith Hurst, Cissie Jones, Lily Harvey, Miss Henderson, Alec Spence, and Mr. Bowmer, all of which were highly appreciated. A very bright session ending with a short address from our friend Alderman Chaplin. A splendid attendance must also be recorded.—F. C. Smith, Secretary.

LEIGH (The Avenue).—On Saturday, February 27th, we held our annual tea party and prize distribution. There was a good number of Lyceumists and friends attending, about 30 prizes being distributed for regular attendance. Mrs. Woodward, the wife of our Conductor, before distributing the prizes, spoke of the pleasure it gave her to distribute the prizes on that day, and also how the Lyceum had prospered since her girlhood. Later in the evening the Lyceum children gave an entertainment entitled, "Babes in the Wood," under the leadership of Mrs. Blackshaw, our President's wife. We appreciate very much the time and patience which she has given to train the children; a fine tableaux bringing the entertainment to a successful close.—J. Hurdus, Secretary.

LINCOLN.—The Liberty Group have had many good discussions on varied subjects. The Conductors would like, however, to see a better and more punctual attendance at the Lyceum K.C. On Sunday, March 7th, we held Open Session. There were many pearls, and Violet Hill gave us a solo on the violin. Mr. Dobby, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Cotten, Miss Norwood and Miss Parkinson sang from the *Songster* "The Angels are coming." A few of us, namely, A. Crawshaw, A. Bailey, E. Andrews, P. Cotten, E. Tomlinson, S. Andrews, Miss Crawshaw and Miss Norwood gave recitations. I think we had a nice time altogether.—Albert Bailey.

LIVERPOOL (Romer Road).—On March 14th we had a visit from the Liverpool L.D.C. I selected March 21st as the Banner Day. Mr. Roberts conducted. Master R. Cretney was invited to lead the Silver Chain recitation. The connective readings in the Musical Reading were taken by N. Malley, E. Bell, and J. Malley, who offered comments on the same. Pearls were given by Messrs. W. J. Cretney, J. Malley, R. Cretney, Alfred Cretney, Misses E. Bell, Edith Dobson, H. Kelly, Mrs. Snowden, and Mrs. Guppy. The session was very bright and well attended.—W. J. Cretney, Secretary.

LONDON, BRIXTON.—Saturday, March 13th, a combined social of the Lyceum and Church was held, as a farewell to the Lyceum conductor, Mr. J. W. Parker, who through ill-health is returning to his native air in the North. A good programme consisting of songs, duets, and recitations were well rendered. The Lyceumists also, by special request, presented a pantomime sketch, "Cinderella." The President during the evening made a presentation to Mr. Parker on behalf of the Lyceum and Church, of a writing desk, suitably inscribed, at the same time expressing deep regret at the loss to both sections of the work. Master Harold Barnard then handed Mrs. Parker a beautiful bouquet of flowers, both suitably responded. A most enjoyable evening was spent.—J.W.P.

LONDON, PECKHAM, LAUSAUNE HALL.—On Sunday, March 21st, we held our Annual Demonstration at King's Hall. We had glorious weather, and a very large attendance, a record I think, but I was grieved indeed for the children. After they had looked forward to receiving medals for their efforts, which, to my mind, was the most important as far as they were concerned, owing to the long time the judging took the majority of them were obliged to go home, anxiously wondering about their efforts, they not being able to give results in time. We are looking forward to the B.S.L.U. visit, April 11th. Will those friends coming from other Societies staying for tea kindly let me know not later than April 6th?—S. Clarkson.

LONDON, PLAISTOW (Braemar Road).—On Sunday, March 21st, about 36 took part in the London Lyceum's Annual Demonstration held at the King's Hall, and the session was enjoyed by all. Pearls were rendered by Rose Lambert, Reginald Manning, Florence King, and Miss T. Manning rendered a recitation entitled "A Noble Vengeance,"—we congratulate her upon winning a prize on behalf of Plaistow. Praise must be given to all children for the effort they made. Our Conductor, Mr. Askins, must be congratulated on being elected Secretary for the L.L.D.C., and we wish him success. Our Lyceum is progressing favourably, and if the same enthusiasm is maintained throughout the year we shall make a very great advance.—A. R. Monk, Secretary.

LONDON, STRATFORD (Idmiston Road).—We have now started a mid-week session on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. On Sunday, 21st March, we attended the London Council's Demonstration at King's Hall, and won one of the silver medals offered for competition, which has greatly encouraged both children and workers. On Monday evening, 22nd, we had our Lyceum Tea, when all our children, and some mothers, spent a most enjoyable time. Three Russian friends attended, and gave us sundry mandoline solos and a song in Russian. Eva and Eileen Connor responded with a song in Gaelic. These items were interspersed with skipping competitions, musical chairs, songs, recitations, etc., until 9 o'clock.—Mrs. A. T. Connor, Secretary.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—Our Lyceum is progressing. Pearls and individual efforts are splendid, and every week we find fresh talent. On March 11th we held our annual prize distribution, and a splendid evening was spent. Mr. Robinson, a great friend of our Lyceum, kindly distributed the prizes; also games were played and songs sung by friends and Lyceumists. The same gentleman also gave a short address, which interested us all. March 21st we met at King's Hall for the Annual United Demonstration.—Alice Mitchell, Secretary.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—We are still striving and working for a better position in our movement, but are handicapped owing to the inability of members to attend owing to the war. On Sunday, March 21st, we had a party of about 50 attended the Annual Demonstration of the London District Council at King's Hall, and a splendid meeting was held. An effort which was well up to the standard of previous meetings.—H. Watthey, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, ARDWICK (Maskell Street).—On Sunday, March 21st, we held our Open Session. At the evening session we had marching and calisthenics, and also recitations by Miss B. Stirling, Masters R. Wardle, G. McClelland, S. Coleman and H. Stirling; pianoforte solos by Misses F. Jones and A. Sharp, and songs by Master H. Coleman, Misses Entwistle and M. Poulton, which helped to make the session a general success. We are still progressing with our Liberty Groups. At our last meetings we have had a very interesting subject, "Destiny," which came to a close after a splendid discussion. We extend a hearty invitation to all who can be with us at our Liberty Groups.—Miss Quigley, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, PENDLETON (Ford Lane).—On Sunday, March 23rd, we had our election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. O'Neill; Secretary, Mr. C. Lloyd; Treasurer, Mr. H. Sharples; Assistant Conductor, Miss A. Clayton; Guardian, Miss N. Boyd; Conductors of Marching, Mr. A. Stirk and Mr. J. Halliday; Conductors of Calisthenics, Miss N. Boyd and Mr. S. Butler; Captain of Guards, Mr. E. Berry; Guards, Mr. O'Neill, A. Stirk, J. Halliday, K. Lilliot and W. Pilkington; Musical Conductors, Miss C. Boyle, Mr. S. Butler and W. Pilkington; Sick Visitor, Mr. Vickers; Delegates to M.S.D. Council, Mr. C. Lloyd and Miss Clayton. Hoping the young officers' work in Lyceum cause will be a great success.—C. Lloyd, Secretary.

MIDDLESBROUGH (Waterloo Road).—We have much regret in saying that our esteemed friend Mr. Geo. Martin has, through unforeseen circumstances, resigned his position as Conductor of the Lyceum, and expressed his sorrow in so doing. Mr. John Tuffin was elected to take up the work. We also regret to say that Miss M. Bessant, who has done some good work in the past year as Secretary, has been obliged to resign her office as Guardian, Miss Agnes Drew being elected to take up the Guardianship. We feel that with our new Conductor and Guardian they will do their very utmost to help in the advancement and good fellowship of the Lyceum.—E. W. Buckingham, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, BENWELL (I.L.P. Rooms).—We held our Open Session on March 7th, when we had a good attendance of scholars. After pearls and recitations by the children, Mr. J. B. Turnbull gave a very interesting address on "The house we live in, or the body," which was very attentively listened to. On March 21st we held our election of officers, which are as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Dodgson; Assistant Conductor, Miss M. Brown; Secretary, Mr. J. Scott; Treasurer, Miss E. Brown; Guardian, Miss Holmwood; Musical Conductor, Miss N. Morris; Assistant, Miss Holmwood; Auditor, Mr. D. McCallum; Delegates, Mr. J. B. Turnbull and Mr. J. Scott; Captain of Guards, Master A. Murrell.—J. Scott, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON AND BYKER.—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Open Session, Mr. B. Westgarth conductor. We had recitations by Lavinia Wardle, John

Wardle, Jennie Jobson, Edward Patterson, Annie Shadforth, Thomas Fenwick, Robert Fenwick, Joseph Bradley, Agnes Bradley, Gordan Sandam, Edith Sandham, Fred Eke, Lily Eke, Margery Whitfield, Mr. Eke, Lily Taylor, Mary Wardle, Mary McCulloch, Rachael McCulloch, Mary Miller and Molly Miller. Pearl, Mrs. Wardle. Solos, Alice Exe. A most enjoyable session.—Mrs. R. Hunter, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Bentinck Road).—On Sunday, March 14th, we held our Lyceum Quarterly Day. In the afternoon we had an Open Session, when four little girls sang "Sunny Days of Childhood." Recitation was given by Winnie Breffit. Marching and Calisthenics were gone through in an able manner. Miss Swadden conducted the session. In the evening we had again the Lyceum officers, Miss Swadden taking the service, giving a very interesting address and clairvoyance. Duet was rendered by Miss Swadden and Miss Woodward. Recitations by Winnie Breffit. An anthem by the choir was very ably rendered. Miss Swadden and Mrs. Hayes conducted the after circle.—Mr. Read, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Lamartine Street).—The usual monthly Open Session was held on Sunday, March 7th. A good programme was provided, consisting of pearls, recitations and solos. Mr. G. W. Morris (President, Gladstone Hall Society), gave a pleasing and instructive address upon "Fairies and Fairy Tales," pointing out the excellent morals they contained and how applicable to our daily lives.—A. Shipley.

NOTTINGHAM (Mechanics' Hall).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, March 21st, conducted by Miss V. G. Rayner, when the following items were ably rendered:—Recitations by Miss F. Hutchinson and Miss P. Hartwell; duet by Miss D. Hawks and Miss M. Sanderson; violin solo by Mr. J. W. Rayner; and pianoforte solo by Miss A. Holmes. Mr. Bellamy kindly gave clairvoyant descriptions, which were very successful. Altogether we had a very successful afternoon.—O. Peel.

OLDHAM (Elliott Street).—The report for past month is one of credit to the Lyceumists, for they have kept up their standard of efficiency in a splendid manner, but not being satisfied with that, we are striving to raise ourselves, for we have been successful in securing the services of Mr. Barker, as choirmaster, who is endeavouring to teach the Lyceumists in the art of music by forming a choir. It is the sincere hope of all that this step will mark a new era in the life of the Lyceum and Church. On March 20th the young ladies held a fancy dress carnival, which was a great social success. Recitations, given by Miss L. Bradley and Mrs. Turpin, received well-earned applause.—Joe Clayton, Secretary.

OLDHAM (Union Street).—During the month we have had good sessions. The marching and calisthenics have been good, and so have the pearls. Recitations have been given by Frances Rooks, Winnie Rooks, Mary Hargreaves, Miss Redden and Mrs. Hargreaves; solos by Frances Rooks, Alice Baguley, Hilda Pointon, Elsie Pointon, Miss Ashton, Richard Wood, Handley Dearnley, Albert Fallows and Sam Dearnley; duets by Frances Rooks, Lily Renshaw, Alice Baguley and Florence Baguley. Our Liberty Group have had a lesson by Miss Bessie James, on "Words or Deeds," which lasted three weeks and was very interesting.—F. Grimes, Secretary.

PRESTON (Clarke's Yard).—Open Session, March 7th, attendance good; more boys than girls present. We have some bright intelligent lads, and we think they ought to do their share on Open Session Sunday; it's not the lack of ability that keeps them as listeners while the girls do most of the work. Recitations were given by Lizzie Chambers, Alice Spencer, Nellie Spencer, Rena Colis, Mabel Cartmell, Nellie Nicolson and Lily Holker. A trio was sung by Miss Moorby, Mr. Richard Cartmell and Bert Tomlinson from the *Manual* 232, "Steps of Progress." A morning well spent Mr. Margerison, one of our members, has formed a rambling club amongst the boys, which we think will have good results.—Ellen Savage, Secretary.

RADCLIFFE (Ash Street).—On Saturday, March 13th, the Bolton D.C. held their annual meeting in the above hall. After tea a most enjoyable evening was spent, including the presentation of the shield to the Leigh Lyceum representative. On Sunday, March 14th, the Open Session was visited by a great number of friends from various Lyceums in the district. The children opened by singing "Welcome to all." Pearls, recitations and songs were rendered with every satisfaction. Mr. Batten's explanation of "The Golden Side" was greatly appreciated. Mr. Hibbert's definition of "Truth" was very instructive. The happy session concluded by singing "God be

with you." The evening service was conducted by the E.C. A record with joy to look back upon.—Miss Marston, Sec.

RISHTON (Eachill Road).—On Sunday, March 14th, we held our Open Session, when the following scholars helped to make it a success:—Recitations by Lizzie English, Rita Omerod, Omerod Edwards, James English. Solos by Miss A. Haughton, Miss E. Omerod and Mary Ann Heap. Mr. Lappin, of Manchester, our speaker for the day, made a few comments on our silver chain recitation which were very encouraging. If only we could have more of these speakers in our movement we should soon see an upliftment in the cause, for when we acknowledge the heroism of the old pioneers and the freedom they won for us it behoves us to work for the children who succeed us.—Eva Omerod, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Hall).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary, when we had our friend Mr. Kitson for our speaker. In the afternoon we held our Open Session. Pearls were given by several Lyceumists. Recitations were said by Emma Firth, entitled "Grandfather's spectacles"; John Firth, Junr., entitled "Can't and won't"; Clara Standring, entitled "To the day." Solo was sung by Agnes Firth, entitled "Angels' footsteps." Duet by Misses Winifred Lilley and Nellie Dearden, entitled "Hark, I hear the angels." Mrs. John Firth, the Conductor, presided. Mr. Tom Raynar and Miss Lizie Dean conducted the marching and calisthenics, and Mr. Alfred Barlow was the pianist.—John Firth.

ROYTON (Union Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday afternoon, March 7th, conducted by Mr. Greaves. Singing, also silver and golden chain readings, were gone through in a very enjoyable manner. Pearls and solos were rendered by Messrs. Greaves, Lord, Chisnall and A. Smith; also Miss Haslam. Though only few in number, we had a very pleasant time together.—Miss A. Haslam, Secretary.

ROTHERHAM (Percy Street).—At our Open Session on February 14th the individual responses were numerous, with both the adults and children. The following gave recitations: Cissy Bruce, May Hempshall, Doris Wilson, Wilfred Swallow, Olive Harrod, Ellis Rand, Winifred Swallow, Horace Hempshall, Cissy Cole, Mr. Rowlinson and Mrs. Bunker. Solo by Mr. Chappell. A word of thanks must be given to our Musical Conductor, Miss Liversedge, for her services. Our Assistant Conductor, Mr. Rawlinson, and his wife and family, on account of his work, are leaving the district and these services will be sorely missed by all. At the Lyceum, where they deemed it a pleasure to labour in the cause of the children, they have the heartiest good wishes of all.—H. Blaymire, Sec.

SHEFFIELD (Heeley).—On Sunday, February 28th, in the Liberty Group, Mr. Spencer Green, of Attercliffe, gave an interesting address on "Environment." Discussion followed. On Thursday, March 4th, we held our monthly Lyceum Children's Social, and although not very well attended, the children present had a happy time. We held our Open Session on Sunday, March 7th. There was a very good attendance. The following junior Lyceumists gave recitations, etc.:—Alice Whitehead, Hilda Furniss, Ivy Bowmer, Doris Childs, Eunice Hempstock, Agnes Gibbons, Gladys Gibbons, Hector Gibbons, Arthur Oliver, James Porter, Jack Porter, George Porter, Hugh Cecil Truelove, Willie Bowmer, Rupert Marriott, also Mr. Childs rendered a beautiful and impressive melody, entitled "Take me in your arms."—G. Stevenson, Secretary.

SHILDON (Shildon Road).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Open Session, and I am glad to say we had a very pleasant afternoon together. Excellent recitations and solos were rendered by Bessie Kidd, Nelly Pearson, Nora Pearson, Eva Myers and Thomas Graham. March 14th was our Lyceum Sunday. The Society allows the Lyceum one Sunday per quarter. Every Lyceumist took a part in the programme and it quite took up the evening service. Excellent pearls were rendered by all.—Robert H. Evans, Secretary.

SHIPLEY.—On Saturday, February 27th, we held our Lyceum Anniversary Tea and Concert. The concert was presided over by Mr. Sutcliffe. Songs and recitations were given by the Misses Holdsworth, Tordoff, Barker and Winterbottom. Mr. Whitehead and Master Cloughton. There was also a dialogue, entitled "Red Riding Hood," by the children, the principal part being taken by Miss Winterbottom, and another, entitled "The wrong flat," by the adults. Accompanist, Miss Hilda Oldfield. On Sunday afternoon Open Session was held, when prizes for good attendance were presented by our President, Mr. Oldfield. In the evening a service of song, entitled "Joan of Arc," was rendered by the Lyceum scholars. Reader, Mr. Jackson. The whole was a success, crowded audiences, good collections.—H. Cloughton, Secretary.

SOUTHAMPTON (Cavendish Grove).—On Wednesday, March 17th, we held our tea and social, delayed on account of so many children being ill. The members of the Church supplied all the good things with which the tables were loaded. Mr. Barker again decorated the hall and gave it a festive appearance. Mr. Brim photographed us. About forty sat down to tea. During the social chocolates and other sweets, oranges and bonbons were distributed. Games were heartily enjoyed. Miss Doris Hulme, a member of the Star Group, favoured us with vocal solos, and selections on the violin. Hearty cheers were given for Mr. Hendy for the use of the hall, and all the kind friends who had helped to make the occasion a success.—Mrs. Penton, Conductor.

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Eldon Street).—There has not been anything special to chronicle during this month. Our meetings have been bright and good and our attendances of leaders and scholars a little above the average. The pearls from the scholars have improved in tone and quality, showing care in selection. I find this to have a very great educational result. We have decided to hold an hour's session on Good Friday afternoon, and at the close to give each member a bun and an orange.—Wm. Woodall.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our monthly Open Session. There was a good attendance of scholars, and a very enjoyable session was spent. The Golden Chain was conducted by Mr. Lewis Firth, of Halifax, the speaker for the day, and many Lyceumists participated in the discussion on same. After marching and calisthenics, a duet was given by Misses Copley and Thorpe, a reading by Mr. Fred Sutcliffe, a song by Master Lewis Steel, and a few pearls. Our Lyceum is now on a strong footing, the interest is keen, and the attendance very satisfactory, reaching between 60 and 70 for afternoon session.—W. A. Rowson, Secretary.

TODMORDEN (Halifax Road).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Open Session, conducted by Mr. O. Sutcliffe. Recitations were given by Miss G. Ashworth, Miss D. M. Ashworth, E. Howarth, G. Howarth, W. Howarth. Solos by Miss C. and E. Howarth. A very enjoyable and instructive session.—O.S., Secretary.

WAKEFIELD (Dixon Yard).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Anniversary, which was well attended, Miss Hesp, President L.L.D.C., conducting, took M.R. 236 and asked for volunteers to read the conductor's parts and then explain them, which was very well done. Emily Petch sang a solo. Recitations by May Beety, George Beety, Evelyn Stakes, Kathleen and Dorothea Harding. Nearly every one gave a pearl, even some of the visitors. Miss Hesp gave a stirring address in the evening, on "Reality in the spirit world." Mr. Beety took the chair. On Monday we had a tea and prize distribution, and there has been more prizes this last year won than for a long while, which is a credit to our Conductor.—A. Harding.

WALSALL.—On March 7th we held our usual Open Session, which was exceptionally well attended. Recitations were given by the Lyceumists as follows:—"The Land of Counterpane and my shadow," Lily Wadsworth"; "Mother's mending basket and tiny tadpoles," Emmie Stanton, and "The windmill," Baden Taylor. Recitations from the *Lyceum Manual* were also given by Arthur Mason, Reggie Shekelton, Jack Stanton and Ernest Beebee. Mr. J. Jenkins, one of our Lyceumists, who has recently returned from abroad, conducted the session in a very pleasant and efficient manner, which, I am sure, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.—D. Allen, Secretary.

WELLINGTON, N.Z. (Kent Terrace).—On Sunday, January 31st, we held our sixth Anniversary, which I am pleased to say, went off without a hitch. The occasion was celebrated by a service of song, entitled "Spirit return." Mr. Miles conducted it with his usual capability. The singing was very nicely rendered, considering the short time the children had to practice it in. There was a very good attendance of visitors, all of whom were delighted with the programme. We realized the sum of 16/3, the largest collection yet on any one Sunday. We dispensed with our annual picnic this month, on account of bad weather, and held a social in the hall instead, which I think was a very good substitute.—Alfred G. Miles, Sec.

WINNIPEG (Polson Avenue).—On Sunday, March 7th, we held our Open Session, conducted by our old Conductor, Mr. H. Stephenson. Recitations were rendered by the following:—Maria Vernon, Violet Vernon and Joe Green. A dialogue by Ruby Spencely and Unena Somalidson, No. 77 in the *Manual*, "The presence of angels." Solos by Madge Hancock and Violet Vernon. I am sorry to say we had a poor attendance on account of sickness.—Edith Vernon, Secretary.