

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. 29.

DECEMBER, 1915.

ONE PENNY.

Lyceum Banner Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Seth Ackroyd (Huddersfield).

The Halifax and Huddersfield Lyceum District Council have made a happy choice in our old comrade, Mr. Seth Ackroyd, of Huddersfield.

His long, untiring and persistent labours make him an appropriate subject for the BANNER Gallery of celebrated workers; and although regarded by some as very eccentric, he may always be accepted as solid right through.

He was ushered into life the same year as our glorious epiphany of Modern Spiritualism, i.e., 1848, so it should be an easy matter for every Lyceumist to know just how old the subject of our sketch is. His early years were spent in connection with Wesleyan Methodism, one out of a large number who have come into Spiritualism from that organization. He was a prominent member of the young men's class, but possessing the critical and argumentative mind, he frequently found himself at war with popular opinion, he refused to take things on trust and was constantly asking the why and wherefore?

His influence with a number of the young men determined them to form a separate group to study the fundamentals of religion, the inspiration of the Bible and the existence of God.

Truly an ambitious programme for any young man, but his programme was carried through, and his faith in orthodox Christianity was broken, and he became for a time what is termed a liberal Christian.

Then came a real turning point in his life; after listening to the Bradlaugh and McCann debate in Huddersfield he realised that upon analysis Christianity failed, and he found himself amongst the Secularist thinkers, and although never actually a member of the Secularist Society, he was associated with them in much of their propaganda, and frequently presided for Bradlaugh, Foote, Robertson, Mrs. Besant, and others, and for a number of years was

contented with the materialistic explanation of the phenomena of life.

Mr. Ackroyd spent the summer of 1892 at Grimsby and frequently lectured on the sands at Cleethorpes, his eccentric nature securing him audiences by his grotesque antics with a few sea shells. His lectures upon such subjects as "Progress in Religion," "Development of Philosophy," etc., gained for him a certain measure of notoriety, and he frequently found himself the centre of most heated discussions, and his services were recognised and appreciated locally by a gift of books at the end of the season for his fight for free enquiry and untrammelled discussion.

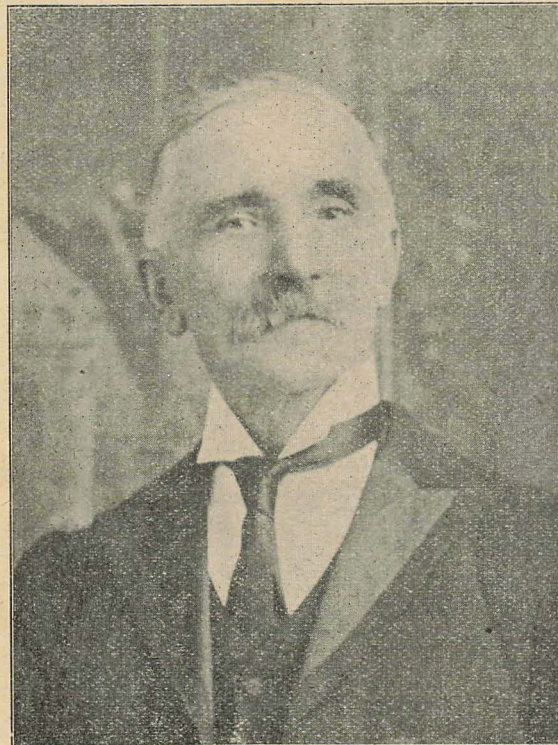
Mutual improvement classes, debating societies, etc., kept him busy and provided further opportunities for the development of the analytical temperament, which is so pronounced in our subject.

It was in Huddersfield that he first came into contact with the Lyceum movement, and the methods of teaching; the subjects taught, and the physical culture entirely captivated him, and he became at once an ardent friend of the children.

He later removed to Hull and there gained his first experiences of spiritual phenomena, and received some really startling evidence of the continuity of life, and the real interest that the spirit

people took in the lives of the earth dwellers, and the spiritual movement specifically; a prophetic utterance that he would take the platform and be also President of the Society was fulfilled in an almost unique manner; although such a thing seemed very remote; events shaped themselves with such startling rapidity, and in such an unlooked for manner that in a very short time he was elected President of the Granville Hall Society.

He was impressed very much by this series of circumstances, and entered upon a serious study of spiritualism and its philosophy, and in these studies he found the true solvent of all his materialistic difficulties, and spiritualism with its optimism and its prospect of human achievements became to him the greatest of all gospels.



He came back to his native town in 1906, and associated himself immediately with the Ramsden Street Lyceum, and also became a member of the Society, and for four years his time was devoted between Lyceum work and the tending of an aged parent.

An accident to his foot necessitated the amputation of a toe, and a sojourn at the Convalescent Home at Meltham. Mr. Ackroyd is a great nature lover, and he has many quaint stories and rich parables to relate, and during his convalescence at Meltham he used to take long walks up that lovely valley and over the wide, wild stretches of moorland, and he always affirms that it was on these quiet rambles that he gained his deepest inspirations and his clearest visions; he found "sermons in stones; books in running brooks, and good in everything." Amongst the wild wooded hills and rolling moorland he found nature struggling to be beautiful and useful, and he gained new meanings of life, and came back to his labours filled with a new purpose, a higher resolve, and a keener appreciation of the true aims of life.

Mr. Ackroyd has been a leader at Ramsden Street for several years; for five years he has been actively associated with the Halifax and Huddersfield Lyceum District Council, as delegate, official, and District Visitor, he is sometimes proudly spoken of as the "Bishop," and the "old man who is *always young*," and he affirms that his association with the children keeps him young, and suggests to all that if they want to find the *Elixir of Life* then join the children's movement.

He is also a certificated platform speaker of the Yorkshire Union, and Vice-President of the newly formed District Committee, and even Lancashire is offering to him cordial invitations.

Mr. Ackroyd is also very much interested in the Messenger Guild Study Groups, and although old in years he is young and active in mind, and one of the most ardent members of the Huddersfield centre.

He gives all the credit to the Lyceum, and claims to have been a lost soul, found and reclaimed by the children of spiritualism, and we sincerely hope that he will long be spared to return loving service in a work he so earnestly loves.

In Memoria, etc.

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

LONDON, WOOLWICH.—It is just a year we recorded the passing to spirit life of our first little Lyceumist, Margorie Osborne, aged 8. She was our best little reciter. Loved by Conductor, Secretary, and all who know her, and sadly missed by the Home Circle.—J. M. Piggott.

NELSON.—November 4th, at Winchester, Private Fred Stevenson, aged 22, and was interred at Nelson Cemetery, our President officiating. Deeply regretted. W. Walmsley.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—I am sorry to announce the passing on of Annie Bessant, aged 14½ years. "May the angels guard and guide her."—E.W.B., Secretary.

[We much regret that District Visitors' Reports, the Instalment of Life and Labour in the Spirit World, and other matter are crowded out of this month's issue.—EDITOR.]

For the Boys.

Conducted by Geo. Fred Knott.

My Dear Chums,—

I am glad to receive solutions from new chums this month. There are many others who do not send solutions and thereby miss the merit cards. There was a young man travelling with a party in France. He had just finished reading his BANNER when a request was made by another man for a peep at the paper. One was a Lyceumist from Hyde and the other hailed from Blackburn. This meeting has resulted in a larger order of BANNERS from that Lyceum with a view of sending extra copies to the distant Lyceumists, one, at least, of whom is anxiously waiting for his paper to see if his solutions are correct. I am grateful that the boys "out there" look for this link with home and friends. May the tie remain.

Joe Farrington gives me pleasure through his letter. Robert Whitehead appreciates our page and is successful in his answers. F. Critchley has all results correct. Fred Williams has not been long a Lyceumist to obtain a Merit Card; I am pleased with his efforts. G. Owen, a new chum, who lives near the sea, has won the first time of trying. I have met Arthur Holt at Southport, and am glad to get his letter. J. Dolphin is again a winner. Merit Cards will be duly sent to the successful puzzlers.

The answers to the October puzzles are: 1, Horwich, Mr. R. Frost; 2, Keighley, Mr. E. Shackleton; 3, Lancaster, Mr. J. Sale; 4, Leicester, Mr. J. Wicks; 5, London, Kingston, F. J. Miles; 6, London, Tottenham, Miss K. Jones; 7, Manchester, Harpurhey, Miss P. Thomas; 8, Mexboro', Mr. W. Woodward; 9, Mossley, Mr. A. Law; 10, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. J. Scott; 11, Nottingham, Hyson Green, Miss M. Read; 12, Nottingham, Mechanics' Hall, Mr. O. Peel.

This month the puzzles are all taken from words on page 183, November issue of LYCEUM BANNER. See how many you can find. Here they are:—

1. A place where Spiritualists' children like to go.
2. A very small coin.
3. What boys and girls learn to do at school.
4. A man who wastes his money.
5. A fast train.
6. Something I like to receive from chums.
7. What every writer to this page becomes to me.
8. A fish.
9. What you do when answering these puzzles.
10. One of the five senses.
11. Something required to make plants grow.
12. The name of one of the inhabitants of a conquered European nation suffering from the present war.

All the answers are in the "Boy's Page." Give the column and line and the word when sending solutions. Who will send the first solutions from the south of England, Scotland, Ireland or the Colonies?

THE PROGRESS OF POVERTY.

When King Henry VIII passed away his young son succeeded him. The Duke of Somerset was appointed Protector and tried to stay the inclosing of farm lands on behalf of the farmers but was executed for his

trouble. He was a very brave man. The poor people were bitterly disappointed at his failure, wept for his loss, and 16,000 of them formed a camp near Norwich from which they scoured the country round, destroying enclosures and levelling fences. Italians were imported by the landlords to suppress the rebellion. The farmers, under Captain Hett, lost 300 men in an attack upon the city of Norwich. They retired but advanced again and took the city. Then the Earl of Warwick arrived with his army of lords, knights, squires, and gentlemen, drove out the countrymen with great slaughter on both sides. The insurgents again attacked, took some of the King's artillery and blew down the walls of the city. The Earl of Warwick was in great danger, but was saved by the arrival of German and Italian soldiers who were hired for the occasion. After a pitched battle the countrymen were put to flight, but not before 10,000 brave Englishmen thus died by the arms of foreigners at the bidding of the new aristocracy of England.

Many people refused to work under the new conditions, so a law was enacted "that if any man or woman should refuse to labour and live idly for three days, that he or she should be branded with a red-hot iron on the breast with the letter V, and be adjudged a slave for two years of any person who should inform against such idler."

The master was directed and empowered "to sell, bequeath, or let out on hire the service of such slaves, and they might put a ring of iron about the neck, arm or leg of the slave for the more knowledge or surety of the keeping of him." If a slave ran away for fourteen days he was brought back and branded on the cheek, becoming a slave for life. If he ran away a second time he was put to death.

This infamous Act of Parliament was passed about 1549, after the Reformation, and under a Protestant King, less than 400 years ago.

When Queen Elizabeth came to the throne the condition of the poor was very bad. The starvation and beggary of broken men led to robbery which held the country in terror. The magistrates of Somersetshire captured a gang of fifty deposed tenants who had been reduced to stealing and hung all of them at once. The good Queen altered much, during her reign, the condition of the poor. She said at the commencement of her reign, "I have desired to have the obedience of my subjects by love and not by compulsion."

The basis of our present poor law system was originated. Every parish was obliged to provide food, clothing, and shelter for the lame, impotent, the old, and the blind, and also to put to work all persons with no means to obtain a living honestly. Houses of correction were built to provide a sufficient stock of wool, hemp, flax, iron or stuff that youth may not be brought up to grow idle rogues. The keepers were to supply poor persons with material for work and pay them for their labour. Here we have the introduction of the present workhouse system of the rich providing for the poor.

New occupations were found for labour by a new system of agriculture which drew back some of the men who had been driven from the land; the growth of English commerce began by sea-faring enterprise. Up to this time the ships which came to England mostly belonged to other nation's merchants. Under Elizabeth the English sailors made their way to all parts of the world and began that rapid career which

has made us the carriers of the world. The fisheries in the channel provided occupation for many men and gave them a longing for a sea-faring life. Thousands tried their fortunes on the seas or in some of the wonderful lands beyond the tides. The commencement of domestic or hand manufacture caused the spinning of yarn, weaving, pulling and dyeing of cloth, digging for coal and iron, the making of earthenware, and many other industries. All these required labour, and the land-starved labourer found a demand for his services in some new centre of activity near where he lived or on the seas. Previously wool was sent abroad. Now the making and wearing of home-made goods was encouraged, and a man was fined if he did not wear a Sunday cap which was made in England. People on the Continent, suffering from religious persecution, came over to England and taught the English their skill in weaving, paper making, glass-blowing, clock-making, and metal manufacture. The Queen refused the introduction of a knitting machine because she thought it would displace hand labour, and again cause unemployment.

Up to this time all taxes came from the land or its produce. I will tell you next month how indirect taxation came into existence.

Your sincere chum,

GEO. FREDK. KNOTT,

22, Gowers St., Rochdale.

This month there is a postscript to our page. Since writing the above, solutions have been sent by A. Appleton, H. Edwards, N. Haley, and J. Oldham. All have won Merit Cards. Our space is full, but I want to briefly mention J. Oldham, who is in France, looks forward to his BANNER being placed in his hands and anticipates the time when he can again be with his Lyceum. I need not write how glad I was to get his letter. May angels guard and cheer him and all our Lyceumists who are somewhere in other lands.

G.F.K.

NOTICE.

All motions for the revision of the Lyceum Union's Constitution should be sent to the Secretary of the Revision Committee, Miss Alice Hesp, 10, Cross Flatts Drive, Beeston, Leeds.

Will friends who have suitable pieces for Golden Chain Recitations and Musical Readings please forward them with a view to having them inserted in the "Lyceum Manual." Alfred Kitson, General Secretary, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

The Founder of Children's Progressive Lyceums.

Mr. A. J. Davis was born August 11th, 1826, at Blooming Grove, Orange County, New York, U.S.A. His father was part weaver and part shoemaker. Four sisters (two of whom have passed away) and a brother had already been born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis when our subject made his appearance.

At the age of four days, Uncle Thomas Maffet, a neighbour, who was fond of alcoholic beverages, called and declared that the child should be named.

The children were brought from their play, and with a glass of brandy in his left hand and the infant in his right, the inebriated Thomas began: "Attention company, the first thing I want to know is

whether you'll call this 'ere boy just what I say?" All exclaimed "Yes." "Well then," he continued, "I'm going to vote for 'old Hick'ry," the hero of New Orleans, the greatest man a-living in the world, and I want this 'ere boy to bear that great man's name, Andrew Jackson. Neighbour Davis, keep in mind my words, I ain't so boozy as you think: I know what I'm saying and I say (hic) that 'ar great man's name hasn't reached further than will the name of this son of yourn. He'll grow up a young Hick'ry, mind that, and you'll never be sorry he was born."

Little did Uncle Thomas realise that through his mediumistic qualities Andrew Jackson Davis would introduce to the world the most unique system of education ever presented to mankind, and that from America it would spread to nearly every country in the world.

Fraillty of body served to make Jackson more sensitive, more dependant upon the protecting love of his mother in whose gentleness and untutored fidelity to her conceptions of right he was nurtured and directed. Jackson's interrupted attempts to go to school and acquire the rudiments of an elementary education met with disheartening discouragements in his inability to memorise his simple lessons. His school days only amounted to five months, and the information to which most youths have at least an introduction by means of books, was to him utterly unknown. In the spring of 1842 he heard a voice say "No!" when a hymn was being sung which spoke of the departed "In their graves laid low"; he was at this time inclined to believe death to be a sleep. Late in the autumn of 1843, having become interested in the reports of mesmerism, Jackson joined a party of young men who were to place themselves under the magician's power. "Professor" Grimes was unable to magnetise him, but soon after this William Livingstone, a tailor in Ploughkeepsie where Jackson lived, induced magnetic slumber, when he surprised all who heard him by his clairvoyant powers. From this time onward he began to unfold his psychological powers, which were destined to startle the world with their wonderful nature.

About a month after he was first magnetised his vision was wonderfully extended, and on January 1st, 1844, he reached a phase in his development when he seemed to enter the very constitution of nature and became more acquainted with forms, life, properties, emanations, development of the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms. He soon developed the ability to diagnose disease clairvoyantly and prescribe remedies for the suffering. After a time, Jackson, being weary of criticism, resolved to leave all "sleepy business," and while thus depressed he received the magic staff, "**Under all circumstances keep an even mind.**" During Jackson's connection with Mr. Livingstone (which was from March, 1844, to August, 1845), his opportunities for acquiring information were but little if any more extensive than they had been before. Having for the previous part of his life been absorbed in the occupation of tailor, Mr. Livingstone had not been able to acquaint his mind with that scientific and philosophic knowledge which would have qualified him to impart any instruction to Jackson.

During the period when Jackson was not travelling he was, on an average, put into the superior state twice daily for the purpose of attending to the diseased. Most of his time whilst in the ordinary state

he spent in some light normal exercise, in walking or in visiting friends, little or no time being spent in solitude. Whilst examining patients in the abnormal state, the human system seemed entirely transparent to him, and to the utter astonishment of his critics he employed the technical terms of anatomy, physiology, and *materia medica* as familiarly as household words. On the 27th of November, 1845, Jackson appointed Dr. Lyon, of Bridgeport, to be magnetiser, and William Fishbrough as scribe, to prepare for the press his lectures which were to commence immediately. There were one hundred and fifty seven lectures in all, the first being delivered November 28th, 1845, and the last on January 25th, 1847. The time occupied in the delivery of a lecture varied from forty minutes to about four hours, and the quantity of matter delivered at a sitting varied from three to fifteen pages of foolscap, closely written. Such subjects as Astronomy, Cosmogony, Geology, Ethnology, Archæology, Mythology, Theology, Psychology, History, Metaphysics, etc., were embodied in his lectures, showing conclusively that the information proceeded from an external source other than Jackson, seeing that he was really uneducated.

The lectures were ultimately published in book form as "Nature's Divine Revelations: A Voice to Mankind," and is one of the most wonderful works ever published. Many important people residing in New York acted as witnesses, and affirm that the lectures were delivered under "Test conditions."

One of many pieces of startling information in "Nature's Divine Revelations" is as follows:—"The existence of eight planets has been determined upon as nearly beyond all doubt." On August 31st, 1846, Le Verrier, a French astronomer, established the position from mathematical calculations of the outermost planetary member of our solar system, Neptune. Numerous witnesses can testify that what was said about the eighth planet was in manuscript in March, 1846, and months before Le Verrier's calculations and conclusions had been announced. George Bush, Professor of Hebrew, at the University of New York, was present at these lectures. In the *New York Tribune*, November 15th, 1846, he writes as follows: "I can solemnly affirm that I have heard A. J. Davis correctly quote the Hebrew language in his lectures and display a knowledge of Geology which would have been astonishing in a person of his age, even if he had devoted years to the study."

On May 16th, 1847, the sustaining help of a magnetizer was found to be no longer needed, and Jackson was able voluntarily to enter the "Superior Condition." To this end he lived in strict obedience to the Harmonial Law and it was now his privilege to reason, write, teach and develop his superior faculties. Previous to the dawn of the Spiritualist and Lyceum movements there was no definite information to show to mourning parents who had lost children by "Death" what had become of them. Whilst in the "superior condition" A. J. Davis was able to journey in the spirit world, and with knowledge thus obtained informed mourning parents that their children are not dead but still live and are well cared for. He saw children at play, engaged in beautiful marches and being taught in schools or lyceums. A lyceum is a place where science is taught and truth imparted. Andrew Jackson Davis was impressed with this

harmonial system of education established in the spirit world, that he was determined to introduce it in our physical world, with the result that the first Lyceum was opened on January 26th, 1863, in Hodsworth Hall, No. 806, Broadway, New York, U.S.A. Among many of the inspired souls who assisted in the publication of matter on educational subjects suitable for Lyceum work were:—Hudson and Emma Rood Tuttle, of America; Mr. H. A. Kersey, Mrs. Emma Hardinge Brittain, and Mr. Alfred Kitson, of England. Andrew Jackson Davis was a reformer in every sense of the word and was the instrument through whom came thirty volumes of educational matter on practical subjects to the world. His "Philosophy of the Naturalness of Spiritual Things" did much to explain to investigators the phenomena of the Hydesville rappings through the Fox sisters. Spiritualism has always stood the opposite to materialism, piercing the gloom of doubt and yielding comfort, knowledge and peace where sorrowing, faltering faith and fearful discontent possesses the hearts of men. Modern Spiritualism teaches us that life and its every manifestation is the result of fixed law—cause and effect—which knows not favour or chance. The eternity of life continues through the several kingdoms of nature with unvarying exactness. After a life spent in the service of mankind Andrew Jackson Davis was promoted to the spirit world on January 13th, 1910.

On behalf of the Education Committee,

GEO. FREDERICK KNOTT, Secretary.

22, Gowers Street, Rochdale.

The Education Scheme.

All Lyceums in the Union will have received a Syllabus, which we hope has been placed in a prominent position in the room where the sessions are held. Further copies may be had on application, single copies 1d. each, 12 copies 6d. per dozen, post free.

It is hoped leaders have been appointed for the respective Lyceums, and a week-night appointed for study where possible.

If any scholar in a Lyceum where Syllabus is not taken up wishes to study the schemes and sit for examination, he may study at home and await further particulars of examination, etc.

The Education Committee will be pleased to receive from Secretaries names of Lyceums taking up the scheme, and will endeavour to explain any difficulty arising therefrom.

LEADERS' NOTES, DECEMBER 5TH AND 12TH.

Mediumship and inspiration takes place through all mental conditions of people.

Thos. Moffet would probably not have allowed his prophecy concerning young Davis in his normal condition.

Consult a standard dictionary for brief meanings of Astronomy, etc.

Give meaning of mesmerism and other mental processes.

DECEMBER 10TH.

Take notes from A. J. Davis' pamphlet, pages 1 to 4. Love the source, wisdom the application, harmony the result.

DECEMBER 26TH.

Study programme and practical suggestions at commencement of the children's *Lyceum Manual*.

Describe colours; every colour a meaning and every colour an expression of unfolding love.

See Officer's edition of *Lyceum Manual* for systematic course of study for groups.

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—

Last month the many good things for our page took up more space than our Editor could allow us, and as a result one of the stories ("A Mistaken Ideal") had to be left out. This I have pleasure in giving you now; but, as again I've a big pile of letters, etc. (all very welcome), I must not take up more space by chatting. So here goes for our "goodies!"

A MISTAKEN IDEAL.

In a small village in the South of England there lived a young girl. Her name was Dorothy. Now Dorothy means a 'gift from God,' and it was Dorothy's earnest desire that she would one day be really worthy of her name.

Like many other girls, she was very ambitious, and she would often dream of the glorious name she would make for herself in years to come. Dorothy's ideal was this. "I wish to be a 'gift from God' to the people of the earth. I would like to be able to sway the emotions of people's minds, to be queen of speech, and to be so wonderful, so fine in power of expression, that all will adore me."

So, with this ideal in view, she commenced to study. She worked hard, but alas, she began to overlook the small things that had made so many people in the village happy. Wrinkled Mrs. Bates missed her sadly, for Dorothy used to read to her, and this little kindness was a bright ray of sunshine in the old woman's life. Little Billy Brown, who had to lie on his back all day, wept bitterly when Dorothy's visits ceased; and many other people wondered why "Missie" was so different, and didn't seem to take an interest in anything but poring over books.

Weeks, months, and years passed on and Dorothy went in for an examination. When the result came out, the name of Dorothy Mason was at the top of the list. After she had appeared at several concerts, she was pronounced by the critics to be the leading character-actress of the day. Dorothy lived in what is termed a "social whirl," and for a time was perfectly happy in the thought that she had accomplished her ideal. Soon however, she found out that public praise is not everything, and that she had lost the brightest jewel in life, namely, true love. Certainly, she had any amount of applause, but for all that she was but a public idol, to be worshipped for a time, and then forgotten.

Tired and disappointed, she paid a visit to her native village, to find that Widow Bates and Billy had gone,—had been called to the land where there is no more pain. "Oh! and they missed you sadly, miss, they did that," said one of the villagers, with a sigh.

Then it was that Dorothy realised that love is more to be desired than anything else in the whole wide world, and suddenly it flashed across her mind how selfish her ideal had been. Ever after, she walked her way in life

humbly, although she was so great, and helped as much as ever she could people who were less fortunate. Then she had true success, for she carried the key that unlocks human hearts—the golden key of love.

(Winifred Wilkinson, Birkenhead Lyceum).

“My dear Flora Belle,—I am sorry I did not write to you before. I always read the nice letters the Bluebells send you, and also your answers. My sister said she would like to join the Guild. The next time I write I will send you a story. Hoping the Guild will have success. I remain, yours truly, Lily Driver (Chesterfield Lyceum).

[Glad to hear from you Lily. Shall look out for your story.—F.B.]

Dear Flora Belle,—I am writing with pleasure, asking you to find space in your valuable page for a few lines from an old Bluebell. I lost my membership card during our removal from Bolton, England, to Lowell, Mass., U.S.A., three years ago. I think if you look up your list of members you will find Elizabeth Rostron, number 42. Allow me to congratulate you on the success of the Guild. I most earnestly hope it will grow to 4,000 by this year end, which can easily be done. Now perhaps you will wonder how I get to read your precious page when thousands of miles divide me from you. I am proud to say it is through a sister Bluebell, who—in my opinion—is practising one object of the Guild, viz., kindness, by sending me the “Lyceum Banner” every month after she has read it. I take a deep interest in reading your page, and every other. Now, without flattering my faithful sister, I want to ask other Bluebells to do the same. How many of you have friends abroad who would be most delighted to read of the good work in the dear old Homeland! I can assure every one that when I get the BANNER, its contents fill me with new life, bringing back all pleasant memories of the past, and give me courage to bear my loneliness. I must not take up too much space, but with your kind permission will write again. With best wishes for a joyous Christmas to all. I remain, your loving Bluebell, Mrs. George Smart (née E. Rostron) (Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.)

[Sincere thanks for your letter and all good wishes and kind remarks. I was pleased to have word from such a long-distance Bluebell, and shall be glad to hear again from you.—F.B.]

Dear Flora Belle.—This is my first letter to you. I attend the Stockton Lyceum. I am sorry to say we have not a very good attendance, but I hope that it will improve very soon. I have been a Lyceum member seven years, and I love to help on its progress. I have been promoted to be guardian. My one desire is to see the little ones grow up and take their places as Lyceum workers. With love to you and your Bluebells, your loving Bluebell, Hilda Jones. (No. 4044, Stockton.)

[Am pleased to hear from you, and hope it will not be your last letter.—F.B.]

Dear Flora Belle.—I am another Bluebell who so far has been too lazy to write before, although I think if you continue to receive such a batch of letters as are printed in this month's BANNER we shall want a special supplement all to ourselves, shan't we? I

have belonged to the Bluebell Guild nearly eight years, and I believe this is my first letter, but I hope it will not be the last as well. I have lately been reading some LYCEUM BANNERS that date from 1902 and found it very interesting comparing the various features, and Mr. Kitson must be proud of the way the “L.B.” has progressed, but I have always found it interesting from first reading it. With best wishes to yourself and cordial greetings to all other Bluebells. I remain, your sincere Bluebell, Lena Smith. (2328, Hull).

[Many thanks for your very interesting letter. Please write again sometime.—F.B.]

Dear Flora Belle.—I was very pleased to become one of your Bluebells. We had our open session last Sunday, and many of our children sang and recited. I sang a song called “Under the Guidance of Angels.” I have not been a Bluebell long, and I was very pleased to join your happy band. I went to a social at our Spiritualists' Temple and sang a patriotic song called “Soldiers and Sailors,” and I enjoyed the evening very much. I have my card hung in my bedroom so that I can see it and follow the rules. I remain, your loving Bluebell, Elsie Stephens (3944, Southampton).

[Glad to hear of your doings, Elsie, and of your interest in our Guild. Write again.—F.B.]

Dear Flora Belle.—This is the first time I have had courage to write to you, but at the same time I have not forgotten that I was enrolled a member of the Bluebell Guild in March, 1905. So you will see I have been a member for ten years. I always delight to read the many letters sent to you by various Bluebells. I was much struck on reading the November issue, by the way our sister, Miss Alice Hesp, wrote to remind you that she was a Bluebell but had lost her card; and it gave me courage to write and let you know that I am a Bluebell. Hoping we shall all prove true to our Guild, and think it a pleasure to practise good behaviour. Your loving Bluebell in the cause of truth, Ada Elkin. (1782, Horwich).

[Don't let this be your last letter, for we like to hear from as many Bluebells as possible. Thanks for writing.—F.B.]

Dear Flora Belle,—After a solemn silence extending over a period of nine or ten years I at last greet you once more. When last I made my presence known to you it was to be enrolled as a member of your highly commendable “Guild.” I am sorry that I cannot produce my bona-fides or even the number of it; for that has been lost sight of in the course of removals, etc. The loss of that has been one reason why I have not communicated with you before or even contributed in any way to your page, excepting that I never miss perusing it, and I always try to bear its objects in mind and stimulate a like desire and interest in others. But to-day I have accepted your invitation through our “Bluebell Page” to write and send you two little stories. But I will leave it with as to whether they are suitable for our Bluebells or not. So here's to every success of our “Bluebell Guild,” to all “Bluebells,” and to you “Dear Flora Belle” for the pleasure and help you give us from time to time. Believe me to be, your sincere Bluebell, Reg. Bowmer (Leicester).

[Your very interesting letter gave me much pleasure, and I hope we shall hear again from you before long. Many thanks for both the stories. One I have pleasure in giving this month. The other I must reserve till next time, owing to "space limitations."—F.B.]

The new members this month I heartily welcome. Please, not only practise our aims and objects, but read *Our Page* faithfully and write to it at times. We shall welcome letters from you.

Will you, all Bluebells, when you write, please remember to write only on *one* side of the paper, and give name of your Lyceum and your Bluebell number (when possible).

"AS WE SOW."

The legend was given by a stranger in one of the Birmingham Lyceums and brought from there to Leicester, and I felt our Bluebells would appreciate it, so here it is.

Father, mother, and their little girl lived happily together in a very nice house with grounds and gardens of its own. One day while the mother and the little girl were going round the gardens the little girl asked that she might be given one of the gardens for her very own; one that she might take great interest in and tend to herself. The mother, pleased at the request, promised to find her one and on providing it the mother planted the most beautiful rose tree that money could buy in the centre. With the approach of summer the garden gave of its beautiful flowers and the rose tree the choicest of blooms. The little girl and her mother were admiring the beautiful array one day when a beautiful thought came to the mind of the child, for she said to her mother, "Mother, I have all these beautiful flowers to myself and yet there are those who have none and some who never see any, as those children in the houses down the lane, and those in the Cripples' Home, and those in the Hospital. May I not call in the children from the village to see my garden?" The mother thought awhile and said to herself, "This is a noble desire, I will encourage her unselfishness." So other children were brought in to see the garden. Then one day the little girl said to her mother, "Mother, should I be giving my roses to God if I gave them to the children in the Hospital or in the Home for Cripples?" "Why, yes my dear child," replied her mother. So that very evening the little girl went to the rose tree and cut off the finest bloom, and kneeling at her bedside asked her heavenly Father to accept it as a gift to him when she gave it to the children. Thus every night she asked God to accept her offering through those little children who were not able to come and see her garden.

One day the angel, called Death, took from her her dear mother. Then the little girl used to take two roses, one in memory of her mother. Soon her father too passed into spirit life, and then the little girl would take three roses, one of which was now in memory of her dear father. Now other relatives came to live at the house, and yet the little girl still had her garden, and still never forgot to pay her visits to the Cripples' Home or the Hospital with her roses. But one day the nurse knocked at her bedroom door and there was no response, and on entering she found

the little darling with the roses still in her hand knelt by the bed, but her spirit had departed.

On opening her eyes in the "Summerland" she was met and greeted by her parents, and looking round perceived that she and they were surrounded by myriads of the most beautiful flowers she had ever seen, and by the side of which her flowers of earth were very poor. She turned and said to her mother, "Oh! what beautiful flowers are these! They make me ashamed of the blooms which I sent up here." The mother, beautified by life in the spirit and with a look of the utmost joy on her countenance replied, "My dear child, all these flowers had their seeds sown by you in earth life, so all these flowers were sent her by you. Thy are the spiritual blooms of the flowers you have sent up here." The little girl now understood why it was she had experienced such a feeling of joy coming into her life when she commenced to give of her roses, and now realised that it was not alone the flowers she had given, but the spirit of kindness, unselfishness, and sacrifice, which had prompted her giving and which now had given birth to spiritual flowers, which brightened her life as she had brightened the lives of others in earth life.

Can we give in flowers or in kind? Let us follow the example set by this little girl and do all the good we may, and then we shall be Bluebells indeed.—Reg. Bowmer (Leicester).

Your loving sister,
FLORA BELLE.

MEXBORO' LYCEUM.

4054	Albert Adshead.	4062	Sarah Ann Cory.
4055	Albert Woodward.	4063	Annie Thompson.
4056	Walter Woodward.	4064	Ethel Stubbs.
4057	Edward Cory.	4065	Minnie Kenning.
4058	John Henry Cory.	4066	Dora Rogers.
4059	Thornton Cliffe.	4067	Mrs. Woodward.
4060	Nancy Cliffe.	4068	Mrs. Hoyes.
4061	Nora Cloffe.		

BATLEY CARR LYCEUM.

4069 Annie Warburton.

Brief Delineations of Character.

By Prof. Timson, Leicester.

Brief delineations of character, talents and spiritual gifts will be given to readers of "The Lyceum Banner," from Photo, lock of hair, or hand-writing. All applicants must state age and sex, and enclose six penny postage stamps along with the coupon. Those who desire that their photos should be returned to them must enclose a stamped, directed envelope. All communications must be addressed to Prof. T. Timson, 3, Museum Square, Leicester.

MR. C. E. WELCH, CHESTERFIELD.

Yours is an 'evenly balanced temperament,' and you are blessed with a constitution and brain adapted to many vocations. Having frequently examined many students and graduates of different universities and studied their capacities, studies and achievements. I often regret that comparison finds such as you in circumstances not amenable to university culture. However, you can by personal self-culture in spare time, become a most influential and useful member of the

(Continued on page 21)

THE LYCEUM BANNER :

ALFRED KITSON, *Editor.*

Terms to Lyceums and Societies :

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Terms to Lyceums abroad, 1/- per dozen copies, post free. 1d. for every additional copy.

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

OFFICE HOURS.—The following are the business hours at the Lyceum Union's Office :—

On Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 8-30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ; and on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 1915.

Lyceum Notes and Comments.

Last month we announced two poems for sale, specially composed by Mrs. Beecher Stowe, of Nottingham, in aid of Her Majesty Queen Mary's "Work for Women" Fund. Mrs. Stowe writes to say she is offering them at 1d. each instead of 2d.

We are pleased to learn from Miss Patricia Ashleigh, the newly appointed Secretary to the London District Council, that the following committees have been appointed to help make the forthcoming Lyceum Conference at London a big success, namely : "A Billetting Committee," "A Hall Committee," and an "Entertainment Committee." These divisional committees will each try to make its department a credit to the movement, which will reflect honour on itself.

We are in receipt of a parcel of the service of song, "An Angel in Disguise," from its author. As it is out of print, and no further copies can be had, we are offering this parcel of 55 copies for 7/- post free. First come first served.

HELPS TO THE STUDY OF THE LYCEUM MANUAL, to which has been added in their alphabetical order brief sketches of the persons mentioned in the *Calendar of Saints*, No. 145, from Mr. Ernest Vicker's (our esteemed President) pamphlet, "Useful Information for Lyceumists," price 2d., is now ready, and may be had at the following prices : single copies, 2d. each, 3d. by post ; 12 copies, 1/0 per dozen, post free. Order from the Lyceum Union's Office, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.

In a recent letter from Johannesburg Lyceum Conductor, commenting on the helpfulness of the *Answers* given to *Questions* arising from the *Lyceum Manual*, says, "That in a recent Lyceum Session during which the *Answers* were being considered, one gentleman present, who is new to the movement exclaimed, "If I had had those teachings when I was

young what a different life mine would have been." We are pleased to learn of the general satisfaction given by our efforts to explain difficult passages in our *Manual*.

The new postal charges have caused us to rise the postage on all *Lyceum Manuals*, and "Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young," from 3d. per copy to 4d. per copy; and the postage on the *Spiritual Songster* to 5d. per copy. Secretaries please note.

The new postal charges have caused a rise of 1d. per dozen copies of the LYCEUM BANNER. Twelve copies now cost 5d., whereas when we were invited to assume the Editorship they only cost 3d. Added to the increased postage is the extra cost incurred by increasing the pages of the LYCEUM BANNER from 11 to 16. But our printers having to pay more for the paper, and also pay higher wages, which have had to be risen three times, has compelled them to ask for a revision of prices for printing, etc., which the Lyceum Union's Executive readily granted, as it does not wish to be a party to any "labour sweating" process.

We feel all our readers will readily agree that it has acted in accordance with our Lyceum teachings. There now arises the question of meeting this double expense—printing and postage. There are three ways open to us. First, increase the price to 1½d. a copy; second, reduce the BANNER to eleven pages; and third, dispense with the covers, and wiring and cutting of each copy, and merely have them folded as they used to be.

I feel sure none of these suggestions would meet with approval. And, to be candid with my readers, I do not wish to see our BANNER either decrease in size or increase in price. If I can secure the co-operation of our Lyceumists to increase their orders from 12 copies to 18—the postage being the same for 12 as it is for 18—and where there are two or more Lyceums in a town for the Lyceums to agree to have them all sent in one parcel, but each parcel to be wrapped up and labelled separately, so each secretary would know his or her own, it would save one-half the postage. This plan has been adopted in the following places :—Accrington, Barrow-in-Furness, Batley Carr, Bolton, Bradford, Brierfield with Nelson, Darlington, Dundee, Glasgow, Halifax, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham, Preston, Shildon, Shilley and Windhill, and South Shields. We shall be pleased to add others to the above list with which to commence the New Year.

"Parliamentary Rules" have been quoted in recent correspondence. In order to help Lyceum members in general, and officers in particular, to familiarise themselves with these Rules, the Lyceum Union has printed them in a neat and concise form, which can be had at the following rates : 6 copies, 5d. ; 12 copies, 10d., post free, from the Lyceum Union Office.

May a Joyous Christmas be the happy lot of all our readers, won by loving service rendered to the suffering and sorrowing ones.

THE LYCEUM RECITER.

LET US BE KIND.

Let us be kind :
 The way is long and lonely,
 And human hearts are asking for this blessing only —
 That we be kind,
 We cannot know the grief that men may borrow,
 We cannot see the soul storm-swept by sorrow,
 But love can shine upon the way to day, to-morrow —
 Let us be kind.

Let us be kind :
 Around the world the tears of time are falling,
 And for the loved and lost these human hearts are
 calling —

Let us be kind.
 To age and youth—let gracious words be spoken—
 Upon the wheel of pain so many weary lives are broken
 We live in vain who give no tender token —
 Let us be kind.

THE FELLOW WHO FIGHTS ALONE.

The fellow who fights the fight alone,
 With never a word of cheer,
 With never a friend his help to lend
 With never a comrade near—
 'Tis he has need of a stalwart hand
 And a heart not given to moan —
 He struggles for life, and more than life,
 The fellow who fights alone !

The fellow who fights the world alone,
 With never a father's smile,
 With never a mother's kindly tone
 His sorrowful hours to guile,
 Who joins the fray at the dawn of day
 And battles till light is flown,
 Must needs be strong, for the fight is long—
 The fellow who fights alone !

Ah, bitter enough the combat is
 With every help at hand,
 With friends at need to bid Goodspeed,
 With spirits that understand ;
 But fiercer far is the fight to one
 Who struggles along unknown—
 Oh, brave and grim is the heat of him,
 The fellow who fights alone !

God bless the fellow who fights alone,
 And arm his soul with strength !
 Till safely out of the battle rout
 He conquering comes at length,
 Till far and near into every ear
 The fame of the fight is blown,
 Till friend and foe in the victor know
 The fellow who fights alone !

MY BABY'S 21ST BIRTHDAY.

So you are twenty-one to-day
 My baby girl of long ago !
 A woman now, my Nellie dear,
 The years indeed do swiftly go.

No dear, you are not "getting old ;"
 For if our lives be wisely spent,
 We get no older than we feel,
 And find no room for discontent.

Momentous day ! It finds you yet,
 In tender years, and girlish mood ;
 And lifts you on the vantage point
 The threshold of a womanhood.

Before you, dawns a fuller life,
 Aglow with fancies gilding rays.
 May each fond thought be realised,
 And life be thronged with happy days.

Both loved and loving strive to be—
 In all things wise; do all things well ;
 And what betide, do not forget,
 You still will be "my baby Nell."

H. T. WHORLOW.

ANGEL VOICES.

There is a peace beyond earth's troubles,
 A balm that comes to weary hearts when sad,
 We know not how or whence they cometh,
 Those helpful thoughts that cheer and makes us good

I hear them most when sad and weary,
 Those voices sweet then nearer seem to be,
 I wonder oft if angel friends, surrounding,
 Return from heaven to cheer and comfort me.

Decending from the realms of glory,
 Loving spirits blend sunset thoughts with mine,
 Bidding me to rise above earth's trials,
 And listen to their glorious song divine.

A song of praise, a heavenly anthem,
 Of thankfulness to Him who reigns above,
 Chanted by angel choirs around us,
 Bidding earth rejoice for "God is Love."

Now I know, 'tis the song of the arisen,
 Who cheer me through earth's journey with its strife,
 And I join my praise with the immortal singers
 To God for the glorious gift of life.

MRS. LUCY CHAPMAN KNIGHT, Cardiff.

(con inued from page 207).

Cause. You could succeed as a lantern lecturer, cinematographic operator and photographer; also as a psychic demonstrator, Lyceum Conductor, and Society Secretary, or Organiser. You could succeed among light engineering and mechanics, motor or electrics, and as a builder or monumental mason and sculptor. Study Physical, Mental and Psychic Science, and lecture, teach and train the young. Have faith in yourself and in others and climb the ladder of personal progress.

MRS. MILLER, GLASGOW.

You have warmth of affection, clearness of judgment, practical domesticity, and excellent intelligence; fine intuition and high sense of character, generous in disposition. Kind hearted and sympathetic toward the sick and suffering, weak and forlorn, and you have management, tact and good method. A capable woman for Society, Lyceum and home, as speaker, Conductor or Leader you could succeed, clairvoyant, physiognomist and character reader. A good cook and a cheerful temperament. A worker and sincere friend. Could have been a success in confectionery or provision business, or drapery. A good nature. Train for a speaker and take your place and part in the Cause.

MISS LENA SMITH, HULL.

You have a superior temperament for refinement, culture and higher education in practical, rational and natural subjects as health and human science. Yours is a psychic or spiritual temperament, like a high-keyed instrument attuned to finer vibrations and adapted to the 6th grade of intelligence. You should become an authoress in prose and poetry, and a musician; vocal and instrumental—piano and violin. You should strive to make the most of your capacities by working in the Lyceum till you become either secretary, instructor, or take some active part therein. Try to systematise and time your work and studies. You could succeed in a photographic studio, or as a milliner or draper and outfitter. You have gifts for a future speaker and leader.

L.C., LEICESTER.

You have excellent magnetic gifts, which need care and culture. You are active, quick, critical, and have a strong will and individuality of your own. You are sometimes abrupt and outspoken, and need a little suavity to say things that are distasteful to others in a more agreeable way. You are touchy and take hints too quickly. You have, however, excellent capabilities for much useful work, and your better and higher self will draw you to service for other. You are a little too independent in temper, and may be misunderstood. You should become psychometric and have good gifts for Lyceum work. You have also capacities for training a juvenile choir; also for leader in calisthenics and teaching.

MISS P. GOLDSMITH, AYLESTONE PARK.

She is active, energetic, mental; and suited to an educational occupation, as teacher or as a clerk, shorthand writer, typist and bookkeeper. She has confidence and personal magnetism, and a progressive spirit will desire to go ahead, and has ambition, a strong will and anxiousness to gain her desires and wishes. She has strong likes and dislikes. Train her to run smoothly and to seek pleasant expressions and mannerisms, to avoid irritants and antagonisms and to remember "kind words can never die." She has considerable gift for a nurse and for a good domestic and cook or confectioner. Some have one talent and some ten, she can do equally well in either of the above if circumstances permit and favour her. She should do well with calisthenics and should cultivate her mind in spiritual knowledge for teaching.

A.L., PENDLETON.

You have a motive-mental temperament, adapted to endurance, tenacity and physical and mental application. You have capacities worth time and cultivation. You have large language for fluency of speech and expression of new ideas. You have courage of your convictions and sentiments; your thoughts will be progressive. You have gifts of character reading and psychometry, and health culture studies, with physiognomy and magnetism. For a trade in cabinet making, woodwork and undertaker's work. Your head and face indicates particularly marked capacities and its a great pity to think of them being latent, neglected and lost to your fellow creatures. May I give you an old injunction "Arise and shine." Read the biographies of President Lincoln, Grant, Farfield, and Andrew Jackson Davis.

C. W. DALTON, ROTHERHAM.

You have musical, artistic, and dramatic capacities. You have a fine grained constitution. You manifest strong inclina-

tion for the new, novel, inventive, ever changing, and cinematographic variety. You could become a good public entertainer in these directions. You should make your mark. Start at the bottom and work up slow and sure. You are too impulsive, and you fire your cartridge before you clearly sight your game and overshoot in haste. Go more deliberately, and trust your mental acumen. You'll win in the end. Don't spoil yourself through assuming airs, but cultivate your natural dignity and manhood. You are a fine chap in the making and make your character worthy. Study photography, cinematography, and lantern work; also get in tune with the infinite possibilities of assistance from 'like minds in the spirit world.' Study the science and art of mediumship. Start work in Lyceum as a training school, and in the Society as a preparatory college; and go ahead with Physiology, Phrenology, and Practical Psychology; utilise your spare moments in study and practice. (Coupon is indispensable).

MISS LILIAN WILDGROVE, PARK LANE, LEEDS.

You have a good consistent character, and will develop good capacities with care and training. You could succeed in music, also in business, cookery and confectionery. Cultivate singing, calisthenics, and Lyceum work and studies. You have the makings of a useful group leader, and should have systematic methodical study, don't waste time in "hop-scotch reading," but read with method and with a graduated scale of mental ascension with progress. Physiology, Phrenology, and Psychology are the pillars upon which you can erect the triune of *Knowledge* by (observation), *Understanding* by (recollection), *Wisdom* by (meditation).

The LYCEUM BANNER DELINEATION COUPON, December 5th, 1915.

Special Reports.

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

LONDON, N.L.S.A., HOLLOWAY.

Our Lyceum is progressing very satisfactory. Pearls unusually abundant. Solos and recitations good. The open session agreeably varies the group system, which by the way is working well. Miss Hall, our esteemed conductor, puts heart into her work. So also do Miss Whorlow, S.C. and leader of calisthenics, and Mrs. Ellis, our Guardian; while Mr. Alcock-Rush has greatly improved the singing by his useful leadership. On 31st October, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, of Westcliffe-on-Sea, visited us. November 7th, Mr. G. F. Symons was present, and on the 14th, Mr. and Mrs. Tilby, of N.L.S.A. and Mrs. L. Harvey, of Southampton, visited us and addressed the Lyceum. We regret that our Lyceum Secretary, Mr. Taylor, is still confined to his bed. I appeal to all Lyceumists to extend to him that loving sympathy which blesses the receiver, and the giver also.

H. T. WHORLOW.

SOUTH SHIELDS (South Eldon Street).

On October 31st we held a very successful Flower Service in the afternoon and evening. The hall was nicely decorated with flowers. Hymns used: 337, 62, 374, 395, 417. S.C.R., 91. M.R., 229. G.C.R., 115. Recitations as follows:—Minnie Davis, "The Rose"; Doris Wilson, "October's Party"; Eliza Woodall, "The Poppy"; Elsie Wilson, "Scatter the Roses"; May Davis, "The Crocus Makers"; Alice Barnaby, "The Garden of Life"; Isabella Angus, "Its Queer"; Maggie Walker, "The Dawn of Spring"; Mary Dobson, "A Dainty Strawberry Flower"; Wm. Scollar, "War and Peace"; Mary Williams, "The Ambitious Marguerite"; Annabel Foster, "The Daffodil"; Hilda Falgren, "Peace and Plenty"; Isabella Woodall, "Spirit Blossoms"; Muriel Burn, "A Child shall Lead Them"; Martha Williams, "To a Butterfly." Congregation joined in singing hymns 110, 20 and 87.

WM. WOODALL.

LONDON, WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.

We were able to elect a full number of officers for our Lyceum, after strenuous efforts a full members' meeting being called and discussed the continuance of the Lyceum, with the

following happy result:—Conductor, Mrs. Allan; Assistant Conductor, Mr. Craft and Ivy Giles; Secretary, Mrs. F. Watthey; Guardian, Mr. Drieslman; Librarian, Mrs. Davis; Treasurer, Mrs. Catlin; Musical Conductor, Syd Allan and Len Hidden; Captain of Guards, Ivy Giles; Leaders, L. Davis and W. H. Watthey; Assistant Leaders, V. Osborne and Len Osborne; Auditors, Mr. and Mrs. Giles; Delegates, Mrs. and Christina Giles. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Drury (Conductor) and Mr. Watthey (Hon. Sec.), who were retiring after five years of office, through inability to attend sessions owing to the war. The L.L.D.C. paid us a welcome visit on November 7th, when numerous delegates were present and good sessions were held and appeals made for the children.—Mrs. F. Watthey, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD CENTRE.

On November 7th we held our Open Session, at which there was good attendance of Lyceumists and friends, our Society joining with us in the session, at which our Conductor, Miss Marshall, had the privilege of naming the first baby since the re-forming of the Centre Lyceum, giving a very interesting and impressive address. Miss L. Romanes sang a solo, by request, from the *Manual*, "Heart flowers," the flowers for the occasion being white chrysanthemums, the Fountain Group taking a prominent part, each being presented with a button-hole flower. A Lyceum Badge was presented to the child in memory of the occasion. Recitations were rendered by our young Lyceumists, bringing a very interesting afternoon to a close. On Sunday, November 14th, Mr. Stewart gave us a paper in Liberty Group, subject, "Heaven and hell." Mr. G. Hare, Secretary.

Questions and Answers.

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

Question.—Can you explain the seemingly contradictory statements which are made in the *Lyceum Manual*, two of which I reproduce here:

- (1) Silver Chain Recitation, No. 1, "Whatever is, is right"; and No. 61, "There must be something wrong."
- (2) No. 83, "Trust no leaders in the fight."

"How shall we hope to progress if we do not trust our leaders in our search for Truth and Light?" I shall be very glad if you can explain these statements.

CLARENCE GREENWOOD, Nelson.

Answer.—"The Divine Order" in the first eight lines refers to the operation of "God the Soul," throughout the inconceivably vast universe. The next fourteen lines refer to the operation of "God the Soul," in His formation and guidance of Man. And the last six lines are related to the original subject, the universe. The laws governing and controlling "all nature" are said, by a certain class of thinkers, to be mere "chance." The poet affirms they are "direction which we cannot see." The working out of these laws produce apparent "discord," and "partial evil," but their ultimate result will be "harmony," and "universal good"; and so in spite of all reasoning to the contrary the result of the operations of these laws are right.

It is a mistake to think that the poet is condoning wrong actions of men and saying they are right. The moral law governing the actions of every human soul in its ultimate operation demands atonement from each one of us for every wrong action, and whatever suffering this law inflicts on us as a consequence of our wrong doings is right. In other words, "we must reap as we sow." So the teaching, "Whatever is, is right" does not imply that No. 61 is wrong.

Answer (2).—"Trust no leaders in the fight" has reference to religious sects, political parties, and factions in town councils, and all other parties who bind themselves together for party gains, and seek to make the movement they are attached to subservient to their personal aggrandisement, instead of seeking "the greatest good for the greatest number." "By their fruits ye shall know them."

At our Sunday morning session we had No. 42, S.C.R., in which occur the words, "Better than gold is a conscience clear." The question was asked, "What is conscience?" One answer was, "That it was the inner self, or the still small voice within." Then in our efforts to find a true answer the question arose as to what was "the still small voice within." This we

could not answer. Will you please help us? I would also be very thankful if you would explain the last four lines of the third verse.

MISS E. BLADON, Wigan

Answer (1).—Conscience, or "still small voice within," is the approval by the soul when we do our duty, or do things which make for righteousness; it also disapproves of wrongful actions, or actions that we should not like any one to do to us. This faculty of the soul seems to be manifested through the portion of the brain called by phrenologists "conscientiousness." It is most active when this organ is large, and is weak in its operation when this organ is small.

Answer (2).—"Bring sleeping draughts to the downy bed, Where luxury pillows his aching head," has reference to the indolent rich, who having nothing to do but eat rich food and wash it down with wine or spiritous liquors thus overload the stomach, causing bilious headache, and sleepless nights, and is tempted to resort to "sleeping draught," called an "opiate" because it contains opium.

The last two lines have reference to the third line, "the poor man's sleep." "His simple opiate labour deems, A short road into the land of dreams." In other words, the labour of the poor man secures for him "a short road into the land of dreams," or sweet refreshing sleep; and his weariness is the only 'opiate' he needs to cause him to sleep.

Lyceum District Councils.

BOLTON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Commission Street, Bolton, on December 11th, at 3-15. Tea at 5 p.m. Social at 7. Business:—Minutes, Correspondence, Manuals of Constitution, Demonstration Sub-Committee Report, Banner Portrait Gallery, Treasurer, and D.V.'s Report, Open Council. On Sunday, at 2-45, Open Session; and the evening services will be conducted by the E.C. and others. We shall be glad to see a good number from surrounding Lyceums.

ED. WALSH, Secretary.

BRADFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held on Sunday, November 14th, at Ivy Rooms. Every Lyceum in the district was represented. The President, Mr. Simpson, in the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted after some discussion.

The Council declined to endorse the action of the officers in handing the Council's Banner to Harker Street, the third Lyceum, after the second Lyceum had declined it, and the Secretary was instructed to write for its return.

The D.V.'s Report and the Deputation's Report of visit to Otley Road were taken together, and discussion took place as to the best method to help weak Lyceums.

The Delegate to the United District Council gave his report of the business done, which was adopted.

The correspondence was dealt with, and the Secretary instructed as to replies.

The following dates were accepted:—Bankfoot, January 30th; Harker Street, July 2nd; Keighley, September.

The B.S.L.U. examination scheme and syllabus was discussed and recommendation made to the Lyceums.

The Open Session in the afternoon was conducted by Mr. Simpson, when the following took part:—Recitals, Miss Broadbent and Miss E. Hogg; solo, Miss Ingham; duet, Miss Stair and Mr. Midgley. Evening meeting was conducted by members of Council. A very successful day concluded with vote of thanks to Ivy Rooms friends.

Delegates and friends kindly remember next meetings: Keighley, September 5th; Bankfoot, January 30th.

WM. BARNES, Secretary.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next quarterly meeting of the above Council will be held at Well Street, Littleton, Liversedge, on Saturday, December 11th, at 3-30 p.m. Business very important. Tea will be provided. A social evening will be held also. Lyceumists please rally together.

N. INGLE, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next quarterly meeting of above Council will be held at Mill Street, Crewe, on Saturday, the 11th December, 1915. Delegates are requested to attend prepared to elect a judge for the 1916 Session Competition. E. A. KEELING, Hon. Sec.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Lyceum work in London has suffered a serious loss in the

withdrawal of Messrs. Drury (President), Ashley (Treasurer, and Askins (Secretary), from active participation in the work of the District Council.

The terrible war now raging is the cause of the several withdrawals, pressure of work allowing no time for the execution of Council work. The new officers are experienced society officials, and are fully determined that the future of the Council (which includes next year's Annual Conference of the B.S.L.U. in London) shall not suffer. But at this anxious time, when all religious systems are on trial, the resignation of active workers is a severe blow. The vacancies were filled as follows:—President, Mr. J. Forsyth (N.L.S.A., Holloway); Treasurer, Mr. J. Williams (L.L.S.M., Peckham); Joint Secretaries, Miss Patricia Ashleigh (Fulham), 32, Filmer Road, Fulham; Mr. A. T. Connon (Stratford), 53, St. James Road, Forest Lane, Stratford, E.

May the spirit workers who are specially looking after our Lyceum Movement give their assistance to the work of the new officers.
Yours fraternally, PATRICIA ASHLEIGH.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next quarterly meeting of the N.E.L.L.D.C. will be held at Burnley (North Street), on Saturday, December 18th, at 3-15 p.m. prompt. Business important. Friends and associates welcomed. Will delegates come prepared to report what progress has been made regarding the Study Classes.

C. T. BATLEY.

SILVER SHIELD COMPETITION. Adjudication Results for 1915. Possible (Maximum) Marks, 150.

Singing	Reading		Marching		Calisthenics			Gen Discipline			Total					
	Precision	Tone	Expression	Unison in Response	Delivery	Mental Efficiency	Time	Carriage	Accuracy of Figure	Time		Accuracy	Energy	Attentiveness	General Standard	Devotional Aspect
Blackburn, St. Peter Street	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	130
Accrington, China Street	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	137
Nelson	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	137
Burnley, Hammerton Street	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	137
Colne	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	127
Preston, Clark's Yard	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	123
Rishton	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	123
Darwen	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	123
Rawtenstall	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	122
Blackpool	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	120
Burnley, North Street	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	118
Great Harwood	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	117
Fleetwood	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	116
Preston, Lancaster Road	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	115
Accrington, Abbey Street	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	111
Padham	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	109
Brierfield	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	107
Barnoldswick	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	107
Earby	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	101
	147½	147½	147½	152	142½	154	161½	152½	150½	161	147½	149½	156	156	156½	1292

(Signed) THOMAS E. CHADWICK, Adjudicator.
MRS. M. E. PICKLES, President.
CYRIL T. BATLEY, Secretary.

THE UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next U.L.D.C. will be held at Wigan Lyceum. Liverpool L.D.C. on Saturday and Sunday, February 12th and 13th, 1916.

I shall be pleased if all L.D.C. Secretaries will let me have their respective resolutions not later than 28 days previous to the date for meeting.

Fuller particulars will appear in January BANNER.

MRS. M. E. PICKLES, 5, Ivan Street, Colne Road, Burnley.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council held its meeting on October 31st, 1915, at Brighthouse Alliance Rooms, Commercial Street. The Vice-President, Mr. A. Bramhall, in the absence of the President, presided over a full number of delegates, Hebden Bridge being the only Lyceum not represented. The Minutes and various reports were accepted without comment. A balance in hand of £1 7s. 3d. was accepted with thanks. The council next proceeded to discuss the U.D.C. agenda, the delegates, Mr. Ackroyd and Mr. Bramhall, being instructed how to vote to interpret the wishes of the Council. It was decided that Mr. Ackroyd be our nominee for the front page of the December BANNER. This brought the business meeting to a close. In the afternoon there was a capital open session, some of the delegates taking part. At the evening service some very good remarks were given by the various speakers. We also had the help of Mr. G. Stabler, late of the Sheffield D.C., who spoke very enthusiastically and brought the meeting to a close.

W. BURROWS, Hon. Secretary.

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the above Council will be held at Union Street Rooms, Royton, on December 11th, 1915. All Lyceums are requested to send their representatives along, as business may be important. Awake, ye Lyceumists, band yourselves together, be ready for the awaking of our future religion. If ever the angels needed us they need us now. Come to the above meeting without fail.

ARTHUR LORD, Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received in aid of Mr. James Hope's Fund, who had the misfortune to lose his right hand on May 13th last.

Daisy Hill Spiritualists' Church	...	...	5	0	0
S.N.U.F.O.B. per Mrs. Stair	...	...	2	2	0
Bolton, Bradford Street Lyceum, per Miss Webster	...	...	2	2	0

£9 4 0

ERNEST WOODWARD, Daisy Hill Lyceum.

United District Council.

The above Council met at the Spiritual Church, Back Ormerod Street, Rawtenstall, on November 6th and 7th, when the following districts were represented: Bradford, by Mr. Barnes; Halifax and Huddersfield, by Messrs. Ackroyd and Bramall;

Leeds, by Messrs. Betty and Vernon; Manchester, by Messrs. Bentley and Dolman; Liverpool, by Messrs. Owen and Keeling; North East Lancashire, by Mrs. Pickles and Mr. T. Holland; Sheffield, by Mr. Hazeldine; South East Lancashire, by Mr. Nurse; B.S.L.U., by Mrs. Nurse, and Mr. G. F. Knott.

Mr. Knott was elected to the chair, and after the opening exercises the following motions were discussed:—

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Owen seconded: "That two members from each group of four shall retire each year and be not eligible for re-election. For the first two years the ineligible members to be those who secured the lowest number of votes at the Conference when their group was elected. In the event of any eligible retiring member or members not being re-elected the candidate or candidates replacing such member or members shall only serve for the period that the defeated candidate or candidates would have served if re-elected. 'Replacing' candidates to be deemed those who received the lowest number of votes among those who were successful." The motion was lost. For, 4. Against, 7.

Mr. Bentley moved, Mr. Dolman seconded, "That any person having served three terms of office upon the E.C. of the B.S.L.U. shall not be eligible for re-election before the expiration of one year." For, 4. Against, 8.

The meeting decided that some system of compulsory retirement from the E.C. of the B.S.L.U. be recommended. For, 10. Against, 2.

Mr. Keeling moved, and Mr. Owen seconded, "That an Agenda Committee be appointed to arrange the agenda for all future conferences." Carried unanimously.

The following motion was withdrawn because it has already been accomplished "That a sub-committee be appointed from the E.C. of the B.S.L.U. to solicit and consider amendments to the Constitution."

Mrs. Pickles moved, Mr. Holland seconded, "That the President of the B.S.L.U. be elected from the floor of the Conference annually." The motion was defeated unanimously.

Mr. Beety moved, Mr. Vernon seconded, "That no District shall have more than one representative on the E.C. of the B.S.L.U." The motion was defeated. For, 4. Against, 7.

Mrs. Pickles and Mr. Beety were each nominated for the secretaryship. Mrs. Pickles was elected, receiving 6 votes against Mr. Beety 5.

It was agreed that each D.C. present at the last meeting (February) pay 7d. each to defray expenses.

Mr. Owen moved, Mr. Bentley seconded, "That the place of the next meeting be left for the secretary to arrange." Carried.

Mr. Owen moved, Mrs. Nurse seconded, "That our best thanks be given to local friends." Carried.

Mr. Owen moved, Mr. Bentley seconded, a vote of thanks to the retiring secretary. Carried.

The Sunday services were very enjoyable and fairly well attended. The following delegates taking part: Messrs. Ackroyd, Bramall, Vernon, Hazeldine, Barnes, Owen, Knott and Elliott.

Messrs. Ackroyd and Bramall visited the Bacup Lyceum for the morning session, and had a very pleasant time.

J. E. ELLIOTT.

The new secretary is

MRS. PICKLES,

5, Ivan Street, Colne Road,
Burnley.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after November 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, December 22nd, to ensure insertion in the January issue.

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

ACCRINGTON (Abbey Street).—We held our Open Session on November 7th. Opening hymn, 383, and invocation by Miss Whittles. We had silver chain 79; musical reading 241; golden chain 112. Miss Kenniford recited "Do good," Miss Parkinson said "Little things," Ernest Green gave "The nurse," Miss Green gave "The fox and the hen," Mr. Birtwell gave "People will talk," Miss Green and Mr. Hargreaves sang No. 220. We concluded a happy session by singing No. 354.—E. A. Whittles, Secretary.

ACCRINGTON (China Street).—Open Session held on Sunday, November 7th. Opening hymn 305. Mr. Fazakerley offered invocation. The following S.C. Recitations were led: No. 48 by Annie Holland, No. 72 by Mr. Fazakerley, No. 93 by Miss Marfleet. Recitations by Miss Unthank, Miss N. A. Unthank, Willie Smith, Misses Marfleet and Cook. Musical reading by Willie Smith, G.C.R. 134 led by Mr. Chambers. Solos by Miss Gorton, 406; Miss Lee, 330. Closing hymn, 382. Miss Lee conducted.—H. Marfleet, Secretary.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Dalkeith St.).—On Sunday, Nov. 7th, we held our first Open Session since the transition of our dear friend, Mr. W. Procter, Mr. Kellett, Conductor. The following took part:—Recitations, Jessie Brown, Charlotte Smith and Master Turner Walker. Songs by Belle Walker, J. Brown and E. Brown. G.C.R., C. Smith and E. Helme, H. Harris and Edward Smith. Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon was spent, but our officers would be very much delighted if parents and friends would kindly help them. Open Session 1st Sunday in each month.—Mrs. Wallace, Secretary.

BOLTON (Bradford Street).—On October 24th the Choir rendered the service of song, "A True Briton," which was much appreciated by all. The services on October 31st were conducted by Lyceumists, Miss Lowe giving a reading from the *Manual* and Miss Webster giving clairvoyance. In the evening Mr. Isherwood gave a very instructive address, on the "Revelation of Spiritualism." At our Open Session on November 7th many pearls, recitations and songs were given. Mr. Batley was the speaker and gave interesting addresses. We are still holding our Saturday evening socials, and hope to give many special ones later in the season, as we find they are a great help in keeping the Lyceumists together.—J. Grindrod, Secretary.

BRADFORD (Otley Road).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 7th, commencing with hymn 487, followed by a reading, "The Lord's Prayer," and explanation thereof by Mr. Hale. Also a fragment from LYCEUM BANNER. Reading by Hilda Raistrick, "Angry Words," and another by Cyril Craig, entitled "Your mission." Song by Mr. Hale, "Angel Care," 382. Duet, "There's rest at home," by Ivy Richmond and Lily Harrison. We had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Stair, District Visitor, who gave unto us words of advice, which I trust will bear fruit. We closed our session with "Sweet golden age."—Miss E. Ripley, Secretary.

BRIERFIELD.—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Open Session, during which we had the beautiful ceremony of the naming of a child, performed by one of our co-workers, Mrs. Rhodes. The child thus named under the banner of truth was given as its earth name, George Eris, and spirit name "Light." A splendid response of recitations, songs and

pearls by Lyceumists, all being supplied with flowers who helped to make the session happy and bright. May we unitedly labour for the upliftment of humanity. We send our loving greetings to all who have responded to the call of duty.—R. Dilworth, Secretary.

BURNLEY (North Street).—On Saturday, November 20th, the Lyceumists held a Grand Reception and Dance. The room was nicely decorated for the occasion. The guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, of Brierfield, both being good workers in the cause. There were about 120 present and a good concert was arranged, which was greatly enjoyed, all the artistes taking their parts well. Our friends spoke a few words of encouragement, and I am sure everyone was well satisfied. I am pleased to hear that our Lyceumist at the front received the BANNER. It gives me great pleasure to thank my Lyceum friend for the beautiful card I received. May the angel world guard and protect them and bring them all safely home is my sincerest wish.—Beatrice Griffen, Sec.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—We had a very enjoyable session on November 21st, when we welcomed, not only one of our leaders, who has been on active service in the Dardanelles, but several other of our Lyceumists who cannot always be with us. It was indeed a happy re-union, and only marred by the fact that we had at the close to wish "God speed" to yet another of our earnest workers, who has left us, let us hope, for the duration of the war only. We now have three of our members wearing the King's uniform, but we must not be discouraged, but "Hope on, hope ever."—A. Bench, Secretary.

CALGARY, CANADA.—We held our Open Session on Nov. 7th, which was a great success from every standpoint. Solos were rendered by Misses Copeland, Garrad and Brown. Miss Mennells recited "Daffodils," and a pianoforte solo was given by Mrs. Bouchard. Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Hill, Miss Garrad and Mr. Brown gave readings; all of which contained excellent lessons. The marching and calisthenics were gone through, under the direction of Mr. Hill. Most of the children gave pearls, which were of a high order. The Secretary announced that during October the membership had increased by 31, making a grand total of 58 members! The officers deserve great credit for their untiring efforts. They are determined to make Calgary the largest Lyceum in Canada.—W. Brown, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, November 14th, we held our usual Open Session, which was very well attended, and much appreciated by all present. The following gave recitations:—Alice Delicate, Lena Elliott, Francis Elliot, Lily Driver, Clara Booth, Ruth Kitchener, Joseph Hobster, and Kenwood Widdowson; and Joseph Hobster pianoforte solo. Pearls and "Stringings" still keep up to the usual standard.—E. Widdowson.

DEWSBURY.—On Saturday, November 20th, we held our Annual Tea and Concert, and it was a real success. Misses E. Stott and L. Kitson were responsible for the concert, which consisted of songs, sketches, etc. We were all delighted to have our Conductor, E. Wilson, R.A.M.C., with us, this being his first visit since his enlistment nearly four months ago. He accompanied Mr. A. Collier in taking the chair. We were sorry when he was called away, as we intended him conducting our sessions on the morrow. However, he had to return to barracks, and after wishing him God and the Angels guidance, we sang "God be with you till we meet again." Then commenced the social.—Joe Whittles, Hon. Sec.

DUNSTON-ON-TYNE.—We held our second Anniversary Services on Sunday, October 24th, conducted by Mrs. Brittain, of Newcastle; and also on Sunday, November 7th, conducted by Mr. W. Hall, D.V., of Gateshead. I am pleased to say that all the services were very successful, the conduct and efforts of the Lyceumists deserving all praise.—J.W.S.

EDINBURGH.—On Sunday, October 31st, Mr. Urquhart, of Dundee, visited our Lyceum. He said a few helpful remarks to the younger Lyceumists, which were much appreciated. We held our Open Session on November 7th. We were favoured with recitations from the Misses Ada Copley and Ella Machennan; an Organ Recital from Mr. Harry Cant; and a pianoforte selection from Mr. Tom Christie (both of whom, I may say, are blind). The Misses Barbara Machennan and Rhoda McGregor came forward with solos. We had a very good attendance. On Sunday, November 14th, we had Mr. Spencer, of Birmingham, with us for a short time.—Winifred Copley, Secretary.

FOLESHILL.—At our Open Session we had rather a shorter entertainment than usual, but what we did have was very good. An interesting, though fabulous piece, was first recited by Winnie Oughton, entitled "The duel." Doris Lucas then said, with fine expression, "A noble boy." We were pleased to see Sidney Harding come up to recite a piece called "The leaf buds." "The sacrifice," given by Margery Neal, was pathetic in the extreme, though beautifully recited. Malcolm

Bambrick said "The song of the sea." Julie Oughton then sang "Golden slumbers." It was well done. Raymond Bambrick said "The parrots," and this closed the Open Session. The Conductor was Mr. Staite. Clifford Ellis took the marching.—G. Starr Bambrick.

GREAT HARWOOD (off Westwell Street).—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 7th, when the silver chain was led by Florrie Owen, the musical reading by Joe Thornley, Hilda Marsden and Alfred Ainsworth, and the golden chain by Mr. Gilleran. Then we had recitations from Dora Woods, Florrie Owen, Louie Holt, Willie Thornley and John R. Thornley, and a little song by Elsie Marsden. Afterwards we had a letter from one who used to be an active worker in our Lyceum, and is now on active service. Taking all into consideration, we had a very pleasant session. Louie Holt, Secretary.

HALIFAX (Raven Street).—On Saturday, October 30th, we had an Old Scholars' Reunion. A good number sat down to tea, including some of our scholars who are serving with the colours. A good programme was opened by singing "The hail of progress," followed by speeches from Mr. Ingham, our chairman; Mr. Shaw, Mr. Howett, Miss B. Laycock, and also Miss Ruth Briggs, one of our old scholars. The latter part of the evening was spent in a very enjoyable manner. Songs were rendered by Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Pollard, Mrs. Whitaker, Miss Moorhouse, Mr. Collins and Lewis Ackroyd. Duet by Mrs. Pollard and Mr. Shaw. Recitations by Miss Hellewell and Lillian Stott. Accompanist, Mr. Thorpe. Games were much appreciated by the children.—L. Blackburn.

HIRST.—On Sunday we held our Open Session, which was very well attended, pearls being said by Annie Montgomery, Madge Clark, Ivy and Minnie Johnstone, Maggie Anderson, Maggie Griffiths, and Ed. Hedley. Solo, Ellen Minto. Recitations, Lizzie Ainsley, Sadie Russell, Ivy and Allen Johnstone, Doris Dent, Maggie Anderson, Ellen Thompson, Ruth Minto, Annie Montgomery, Sarah and Thos. Elliott, Madge Clark, and G. W. Thorp, and also one from the Conductor, G. W. Johnstone. We are making a collection on Nov. 14th in aid of motor ambulance. After the marching, and time being limited, we ended a very pleasant session. On Christmas Eve we are having a social and distribution of prizes to those Lyceumists who have made most marks for recitations, etc.—Mrs. A. M. Stoddart, Secretary.

HOLLINWOOD (Byron Street).—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Annual Election of Officers, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Miss E. Snape; Assistant Conductor, Miss L. Fitton; Guardians, Miss E. Ball and Mr. W. Burns; Leaders of Marching and Calisthenics, Miss J. Anderson, Miss A. Webster, Mr. W. Settle and Mr. H. Ball; Guards, John Ball and Miss Nellie Parr; Sick Visitors, Miss R. Ball and Mr. Parr; Treasurer, Mr. W. Burns; Auditors, Mr. Holden and Mr. F. Dixon; Secretary, Mr. J. Rogers. A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers for their services during their term of office.—F. Snape, Secretary, pro tem.

HORDEN.—Our Lyceum is doing fairly well and the attendance is very good. Pearls and recitations are well rendered by the children.—Miss Gertie Proctor, Conductor.

HUDDERSFIELD (St. Peter Street).—On November 7th we held our usual Open Sessions, and I am pleased to report that we had a good attendance of Lyceumists and friends to witness our various items. Pearls and recitations were nicely rendered by Miss Nora Turner, "God bless our Fatherland"; Miss Dorothy Fielding, "The land of counterpain"; Miss Edith Turton, "Little Jim." Marching and calisthenics were gone through splendidly. We also had another little innocent baby named by our President. He gave its earthly name Phyllis, and its spirit name "Hope." This brought another pleasant afternoons session to a close.—John Midgley, Sec.

LEICESTER (Silver Street).—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Open Session, our Conductor, Mrs. Whitmore, taking charge of the service. After the opening exercises the beautiful ceremony of naming Arthur Richard Westby was ably performed by Mrs. Jones, after which we were favoured with recitations from Jackie Jones, Lily Buckle and Nellie Buckle; a duet from Edith Luckwood and Cissy Jones being much appreciated. The concluding item was a song from our old friend, Mr. Hurst. A good number of adults attended, and a very enjoyable time was spent by all.—H. Smith, Secretary.

LEICESTER (Queen Street).—On November 7th we held our Open Session, under the conductorship of Miss A. Clarke, when the following Lyceumists took part:—Recitations were ably given by Miss E. Wicks, Masters S. Smith, H. Cartwright, H. Wicks, A. Veary and Mr. R. Bowmer; solos by Misses M. York, D. Goldsmith, P. Goldsmith. We had a very good session, everyone doing their best.—Mr. J. Wicks, Secretary.

LINCOLN.—We held our Open Session on November 7th, when the following helped to make it a success:—Recitations by Sidney Sharpe, Paul Cotton, Ben Barren, and Joey Cooper; solos by Edith Andrews and Ivy Pacey, who sang "Oh, scatter seeds of loving deeds"; also Fanny Harrison and Alice Tomlinson sang "Clap your hands for joy." We ended our most enjoyable session by singing "Our Lyceum, 'tis of thee," after which Brother Lee closed with the benediction.—William Tomlinson, Guardian.

LONDON, BRIXTON, S.W.—We are pleased to report that our Lyceum is still progressing very satisfactorily in every way. On Saturday, November 13th, some of the Lyceumists opened the bazaar (then being held for the third and last day) by performing a cantata, entitled "Daisy Darling's Dream," to a godly audience, Miss Elsie Boddington taking the part of "Daisy" and Miss Sybil Murdock the part of the "Fairy Queen" with great success; all the others without exception did splendidly, giving great pleasure to Conductor and Leaders.—Miss V. Appleby, Secretary.

LONDON, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES (Hampton Wick Assembly Rooms).—We held our Open Session on November 7th, having with us two of our old and valued workers, Mr. and Mrs. Tritton. Our marching and calisthenics were good; also the pearls and individual efforts, which were given by the following:—Recitations, Dolly Foreman, Ivy Chambers, Florrie and Alan Brown, Lena Humphris, Nellie Foreman; solo, Connie Brown, after which Mr. Tritton gave us an address on "What we do in our sleep. On Sunday next, November 14th, we commence in our own hall, the address being, Bishop's Hall, Thames Street, Kingston, where we hope to do better and grow stronger in numbers.—M. Wellbelove, Conductor.

LONDON, MANOR PARK.—We held our Open Session on November 7th. Individual efforts were very well rendered and much appreciated. Marching and calisthenics were followed by an address by Mrs. Roberts, on "Home and the Lyceum," which contained some very fine lessons for all, from the youngest to the oldest present. We are progressing well with our marching and calisthenics, and are practising some new exercises. We all regret that Mr. Youle, one of our most popular Lyceumists has had to leave us for a time. He is serving his country in the Essex Regiment, and has the sincere good wishes of the whole Lyceum.—L. Goater, Secretary.

LONDON, PECKHAM.—On Sunday, November 14th, we had the company of Ernest Smith, home from the front, through being wounded, but is making good progress. On November 21st we held our Open Session, which was conducted by Mrs. Turner, and we had a good time. Pearls were fairly good; efforts more splendid. Musical items by Ivy Duggan, Ruby Wilkins and Bruce Clarkson; recitations by Audrey Smith, Dorothy Tilly, Nora Clarkson, George Tilly and Jimmy Chance. Our social, I am pleased to say, was a fine success. Now we are looking forward to our Christmas Tea. We are still in need of workers. Who will help?—S. Clarkson, Secretary.

LONDON, STRATFORD (Idminton Road).—We are still progressing and look forward to our session each Sunday. November 21st we had a surprise visit from our new President, Mr. Forsyth, also a first visit from Mr. Cooze, both addressing us. A most profitable and enjoyable time being spent. The rendering of a solo entitled, "Beautiful Home so Bright and Fair," by Mr. Forsyth was greatly appreciated.—H. E. Taez.

LONDON, TOTTENHAM.—We held our first social of the season on November 11th, at Warmington House, and a very enjoyable evening was spent, games, singing, etc., and a "lucky tub" being the most notable features. The proceeds from the latter being devoted to the "Ambulance Fund," which I am sure we all wish God Speed. Mr. Morris, one of our Church Vice-Presidents, kindly presented Miss K. Jones with a gold bracelet as a token of our love and esteem. We enrolled three new members on November 14th, which is very encouraging.—C. Hassell, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, CHEETHAM HILL.—We held our anniversary and Open Session on November 21st, Mrs. Annie Williams being the medium for the day. Numerous pearls were given both by our own children and visiting Lyceumists. Recitations were given by Misses Jackson, Williams, Bowling, Maghu, Mrs. Barlow, Masters Pasque, Maghu, and Gershon. Solos by Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Barlow, Misses Hart, Williams, Jackson, Royle, and Harry Greshon. Marching and calisthenics were gone through, and we closed the session with a few words from Mrs. Williams, who is one of the founders of this Lyceum. Our thanks are given to all who contributed to the success of the session.—Jack Gershon, Secretary.

MANCHESTER, PENDLETON (Ford Lane).—I am sorry to report that our Lyceum is falling down in attendance at

our morning sessions, very few elders are present. The afternoon sessions are very favourable, but there is very few adults present considering the number we have on our register. We hope they will rally round and make our Lyceum once more the largest in the district, hoping these few remarks will encourage our workers to wake up and bring the absentees back to the cause. Our brother co-worker, John Halliday, has joined H.M. forces, and his brother, Wilfred Halliday, has joined the navy. We wish them good luck and safe return to our Lyceum.—C. Lloyd, Secretary.

MANCHESTER SOUTH (Princess Road).—On Wednesday, November 10th, we held a social, Mr. Bentley acted as M.C., and Miss Henley as pianist. Great praise is due to Mrs. Henley and co-workers for the nice refreshments provided; everything was a success. Our Lyceum is going on the same way, recitations and solos being very good lately. We are looking forward to our Open Session on December 12th, when Mr. R. P. Wightman, late of Harpurhey, will be the speaker. Our Lyceumists send their kind wishes to all other Lyceumists and hope it won't be long before each Lyceum is again completed; in the meantime let us all send our good thoughts out to the absent ones.—Dora Parker, Secretary.

MEXBOROUGH, CENTRAL HALL (West Street).—On Sunday, November 14th, we held our first Open Session. There was a fairly good attendance. There was a good response in answer to the call for pearls. Recitations were given by Alice Morgan, Emmaline Kenning, Sarah Ann Cory, Milbourne Wharton, and Harold Taylor. Mrs. Woodward said a few words on the silver chain recitation, and Mr. Cory and Mr. Chattell said a few words on the golden chain recitation. The children went through their usual marching and calisthenics creditably. The session was brought to a close by the naming of the infant daughter of our musical conductor, Mrs. Hoyes. The ceremony was ably performed by Mr. G. Chattell, President of the Society. Benediction by J. H. Cory.—W. Woodward.

MIDDLESBROUGH (Waterloo Road).—On Wednesday, November 17th, we held our second monthly social, which we hope to continue through the coming winter months. A glee entitled "We rock away on the billows gay," was very well rendered by the choir. We beg to say that a cantata has been arranged, including all the young members of the Lyceum, "The Queen of Choice." It has been announced that Mr. T. Harrison has been drafted out to the fighting line, place not being known. Our conductor, Mr. Edwards, has offered a prize to the Lyceumist who gives the most pearls from November 28th to the children's treat in the New Year.—E. W. Buckingham, Secretary.

NELSON.—On Sunday, November 7th, we had a Lyceum day, Open Sessions morning and afternoon. Recitations were given by J. Parkinson, G. Haythornthwaite, F. North, W. Eyre, F. Haythornthwaite, Edith Hindle, I. Middlebrook, A. Walmsley, Mrs. Parkinson, and E. Whalley. Songs by Misses Walmsley and Latham. Organ recital by Miss Kirby, violin and piano duet by Masters Middlebrook and Anderson. 60 visitors were present, amongst them were Messrs. Edwards, Swift, and Marfleet, from Accrington, and Mr. Wilkinson, Rawtenstall. In the evening a service of song entitled "Unseen Hands" by some of the Lyceumists, assisted by the choir, conducted by Mr. Pearson. Duets were sung by C. Greenwood and L. Breese, F. and E. Fitchet; soloists, Misses Tillotson, Carr, Taylor, Greenwood, and North. Reader, William Eyre, a Lyceumist of great promise. Collections all day for church funds.—Wm. Walmsley, Secretary.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HEATON AND BYKER.—On November 7th we held our Open Session, recitations by Arnold Patterson, Nellie Scope, Mary Wardle, Lavina Wardle, John Edward Patterson, Annie Dison, Gordon Sandam, Jennie Jobson, Lily Taylor. Golden chain led by Mr. Eke, Lily Eke. Duet, Misses Hughes and Marshall. November 14th election of officers: Conductor, Mr. B. Westgarth; assistants, Mr. Hunter and Patterson; Musical Conductors, Mr. G. H. Westgarth and Mrs. Patterson; Treasurer, Mr. L. Pinkney; Guardian, Miss A. Shadforth; assistant, Master Robert Fenwick; Captain of Guards, Mr. Shadforth; Guards, Alfred Ross, Edward Patterson, Mary Scope, and Minnie Elliott; Leaders, Messrs. Hunter, Patterson, McCabe, Mrs. Wardle, Shadforth, and Miss Jobson.—Mrs. Robert Hunter, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM (Bentinck Road).—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Lyceum Open Session, conducted by Miss Swadden. William Sanderson conducted the silver chain recitation. Pearls very good. The following items were ably rendered: Duets by Misses Savage and Woodward, Misses Sanderson and Newstead; recitations by May White and J. Metcalf. I am pleased to report this Lyceum is still progressing, enrolling new members, and doing splendid work in a cheerful and whole-hearted way.—Mabel Reade, Secretary.

PONTYPRIDD (River Street).—Sunday, November 7th, again brought round our Open Session, Mr. Ricardo taking the leadership during the absence of Mr. Thomas. We had a very good attendance, and the Lyceum showed every sign of progression by the number present. Recitations were rendered by Nellie Brown, Florence Bowden, and Mr. Sweetman. Solos by Mr. Matthews, Irene Bowden, and Dollie Snow. Afterwards the older members were asked to give a few words of encouragement to the children. After a very enjoyable time we closed the afternoon service.—Florence Bowden, Secretary.

PRESTON (Clarke's Yard).—On Sunday, November 14th, we held our Open Session. The following Lyceumists took part: Recitations, Lizzie Chambers, Alice Spencer, Norman Jackson, and Mabel Cartmell; trio, Misses Moorby, Beetham, and Mr. Tomlinson. On Sunday, the 21st, Mr. Batley, of Oswaldtwistle, our speaker for the day, named the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Mason. Annie Fishwick, Nellie Nicholson, Mabel Cartmell, Nellie Spencer, and Alice Spencer, all carrying flowers, made a very pretty picture as they walked down the room with Bertha Fishwick who carried the baby.—Ellen Savage, Secretary.

PRESTON (Lancaster Road).—On Sunday, October 24th, we had with us owing to an accident to their own rooms, the members of Clarke's Yard Lyceum. We held a special united Open Session, in which scholars belonging to both Lyceums took part. The silver chain and musical reading were well commented on. There were recitations given by Miss Cartmell, David Rae, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Symonds. A solo was rendered by Mrs. Guest. Duets were given by Misses Counsell and Walker, and Miss Salisbury and Mr. J. Ridley, of Blackburn, and a duet on the piano and violin by Misses Porter and Walker; a trio was given by Miss Savage, Miss Moorby, and Mr. Bert Tomlinson. We all spent a pleasant time together.—Wm. Rae, Secretary.

READING.—On October 31st Mr. Wilkins gave an address upon "Progress," in which he earnestly entreated both old and young, not only to cherish the truths which appealed to us, but to boldly uphold them. A solo which was greatly appreciated by both seen and unseen was given by Gladys Lovelock. November 7th an address was given by Mr. Churn, whose breezy message proved to be very cheering. It was followed by a solo from his daughter, Doris Churn. On November 14th Mr. A. Clack gave a very helpful address upon "The Past, Present, and the Future." A solo was given by Violet Taylor, who sang with great feeling and sweetness the "Holy City."

ROCHDALE (Penn Street).—On November 7th we had our Lyceum Anniversary, which proved a very successful day. In the afternoon we held an Open Session before a very nice congregation, and we also had visitors from other Lyceums, and we spent a very pleasant afternoon together. In the evening our service was conducted by two of our own Lyceumists, Mrs. G. Lingard and Mrs. Ramm, both of Rochdale. Mr. Holt, our conductor, presided; Miss Hilda Etchell sang very sweetly in the afternoon "Sunny Days of Childhood," and in the evening "Into Thy Hands." The choir rendered very creditably the anthem "Praise the Lord and call upon his Name," under the conductorship of Mr. Lingard, our choir-master.—Mary Taylor, Secretary.

ROCHDALE (Regent Hall).—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Open Session, and was very pleased to have with us Mr. Ernest Vickers, the President of B.S.L.U. Mr. Vickers took for his subject in the afternoon "Pioneers." In his address on religious pioneers he gave us the names of Confucius, Buddha, Mahommed, and Jesus, also the pioneers of Spiritualism such as Alfred Russell Wallace, the Fox Sisters, and down to Andrew Jackson Davis; with regard to scientific pioneers he thought Galileo was the most prominent in the world's history. In the evening he conducted the G.C. 112, "The Religion of Humanity." Recitations were said by Agnes and John Firth; Arthur, Winnie, and Dulcie Lilley, and Sydney Hudson; the latter was a welcome to the President. Solos and duets were sung by Mrs. John Firth, Agnes Booth, Bessie Whitehead, and Winnie Lilley. The marching and calisthenics were conducted by John Nurse and Lizzie Sanderson. Mrs. Lizzie Nurse presided.—John Firth.

ROTHERHAM.—On Sunday, October 30th, we held our Open Session. A good attendance of children, but a few more adults would be encouraging. The children responded well. Several recitations being given. Solo by Mrs. Wilson. We paid another visit to the Rotherham Hospital to entertain the wounded soldiers with songs and recitations, which were greatly appreciated. Our Lyceumists collected nearly £3 to the Red Cross Fund by selling flags. On Saturday, November 20th, we held a concert in aid of the Society's building

fund. There was a good programme given by the Lyceumists, assisted by Mr. Frank Hepworth (Bury), and Mr. and Miss Chivers and Mr. Balans. Mr. Ben Davis ably occupied the chair.—E. Peat, Secretary.

SHEFFIELD, HEELEY.—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our usual Open Session, the following rendered items: Hilda and Sarah Furniss, George, Jack, and James Porter, Hector, Agnes, and Gladys Gibbons, Rose Sanders, Gladys Norwood, Alice Whitehead, Willie Bowmer, Nellie Beardoc, Hugh and Cecil Truelove, Arthur Oliver. Miss Minnie Redfern recited splendidly. I assure all the Lyceumists present gave her great credit, as she is only a new member. This brought an enjoyable day to a close. On Thursday, November 11th, we commenced giving the children their enjoyable evenings, which takes place the second Thursday in each month.—S. Smith, Secretary.

SHILDON, HYDESVILLE (Shildon Road).—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Open Session, which was well attended. Fifteen pearls were given, and solos were rendered by Nora Pearson and Thomas Graham. Recitations were given by Ida Mills, Rebecca Ridge, Olive Pearson, Bessie Kidd, Ronald Graham, John Pearson and Thomas Graham. The first series of calisthenics were well done, and the singing of "Voices from the Spirit Land" ended a very pleasant and enjoyable session.—T. Graham, Secretary.

SHILDON.—On Sunday, November 14th, we held our Open Session, when recitations were given by Sarah Riley, E. Hutchinson. Many questions were asked, which our conductor, Mr. Smith, ably answered. I am pleased to report we have enrolled a number of new scholars.—J. M. Kirkbride, Secretary.

SOUTHPORT (Hawkshead Street).—Our Lyceum is undergoing reconstruction. During the past month it has been under the conductorship of Mr. T. Berry and Mrs. Charnley respectively. Weekly programmes have been issued and put successfully into effect during the period in question. We divide the time at our disposal into three parts, i.e., Spiritual, Mental and Physical, when the intermediate one receives attention. Mr. E. Beardsworth, who is our musical director, imparts lessons on elocution to the assembly in general, and the Lyceumists in particular, which are proving very beneficial and are highly appreciated. We are putting forth our best endeavours to make the Lyceum and the work in connection therewith worthy of the expression—progressive.—Miss Blanche Hardy, Secretary.

STOCKPORT (Lyceum Church).—On November 20th a tea party and re-union was held. The food-stuffs and the organising was an effort by the ladies to raise funds for the decoration of our meeting church. An excellent tea was well enjoyed by about 120 persons. After tea, games, songs, recitations, and dancing passed the evening away merrily. On behalf of the male portion we express our appreciation to every lady who contributed to what was the most successful effort since we took up our new quarters. Special mention must be made to Mrs. Ennion, our conductor, and the sisters Adsheads, for their extra efforts, and to Miss F. Pickthall who played the piano.—J. H. Marston.

ULVERSTON (Burlington Street).—We held our anniversary services in the afternoon and evening. In the afternoon recitations were given by May and Barbara Miller, Doris, Harry and Cathy Taylor, Maggie Barton, Madge, May, and Nessie Coward, Edith Martindale, May Ashburner, Elsie Roberts and Beatie Tyer. Solos were given by Mr. Taylor and Annie Miller. Afterwards Mrs. Aspen, of Nelson, spoke to the children and the parents and friends. In the evening recitations were given by Selina Miller and Walker Martindale, solos by Poppy Tyer and Annie Miller. Then Mrs. Aspin addressed the meeting on the position and attitude of Spiritualism and Spiritualists.—Edith Martindale, Secretary.

WINDHILL.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, November 14th, and we had a fair good time. Songs were given by Mr. Harrison, Misses Gott, I. Halestone, and N. Alderson. Miss E. Hopwood sang "Watchman, what of the Night?" Recitations and readings were given by Miss E. Starkey, Miss Alderson, and Master W. Alderson. Our motto is "Love one Another."—A. Beckel, Secretary.

WINNIPEG (Polson Avenue).—On Sunday, November 7th, we held our Lyceum Open Session, which, considering the day being very wet, was fairly well attended. Solos were rendered by Mrs. H. Forrest, Mr. Higley and Joe Green; recitations by Maria Vernon, G. Summerlidson, Margaret Wenham, Willie Spencely; and a reading by Ruby Spencely. We also have great pleasure in welcoming to our Lyceum Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, of Haywood, nr. Manchester, who have but recently arrived in Winnipeg.—M. Wenham, Secretary.