

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 372. Vol. XXXII.

FEBRUARY 5th, 1922.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

The Spiritualists' Charter.

Under the existing laws of the British Parliament, Spiritualists come against the law as Rogues and Vagabonds. The Spiritualists' National Union are taking steps to remove this stigma in a Petition for religious freedom, by the granting of a Charter to practise as a Religious Denomination. Lyceumists are requested to give their practical support to the efforts enumerated below.

G.F.K.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, S.N.U.

To the Churches :

The probability of a General Election during the Summer is being much discussed at present.

While the date of the Election may be later in the year, we must get our machinery in order at once, we cannot afford to be found wanting when the hour comes.

Copies of a pamphlet have been sent to every Member of the present House of Commons and their replies are being carefully tabulated. We want every Church to study carefully what has already been sent out to Members of Parliament, and to prepare themselves to interview all candidates when an election comes, meanwhile also, we want you to send us the names and addresses of all prospective candidates who may have been selected for your district, so they can be written to and their attitude towards our claims ascertained.

We want all Spiritualists to interest themselves in this question, because there are great issues involved, and if we do not make a real effort and secure our Charter the opportunity may soon be lost to us. It has already been pointed out that the Church would seek the same powers and there are many evidences that such an action has already been contemplated. So it is our earnest hope that every spiritualist who conceive spiritualism to be a great revelation and sweet and holy religion will put forward every endeavour to secure our just rights.

Yours faithfully,

G. F. BERRY, President.
E. W. OATEN, Vice-President.
G. F. KNIGHT, B.S.L.U. Gen. Secretary.
R. H. YATES, General Secretary.

A PETITION.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUALISTS to have and to hold a position before the Law similar to that of any other Religious Body, to obtain a Charter, and if requisite to promote a Private Bill therefor :

Sheweth as follows :—

1. That your Petitioners are known as Spiritualists, and have been enrolled amongst religious bodies by the Registrar-General.
2. That the aims of your Petitioners are the propagation of a form of belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man by lectures, &c., and in the continuity of life after the change of death, demonstrated through the exercise of psychic faculty and mediumship, your Petitioners being in all other matters pertaining to the Constitution loyal subjects.
3. That the application of certain clauses of old Acts of Parliament (intended to suppress vagrancy and witchcraft) to the spiritual visions of certain of their teachers designated as mediums is undesirable in an era of religious freedom, is a travesty of justice, and opposed to Holy Writ.

4. That your Petitioners desire the recognition of the existence of psychic faculty as a natural gift or talent.
 5. That the granting of a Charter which makes provision and gives opportunity for the exercise of the psychic faculty, under supervision, should receive approval by Parliament.
 6. That your Petitioners are desirous of appointing a Council to give effect to the provisions of the said Charter : such Council to be appointed by delegates representing the Spiritualist Churches of the United Kingdom.
 7. That your Petitioners further desire powers to erase from any of their lists those who violate such Charter by the misuse of the psychic faculty or mediumship by fortune-telling and other forms of charlatanism, and are of opinion that consultants of such persons should also be punished.
- Your Petitioners pray your Honourable House to pronounce in favour of the above Petition so that the community of Spiritualists may be accorded that recognition which other religious bodies, sects, and denominations obtain.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL EVER PRAY, &c.

The above Petition was prepared and ready for presentation when war broke out. We patiently waited during those terrible years of struggle and decided to wait further until our beloved country had assumed something like normal conditions before we proceeded with our Petition.

We feel now, however, that the time has arrived when we can safely approach the Government with our legitimate claims. We desire to point out that our adherents number approximately *half a million people, that is, people who enjoy the privileges of the Franchise*; taking the whole body of our Congregations and the members of our Sunday Schools we shall probably represent in the community one and a half millions.

We have sought at all times to be loyal and orderly members of the community and now urge our legitimate claims upon you.

You will be able to discover from the enclosed pamphlet the position we seek,—we only seek the same rights and privileges enjoyed by other Religious Organisations.

We trust that we may be assured of your support when our petition reaches the House of Commons.

We shall also esteem it a favour if you will give us an undertaking of your support on the slip below, and return same in the stamped addressed envelope enclosed.

(Copy of Circular Letter for reply from M.P.'s.)

To the Secretary, Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd.,

I shall be pleased to assist your National Church to secure the same rights and privileges as are accorded to other religious organisations, and to urge that your National Church and its members shall not suffer the applications or implications of certain Acts of Parliament (the Acts referred to are the Vagrancy Acts and the Act of George IV.), which were framed many many years before the inception of Modern Spiritualism, and which were never intended to apply to any form of religious worship or religious activity.

Signature of M.P.

Copies of the Petition may be obtained from Mr. R. H. Yates, 25, Thornton Lodge Road, Huddersfield. Secretaries who hold signed Petitions are requested to return them immediately to Mr. Yates.

The Spiritualist National Union have instituted a Pioneer Sunday which they recommend to all Churches for adoption. This innovation is a Thanksgiving Service to the Spiritualist Pioneers, national and local. It is recommended that half collections be sent to the S.N.U. Secretary as a thankoffering and incidentally help the Union to recover from financial loss sustained during the past year.

The Education Scheme.

TO CANDIDATES.

The Education Committee takes this opportunity of wishing each candidate the highest success in the coming examinations (19th February); and hopes that each one whose name is on the lists will actually take the examinations, except where there is a really good excuse.

Take your admission-card with you to the examination; and carry out the instructions on the back of it.

Study carefully the Examiners' Reports, and the "Hints on How to Answer Questions."

TO SECRETARIES.

(i) The admission cards for candidates will have been posted to you before you read this. Please deliver each one to the candidate named on it as soon as you can.

(ii) No fees will be returned this year (see list of instructions sent with the examination form). When Conference last year accepted the Education Report, it agreed that a fee of sixpence per candidate be charged, to help to meet the heavy expenses incurred.

(iii) You were asked to keep a list of the names of your candidates. Will you now please put the examination number (given on the admission card) of each one *before* his or her name. Then give the list to the Supervisor, and ask him or her to take it to the examination room, mark on it those present and those absent, and enclose it with the papers sent to the Secretary. This will help in the checking of papers, and prevent mistakes.

TO SUPERVISORS.

(i) The Supervisors will receive the examination packets not later than 9th February. If not received by then, please communicate at once with the Secretary.

(ii) Please note paragraph (iii) to Secretaries.

(iii) Study the instructions sent to you in the examination-packet, so that you may have all you need on the day of the examinations.

ENTRIES FOR THE EXAMINATIONS.

(i) GRADES.

Grade	1922	1921
V.	6	8
IV.	19	10
III.	85	38
II.	335	162
I.	862	887
TOTALS	1307	1105

(ii) AREAS.

Area	1922	1921
A.	199	184
B.	178	236
H.	156	121
G.	154	85
E.	143	131
C.	138	100
D.	130	125
F.	114	56
J.	86	67
Colonial	9	—
TOTALS	1307	1105

(iii) COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

D.C.	1922	1921
Tyneside	184	151
N.E. Lancs.	138	100
Leeds	116	96
Halifax and Huddersfield	101	56
Manchester	96	75
Southern Counties	89	130
Bolton	87	84
London	81	106
Nottingham	81	31
Sheffield	73	63
Birmingham	71	41
S.E. Lancs.	58	10
Liverpool	43	41
Tees-side	16	18
S. Wales	15	26
Bradford	13	—

Scottish	12	33
N.E. Ches.	10	27
Unattached	14	17
Colonial	9	—
TOTALS	1307	1105

LYCEUMS.

In 1921 there were 1105 entries from 81 Lyceums. This year there are 1307 entries from 111 Lyceums; 69 of these sent in candidates last year; and 42 did not; but are playing up this time.

That leaves 12 Lyceums that have dropped out since the last examinations. Three of these have sent in good excuses, one is not affiliated with the Union; the other eight have not replied to the enquiries sent.

The Education Committee sincerely hopes that each of the twelve will play up loyally next time; and also that all other Lyceums not yet in the Scheme will join the ranks for the 1923 examinations.

HELPFUL EXTRACTS FROM THE EXAMINERS' REPORTS OF 1921 PAPERS.

From the Report of Grade V. "There seems to be an unfamiliarity with the arguments advanced by the *materialist* and the *scientist*. One result is that there is a stronger appeal to the *emotions* than to the *reason*. Also there is a tendency to look at evidence from one standpoint only *re* that of the sifter in a circle. For example, one candidate writes '*Trumpet phenomena* is arrived at . . . by . . . singing in a darkened room, heedless of the fact that you could sing forever in a room and, in the absence of a medium, would get nothing. *Not a single candidate mentions the fact that a medium is necessary to obtain phenomena.* This is a serious omission when dealing with physical and photographic phenomena."

From the Report of Grade IV. This report only regrets that some candidates lack originality; and also the power to express their thoughts well. Practice in speaking in the Lyceum and in writing essays, etc., would soon remedy this.

From the Report of Grade III. "In most cases, there is a want of grip when dealing with the philosophical side of the questions; the students having only a very general idea of fundamental principles."

From the Reports of Grade II. "In many answers a good general knowledge of Spiritualism and Lyceum teaching is shown, but either *carelessness in reading the questions, or failure to grasp the essential parts of same*, caused some fine essays to be disqualified, or only receive a small percentage of marks. Other papers revealed a *lack of study and knowledge* of the Manual."

From the Reports of Grade I. The general opinion was that the papers, on the whole, reflected great credit on the students and teachers, and that study had been intelligent, careful and thorough.

Most marks had been lost through either answering only part of a question, or reading the question carelessly and not answering *what was asked*.

HINTS ON HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

First, read the question carefully, and find out exactly what you are being asked to do. Are you being asked:

- for facts and details;
 - for opinions; or
 - for facts *and* opinions;
 - to deal generally with a whole subject; or
 - to go into details on some particular part of the subject?
2. Having decided whether you are to answer under (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e)—as above—answer by (as the question may require):

(a) putting down the facts and details as you would tell them to an inquirer who asked you the same question;

(b) first stating your opinion and then stating your reasons. Arrange your answer so that each opinion given will arise from the preceding one, and lead to the following one. Keep your strongest argument to the last—so as to "clinch" your answer;

(c) stating first your facts and then your opinions, with reasons founded on the facts; or, if the facts are given in the question, by arranging the facts so as to make your answer cohesive and interesting. ALWAYS proceed from facts to opinions and reasons.

(d) giving the generally known and accepted opinions on the subject—ADDING original facts and opinions of your own.

The Management Committee at Liverpool.

The M. C. held their Quarterly Meeting at Liverpool on Jan. 14th and 15th. The Meeting had to be hurriedly arranged and thanks are due to Daulby Hall Church and Lyceum accepting the M.C. request: to Mr. Keeling for giving up the platform for the Sunday, and to Mr. Owen for making the arrangements.

All the members were present except Mr. Lawrence (bereavement), Mr. Ball (illness), and Mr. Lewis, who explained his absence.

It was decided to send letters of sympathy to Mr. Kitson on the physical loss of his sister; to Mr. Lawrence on the loss of his wife; Mr. Ball on the loss of his mother and personal illness, and to the Worthington Family on the loss of their useful son.

A recommendation will be sent to the Conference that the future M.C. shall consist of seven persons, including the officers, (except the General Secretary and the Adviser). A total Committee of nine persons.

The M.C. desired a note to be placed in the BANNER that they were not responsible for the delay in the revision of the LYCEUM MANUAL.

Mr. Kitson offered the sole Agency of the sale of his Autobiography to the B.S.L.U.

The Nottingham invitation for the October Meetings was accepted.

Mrs. McClure was thanked for her generosity in making grant from the cost of the Tea to the funds of the Union.

It was agreed to pay the fees to the S.N.U.

It was decided to call the attention of Lyceums to the S.N.U. Pioneer Sunday.

Re the 1922 Conference: (Mrs. Pickles vacated the Chair during this discussion) it was resolved that the M.C., having reconsidered the invitation from N.E.L.L.D.C., could not see their way to hold the Conference in Blackpool, as it was an inappropriate place at Whitsuntide. It was therefore decided that the Manchester Lyceums be approached, through the District Council, to arrange for the Conference to be held in Manchester.—Mr. J. Bell and the Secretary to act for the M.C.

The S.N.U. are being approached about the relations of Lyceums and Churches.

It was decided to support wholeheartedly the Educational Petition submitted by Miss Hesp.

The Treasurer reported that all accounts for 1921 were not to hand and gave an approximate statement.

The BANNER Cover and other changes were notified and agreed to.

Mr. Bell submitted the F. & G.P. and £2000 Effort Report, stating there is £167 10s. 8d. invested as a separate Fund and all his stock is an asset to the Union.

It was decided to issue the full list of Donations in the LYCEUM BANNER.

The allocation of Lyceums in the various Areas as recommended by Mr. Williams, on behalf of the Area Committee, was adopted.

Miss Kitson, in a written report, stated that 1300 students had entered for the 1922 Examinations.

The following applications for membership were endorsed: Crompton, Devonport, Doncaster, Greenock, Hamilton, London (Hampton Hill), Merthyr Tydvil, Methuen (U.S.A. five years fees), New Suildon, Snaw, and Bristol, subject to endorsement. Hebburn on Tyne was deferred as they were without a Hall.

The various Conference forms were passed for printing.

The revision of the Constitution was discussed.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Daulby Hall Church and Lyceum and Friends, including Mr. Owen, for the opportunity of meeting in Liverpool at short notice and also for the welcome given to the M.C.

We regret to learn Mrs. Hesp is confined to bed with a serious illness and Miss Alice Hesp, a Past President of our Union, finds her time fully occupied in nursing her mother back to health.

Will Lyceum and Church Secretaries please note that, owing to the above circumstances, Miss Hesp is reluctantly obliged to cancel her engagements till after Easter.

We wish Mrs. Hesp a speedy recovery to normal health.

M.C. Propaganda Meetings.

The Management Committee held Propaganda Meetings in Daulby Hall, Liverpool on Jan. 15th. The weather was extremely rough and cold. A blizzard of snow prevented a large attendance and it was a surprise to see the visiting Lyceumists in such good numbers.

Mr. E. A. Keeling conducted the afternoon session in an interesting style, welcomed the M.C. and expressed his good wishes to the President for the ideals of the Lyceum methods to continue. The President replied and thanked Daulby Hall and the pioneers who made the path easier for us all. Mr. Keeling conducted the S.C.R., Mr. R. H. Eaves, of Birkenhead, Miss Phyllis Ihle, of Romer Rd., Miss Clementi Echevarria, of Daulby Hall, and Miss Annie Pickles, Visitor, read the connective readings of the Musical Reading. Mr. Knott lead the G.C.R. A few Lyceumists joined in the discussion. Mr. H. G. Owen was the conductor of the physical exercises, during which a symbolic arch was made to receive a child into the Lyceum, to be afterwards named by the President. She asked all to send out their best thoughts to the child, with a wish for her good health and named the baby girl, Elaine, whilst an angel whispered "Peace" as her spirit-name. May love sustain the parents. In the name of Spiritualism the President pinned a Lyceum Badge on the child's breast.

Many pearls and arising questions, with a few words from the General Secretary, brought the Session to a close.

A welcome tea and chat in the Hall, with old and new friends brought many memories of the past and dreams of the future to enliven the conversation.

EVENING MEETING.

Mrs. Begg offered an invocation.

Mr. Keeling spoke of his past association with the M.C. He was accorded applause for his sentiments towards the future activities of national work. He invited the President to take charge of the Meeting.

Mrs. Pickles thanked Mr. Keeling and all the Liverpool friends for making the visit possible, and the comforts and accommodation provided.

In a short address, she said we could not work for the improvement of others without making our own outlook better. Spirits came back to learn the lessons omitted before passing over to spirit-life. We must learn to love, not fear, God and wonderful results would accrue. She gave illustrations of spiritual senses which were covered and annulled by convention which have to be reawakened by cultivation in later years.

Miss Appleton sang a solo "When the birds go North."

Mr. G. A. Mack spoke on "God is Love." His illustrations on sunlight, the rainbow, and the prism were very interesting and led him to the harmony of labour and then to the harmony of love. He deplored the god of war and the blessing of battle-ships. After dealing with shell-life, the water-cycle and the stars, he said that meditation and love will breed inspiration and conquer all difficulties.

Miss G. Owen read a solo, Mr. Knott spoke of "Life in the Spirit World", and Mrs. Pickles gave the benediction.

Mr. Morgan writes:—It might be interesting to read the enclosed details of a Lyceumist who has passed to Summerland recently. The Meeting was held at Dukinfield New Church. Mr. Buckley of Nelson conducted the services (we have engaged him for our coming Good Friday's Demonstration); after describing several spirit friends, he described a form of a person who was standing by and wore a Lyceum Badge; he then gave the following messages—*Go on with your Glorious work. Keep, the Banner flying, and then paused; whatever is Right, is Right.* Did I understand. I could not at the time. He then asked did I know Princess Street. Of course, my thoughts were at Princess Street, Ashton. He then called out Princess Street, Manchester. He passed over at an Hospital, no it was an Infirmary. A leader of Children of about 44 years and of a quiet disposition. His name is *Chappell*. We thought that this was worth repeating. How glorious it is that we are able to return and deliver such messages. I know your arms are full of work but I could not resist. Being from such a faithful member and worker in the Lyceum Cause.

The limits of Spiritualism cannot be governed from this side of the grave.

- (c) arranging your details so as to make them interesting.
3. When asked to compare two subjects, always (a) state in partially *all* that you know of BOTH, point out (b) where they agree and (c) where they differ, and then (d) give your opinions.
4. Never answer *more* than you are asked. Check yourself by reading the question at intervals while writing your answer.

NOTE.—The examiners can judge of your knowledge only by what you say (or don't say) in your answers. So if you are careless and put in things you *weren't* asked for, or leave out things you *were* asked for—or if your facts and opinions and reasons are all jumbled up—the examiner concerned will conclude that you either don't know or don't understand your subject, and will give you few, if any, marks.

A.T.C.

ESSAYS ON REASONING.

By A. T. CONNOR.

II. Seeking for Knowledge.

We use our reasoning powers to get fresh knowledge FROM WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW. Without the exercise of these powers we should never know anything but what actually happens around us; and it is only through using our reason that the science, philosophy and religion of Spiritualism have been built up. Let us take one familiar instance. We go to a friend's house, and there meet with a number of other friends. We turn the lights down to a glimmer, and sit around a wooden table. After a little, the table begins to tilt, or move up and down, and by the use of an agreed code of communication, messages are spelled out, and information received. This much can be seen by everybody present—and, without the aid of our reasoning powers, this is as far as we would ever get. But we begin to wonder what is the cause or the source of the movements and messages, and Reason at once steps in and takes charge. By its aid we arrive at the conclusion that the phenomena were not caused by any of the sitters, but by some unseen person who used the psychic power provided or produced by the circle; from further information received and tested we become convinced that the unseen person is one whom we had known, but who is now "dead"—and finally, we declare our belief in the continuity of conscious individual existence after the death of the physical body. From this, by observation and experiment, and by "putting two and two together" (or, in other words, by using our reasoning powers), we go step by step towards the full acceptance of our Seven Principles.

Thus Reason will conduct us from the observation of the movements of a table to the realisation of a new philosophy of life and death. But between these movements, and the full realisation of their message, there are many steps; and if we want to be certain that the steps we take are all in the right direction, we must study other methods of investigation and discovery, and examine other arguments and opinions, before attempting to form opinions of our own. In this connection we soon come to realise that not only must we know *exactly* what we mean when we use a word or a name, but we must also make sure of what OTHERS mean when they use the same word or the same name. Take the word "SPIRITUALIST," for example. In the Spiritualist Movement (represented by the National Union and the Lyceum Union) a Spiritualist is defined as a person who ACCEPTS OUR SEVEN PRINCIPLES. Outside our Movement there are many who call themselves Spiritualists, but yet accept only the first four. Again, some Spiritualists, who believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a remarkable medium and an exalted teacher, claim that his teachings are (or should and must be) the bedrock of Spiritualism—and call themselves Christian Spiritualists. But the same name is claimed by Christians who remain Christians though believing in Spirit return. In these two cases, when we read or hear of Spiritualists or Christian Spiritualists, we must make sure what definition is in the mind of the writer or speaker. If we always assume that other people mean exactly what we mean, when they use a word, or a phrase, or a name, we are likely to fall into serious error, and to take steps that will surely lead us astray.

The surest guide to the inquirer's footsteps is provided in the logical syllogism, when properly understood and used. I shall devote a later chapter to the syllogism, so will only say at present that it is the **FORMAL METHOD OF REASONING**, in which are **STATED AT FULL LENGTH** phrases and arguments that in ordinary conversation are generally taken for granted, and left unsaid. A man who laughs at the "absurdity" of the syllogism will see nothing ridiculous in saying that "the Lyceum Union is worthy of support, because it is an educational body."

He has a reason for making this claim—something he has taken for granted as a fact (though he hasn't stated it); and we can find out what is in his mind by asking—"Why"?

"Well," he'll say, "all educational bodies deserve to be supported."

He has (in his own mind) constructed a syllogism, which the logician would express thus:

All educational bodies are worthy of support;
The Lyceum Union is an educational body;
 Therefore, *The Lyceum Union is worthy of support.*

The real use of the syllogism lies in putting the steps of our reasoning down at full length, so as to avoid mistakes. In the above example, everything is perfectly plain, but there are other cases (to be examined later) where the reasoning is not so straightforward, and where only the careful use of the syllogism will keep us going straight.

As will be observed, each line of our SYLLOGISM has been divided into three parts. Each line is called a PROPOSITION, and the first and third parts of each proposition are called the TERMS (or ends). The word connecting these parts is called the COPULA (because it "couples" them). In the first proposition, "*all educational bodies*" and "*worthy of support*" are the terms, and "*are*" is the copula. We can now see that there are two terms in each proposition and three propositions in each syllogism; but this does not mean that a syllogism contains six terms—there are only *three* terms, each used twice.

We are now agreed, I hope, that only by using our reasoning powers, along proper lines, can we obtain reliable knowledge. From a simple phenomenon, like the movement of a table, we can reason up to the Principles of Spiritualism. But we must be careful to use only the **GENERALLY ACCEPTED** meanings of words and phrases (not give them meanings that suit us). We must practise the formal method of reasoning—always keeping in mind that **LOGIC DOES NOT SUPPLY FACTS**, but only enables us to get fresh knowledge from facts already known to us. The formal method is by the syllogism, and we can use it only when we thoroughly understand it, and its divisions into propositions and terms. Next month we shall consider terms.

(To be continued).

Transition of Mr. Joseph Wood,

BURY, LANCASHIRE.

After a long and painful illness, through malignant cancer, Mr. Joseph Wood, of 48, Spring Street, Bury, passed to the higher life on January 5th, 1922. The interment took place in St. Paul's Churchyard, Bury, on Tuesday, January 10th. Mr. Frank Hepworth conducted an impressive service at the home and also a commitment service at the grave. Over 50 Spiritualists attended, forming a procession to the Church. The L. and Y.R. Co's. representatives carried the casket to the grave. Our brother's age was 47 years. He leaves a widow and two children.

Mr. Wood was one of the best known among local Spiritualists. For over 25 years he has laboured devotedly for the Cause he loved, both in the Society and Lyceum. Ungrudging and unostentatious, he worked in the capacity of caretaker for many years, and the Society owed no small measure of success to his untiring efforts to afford comfort to all who met for worship or for service to the Society. His greatest ambition was to render service to others, in any righteous cause, and it may be truly said of him that he had grasped the "magic staff" of A. J. Davis: "Under all circumstances keep an even mind."

He especially loved the Lyceum and Band of Hope. Though never an office seeker he could always be counted upon for help, and confidence in him was never misplaced. Incidentally, he has been chosen "Adjudicator of Efficiency" for Lyceums in the Bolton District Council, and delegate for a long term. May his strenuous and useful life on earth yield for him that peace, love and joy which his spirit so richly merits in that sphere of spiritual life to which he has ascended.

F. HEPWORTH.

A number of articles and letters are crowded out this month.

Where to?

BY A. GALPIN.

Just for a few minutes, come with me, my darlings, and let me be a Fairy Godmother. Let me put around you my magic cloak, light as featherdown, from Love's wings, and I will waft you to a land of Dreams, Hopes, and Aspirations; a land where all men are strong and true, and women are pure, kind and gentle. Little children as dreams embodied, radiant with the promise of life.

This beautiful land of mine, and yours, lies very close to us, so close indeed that it is part of our very existence. It is our inner consciousness; it lies dormant and asleep in many of us, and we do not realise the wealth we possess, until something comes along and gives us a glimpse of the glories. Confucius said, "Men are as grass, and the rulers are the winds that stir the grass." It is not the rulers nor the wind that I wish you to meet to-day, but just the ordinary, everyday mowing grass "Mankind."

Come cuddle up close to me, and away we will go from the bleak winds of to-day, to the sunshine and showers we shall have in a few month's time.

Listen! a rustling of the grass thrills as with the sound of men-at-arms,—look closer—why of course they are men-at-arms, each blade of grass guarding the tiny dew drops from the ravaging rays of the Sun; until the dew sinks into the earth, to make one more tiny jewel in the crown of Persephone. Here is Quaking grass, frail and delicate, we find your counterpart in many paths of life. The shy sensitive soul tossed hither and thither yet remaining long after the fair flowers have passed away.

Bluebells too, ringing out the tidings that spring is here! Young wheat pricking up his ears, tells the barley, who nodding its head, whispers its secret to the droning bee. Poor Mr. Bee is he too busy to tarry awhile or is he tipsy with nectar from the flowers? For surely he has such a load, he reels in his flight. Look! oh look! a sunbeam! is it growing? Not growing, just imprisoned in the heart of a flower; I will tell you how it happened.

Once upon a time a dandelion grew under a hedge. Very pale it was and listless, because it was all alone and its little world seemed very gray and cold. One morning the flower awoke quite early, before even the Sun had risen. It hung its head and was feeling very sorry for itself, when suddenly it became aware of a warmth of love and tenderness around it that caused it to lift its drooping head so quickly that down into its heart dropped a tiny sunbeam. Traunt sunbeam, running away from its playmates as the sun awoke, had found the pale little dandelion so cold and weary. Sunbeam had put her tiny warm arms around the flower to warm and comfort him, the flower responded so quickly, that down fell the sunbeam into the heart of the flower before either was aware of what was happening. The petals closed over the love that had come to it, and the sunbeam nestling in the flower, they pledged their troth, never to part again through all Eternity.

No longer does a dandelion droop, but holding its head erect, shows to the world its heart of golden sunshine. No longer does the sunbeam wish to return to the Sun, it has found its love, and is content to shine from the heart of a humble flower.

Our field of grass, one day is cut and withered, and we shiver for evening falls, and our cloak of dreams is not always proof against the mists that rise; I must take you back to the land of Everyday. A life of reality opens also to our mowing grass, and it is stored in stacks for use in the bleak winter months.

As it is to-day, so it was a thousand years ago, when the grass of the fields played its part in the glorious birth of men who have changed the whole world. Happy, suffering Mother who laid her babe in a manger, filled with hay; a sweet babe was brought into the world in such lowly, but glorious surroundings, cradled in poverty, but rich in nature. Wise men from the East brought presents of gold and rich spices, but Nature's gifts were already there awaiting the birth of Him, Who in later life said, "Consider the lilies of the fields." How sweet to think now of the beautiful robes which drape the presence of the angels who minister us and enrich our homes with their presence. "Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these." These are the lilies of life, so precious and fair, that bloom in the garden of love. What charm fills the home when we find the angels of heaven were our mothers on earth. O, the joy of life and the loom of love that weaves a charm in humanity's mind: and the material woven is Peace.

By the way.

Dear Sir.

No doubt it will be a surprise to many of the Lyceumists in England, and especially in the Yorkshire District, to learn that I, along with my dear wife and boy, are living at present in America, and it is my greatest desire to express my best thanks to many Lyceumists and Friends, for their expressions of Love and Good Wishes for our future welfare through the pages of the "Lyceum Banner," with your kind permission.

During our voyage, my thoughts often went back to the friends we were leaving behind in England, and wondered if we should be able to find the same kind of friends in America. When we arrived at New York on November 14th, our hopes were so realised, for, quite a distance away from the vessel, we could see one of England's Lyceumists waiting to welcome us to our new home. That Lyceumist was Mr. Harold Alderson, once a Lyceumist at Windhill. He is now the Pastor of the Pawtucket Spiritualist Church in Rhode Island and we are making our home with him and his wife (once Miss W. Jackson), a Lyceumist from York, and we are quite comfortable and happy.

The Lyceum cause is not so much in evidence here as in the Old Country, but we are going to use every effort to try and build up the Children's Cause here and make the Lyceums in America come first and foremost in the minds of the people, so I would like all the Lyceumists in England to assist us, by sending out to us their best thoughts, and then on some future occasion I may be able to give the Lyceumists of England my experiences of Lyceum work here, amongst boys and girls of several nationalities. I shall be pleased to receive letters from any Lyceumist in England.

In closing my remarks for the present, I would just like all the Lyceumists and friends in England, and especially the "Leeds Lyceum District Council", and the Castleford Lyceum (whose boys and girls I love so much), to accept my simple New Year's Message as given in all sincerity with the best wishes for a Bright and Happy New Year.

W. H. VERNAM (Late D.V. Leeds L.D.C.)

62, Liberty Street, Central Falls, R.I., U.S.A.

Our concept of life needs education and experience.

In Mr. Rutherford's article, page 4, January issue, there is a couplet from Tennyson, which should read:

"Moving upward, working out the beast,
And let the ape and tiger die."

THE AMERICAN RECOGNITION OF SPIRITUALISTS AS A RELIGIOUS BODY.

Mr. Geo. W. Kates, the Secretary of the National Spiritualists' Association in U.S.A., has contributed the following letter to "The American Spiritualist":—

"The Commissioner of Revenue has ruled that the N.S.A. is exempt from filing corporation income and excess profits tax reports, for the following reasons:

"No part of its income inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual. Its purposes are stated in Article III of its Constitution as follows:

"The object of this Association is to effect a more complete organization of the Spiritualists of the United States of America into one general Association, by the federation of existent local societies and State Associations, as well as by chartering new ones, for the advancement of those purposes, undertakings and enterprises germane to the study of the phenomena, the promotion of the science, and the promulgation of the philosophy and religion of Spiritualism."

Based upon the foregoing facts it is held that the National Spiritualist Association comes within the exemption provided in Section 231 of the Revenue Act of 1918.

Thus the N.S.A. is placed on an equality with all other religious bodies."

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

EDITOR: G. F. KNOTT, D.N.U.
Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 1922.

The Conference.

In the old saying "that coming events cast their shadows before" may be found a deeper meaning than most people think about.

An individual in the home or social life impinges upon and permeates the air with his personality. Everything he touches retains part of his life and being.

If you place a brick, taken from the wall of a house, in the hands of a psychometrist, he could describe the previous occupants of the house. When we contemplate a journey our minds go in advance. In some cases where a receptive mind exists, the host will know the guests who are about to arrive, though no verbal or written message has been sent. The human mind is wonderful, even as a scientific plaything. The time may come when we shall use the human telephone more than we do now.

When a social or religious event is drawing near a psychic atmosphere is created. The most successful events are where united concentration is greatest. The will "to do" creates an atmosphere of willingness and operations are easier.

And so, as the Lyceum Conference approaches, we find ourselves thinking about the things and motives necessary for a good conference.

We can rightly call the coming Conference an adjustment of our Constitution and rules. There is vibrating in the air suggestions of changes. Any apparently unsuccessful rule made in the past can be revised or withdrawn. Any law we have made can be changed or improved. Thus will better government come.

If all delegates leave the revision to other delegates we may find a mental jamb of the wires and no definite policy will accrue.

February is generally the coldest month of the year. It is the time for fireside contemplation and reposeful study. Good resolutions made with the beginning of the year are already behind us and we welcome another diversion which takes us from broken promises made to ourselves.

Dipping into the future, the thoughts of a Lyceumist can easily turn to the Annual Conference. For four years we have worked under a code of rules which altered the method of management. We shall continue to operate for another year on these lines.

A very important discussion must arise, not only in each District and Lyceum, but in the personal mind of each interested Lyceumist: will the future welfare of the Union be best served by a continuance of the present methods of election, or is some change desirable? Was the former method of election better than the present method? Is the new District Representation awakening additional interest and broadening Lyceum activities? Is the Management Committee too large? This will mean an increase in the size of each area. Does the Area Representative get into actual touch with his area? Could the work of the Committee be sectioned to facilitate business.

The whole subject needs discussing "pro and con." What the Union needs is a Committee of the best minds, irrespective

of sex, which will fully represent all districts where Lyceums prevail, so that all may feel that they have a direct interest in the management and can place their ideas for discussion by a direct voice.

This direct voice is at present in existence for the Annual Conferences, through the District Visitors, but for financial reasons and in a general way, the visitors have had to cease much visiting unless the District Councils have borne the expenses or a Visitor has benevolently paid his own expenses.

This is another theme for discussion and a general principle of visiting should be adopted by the Conference to meet the post-war conditions and will probably mean some reconstruction of the rules governing District Visiting.

Some Lyceums grumble about paying for members who have only been on the books for a few weeks during the previous year. If these Lyceums do not agree with the method of assessing payment of the Annual Fees, now is the time to send any amendment deemed necessary for a change in methods.

Copies of the Constitution can be obtained from the Secretary of the Union (4d. a copy) and every delegate should possess one for reference when these matters are discussed.

Two-thirds of the Lyceums have changed their secretaries during the last year, thus new duties await these officials, and they should read carefully the various official papers which will be sent at various times before the Conference, especially observing the dates of return forms to avoid a repetition of last year's disappointments.

If Lyceums will discuss the above matters now, they will bring into being an atmosphere which must attract the higher powers in spirit-life who fostered the inception and growth of the Lyceum movement. We may thus have an inspirational wave to flash through the brains of some of our interested workers which shall guide us in our deliberations next Whitsuntide.

True and False Economy in Education.

The B.S.L.U. appeals to all citizens concerned in the well-being and safety of the State to unite in opposing reduction of expenditure on public education as far as this applies to the nation's schools.

This appeal is made to you in an earnest desire:—

1. To promote popular education.
2. To protect the children.
3. To preserve the honour of our country.

1. The opponents of popular education are using the present financial stress to make covert attack upon education. Through the Board of Education and the Local Education Authorities this country should have been devoting its energies to the practical application of the many well-planned and progressive schemes which the Education Act, 1918, proposed; but under cover of the outcry for economy the opponents of that Act prevented many of its most important provisions from coming into operation and ardently desire to curtail still further the educational opportunities of the children in the nation's schools. We believe that only through education generously and wisely administered can this country hope to make good in intelligence, in health and in moral growth, the ravages that war has left behind. The country needs not less education but more. Education can ensure the safety of the State. Ignorance will destroy it. If we believe in a future for our country we must educate our future citizens. Never has the school mattered so much in national life as it does to-day. The curtailment of educational opportunities is not economy; it is waste of brain and of health, the real wealth of the nation. It is better to spend money on schools than on prisons, on playing fields than on hospitals and asylums.

2. Admittedly there is every need for national economy but this must be practised in the right direction. Dare this great country look at the children's education, meagre as it is even now, as a possible field for effecting a saving of expenditure? Already many of the children have suffered in health, in happiness and in education, through the war. In the circumstances, perhaps, some of those things could not be avoided, but it is now time that we remembered our obligations and demanded for the young people what they

are not able to demand for themselves, that is, the recognition of their inalienable right to the fullest possible education for which they have the capacity. Liberality, not parsimony, should mark the attitude of those to whom has been entrusted the educational leadership of this country.

3. If education be the hall mark of civilisation, then for the honour of our country as well as in the interests of true national economy, we must demand the fullest possible development of our educational service. Belgium, destroyed by the war, has miraculously restored her schools and equipment. On the outbreak of hostilities, France, seeing into the future, decided that her children should not suffer educationally. Germany has remodelled but not *impaired* her educational system. Finland's first attempt at national expression was to evolve a comprehensive scheme of education. America and Japan are spending lavishly on improving public education. Where does England stand? The reactionary element can think only of restriction of opportunities, exclusion of children from school at the most impressionable years of their lives, reduction of school-leaving age, class teaching in battalions, hampering the teacher and depleting the supply. These things represent not economy but waste, and waste in its most pernicious form. If achieved, they will cripple the country intellectually and materially for generations to come, if not permanently.

PETITION.

To the Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George, O.M.
Sir.

We, the undersigned persons, being over 21 years of age, petition the Government to bring into full and immediate operation the Education Act, 1918, this being the very minimum of educational facilities to which the children of our land are entitled.

Copies of the Petition may be obtained from Miss Froude, 39, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

The above matter was raised at the 1921 B.S.L.U. Annual Conference. Circulars are being issued reducing the grants to Education Authorities in some cases 40 per cent. below present allowances; this means that future means of education will be much worse than in the past, hence we urge the activities against the Government, who are interfering with the national development of child welfare, in the appeal outlined above.

On behalf of the Management Committee,

MRS. M. E. PICKLES, President.
GEO. FREDK. KNOTT, Gen. Sec.

1922 Annual Conference.

The North East Lancashire District Council have sent an invitation to the Management Committee of the B.S.L.U., inviting them to arrange the Conference in Blackpool or Fleetwood.

After full consideration at three meetings the Management Committee find Blackpool to be unsuitable to meet our Conference requirements at Whitsuntide, but desire to thank the N.E.L.D.C. for their interest in offering the invitation to the Union.

The Management Committee have decided to approach the Manchester District Council, with a view to holding the Conference in Manchester. The M.C. are therefore asking the co-operation of the Lyceums in the Manchester District Council, and seeking their support in endeavouring to make the Conference a success.

Further particulars will be given in next month's LYCEUM BANNER.

I hope the Manchester Lyceums and District Council will discuss the above and let me know their decision.

GEO. FREDK. KNOTT,
Gen. Sec.

Many Lyceumists will be interested to learn Mr. and Mrs. James Tinker are homeward bound from Portuguese East Africa. They are travelling by the S.S. Gaika, and we wish them a welcome home to old and dear friends. 'Tis thus the thread of life runs on.

£2000 Effort.

In July of last year I asked the question: "How long would it take the Lyceums to raise the aim of our effort of £2000?" I received one answer from Liverpool, where I was with the M.C. a few weeks ago, and as I met the one who answered my question, she was presented with a small prize, but her answer was that it would take an Eternity to raise the money: This was an assumption which may be correct, but in the event of her answer proving wrong, she will be asked to hand the prize back to the Editor.

Further to the list of donations, I have received this month from Wigan, £10; from the President, £2; from Brighton, The Old Barn, £3 1s. 4d., Stockport, Central £5.

I will be glad if any Lyceum which has cash on account will forward the cash in hand at once so that a definite return can be made each month in the LYCEUM BANNER and thus know how the Fund is really progressing.

Below is given a full list of Donations up-to-date:

DONATIONS.		£	s.	d.
Liverpool, Daulby Hall	.. ..	10	0	0
Management Committee	.. ..	10	0	0
Macclesfield	.. ..	12	0	6
Leicester, Rupert St...	.. ..	0	4	6
United District Councils	.. ..	5	0	0
Runcorn	.. ..	12	4	6
Mr. Buckley	.. ..	1	12	0
Halifax, Alma St.	.. ..	1	0	0
Miss E. Elliott	.. ..	0	10	0
Winnipeg, Canada	.. ..	10	0	0
Blackpool	.. ..	10	0	0
Armley	.. ..	12	0	0
Sir A. Conan Doyle, M.D.	.. ..	10	0	0
Wellington, New Zealand	.. ..	5	5	6
Two Lyceumists	.. ..	0	3	0
Mr. T. J. Smedley	.. ..	50	0	0
Covertry, Bell St.	.. ..	1	13	0
Sowerby Bridge	.. ..	6	10	8
Mr. A. Sutcliffe	.. ..	5	0	0
Mrs. M. E. Pickles (Sale of Photos)	.. ..	3	0	0
Nelson	.. ..	0	15	0
Leeds, Roxburgh Road	.. ..	0	12	0
Wigan	.. ..	10	0	0

£177 10 8

The above Donations have been placed as a separate account in the L. & Y. Bank, by the Union's Treasurer, Mr. R. A. Owen, under the title of "The B.S.L.U. £2000 Effort Fund."

MR. J. BELL, Sec.,
97, Chatbam St., Stockport.

LYCEUM MANUAL REVISION.

The Lyceum Manual Revision Committee have in hand the details of Revision. Their work is not yet completed. All the printed sheets have been bound and Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6 are sold out. It will be two or three months at the earliest before the Revised Edition is ready for sale, so Lyceum Secretaries are requested to hold back their orders, but if sent to the office, they will be despatched in the order as received.

With Voluntary Committees, which meet in spare time, it is extremely difficult arranging dates when all members can meet, as they are not only drawn from all over the country, but are also busy workers in other sections of the Movement.

It should also be noted that the Management Committee are in no way responsible for the lack of stock, as the Revision Committee is a Conference Committee.

It has been deemed wisest to be without stock, rather than reprint a Manual with undesired matter therein. The Committee are working with all speed consistent with proper revision.

G. F. KNOTT, Revision Secretary.

The Editor will publish a list of names of Candidates willing to stand for the various 1922 elections if the nominees will send their written consent to the LYCEUM BANNER before February 22nd. This will obviate every Lyceum and nominee the expense and time incurred in obtaining and giving consent for the nominations.

Our Lyceum Guild.

Leader: MARY E. KITSON, B.A.

Our Motto:—"We live to learn, and learn to live."

Our Aim:—To develop ourselves (i.) physically, (ii.) mentally, (iii.) psychically, (iv.) spiritually.

(For a copy of Our Aims and Rules, or for further information, or for form of application, please apply to the Leader—(Miss) M. E. KITSON, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks.)

A GUILD BADGE.

In December, the Leader received two beautiful specimens of enamelled badges. They are in the form of a five-pointed star; the centre is red; and the points are blue, violet, green, yellow and white; the explanation being: "The star stands for Spirit; the red, the centre from which we commence; the blue and the other colours up to white, following in rotation" (as each Grade is passed, and its respective ribbon badge earned). The sender also writes:—"Briefly stated, my suggestion is for a permanent badge for all who have passed the five grades. Of course, if one who has passed the five grades chooses to wear the ribbon, well and good; but I think there are a goodly number of people who would be quite satisfied with an emblem that indicated that they had had the courage and determination to go through the five grades. A permanent badge, such as I have in mind, would, I think, stand a good chance of becoming popular. It would also serve to put all candidates having passed the five grades on the same footing, at least in public, one ribbon badge only being issued to each one, with degree passed, after the fifth exam. Possession of the permanent badge would be an indication that the wearer had passed through the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme."

The cost of such badges, if 144 were ordered, would be 1s. 8d. each to the Guild.

A similar idea was broached once before, but for an enamel badge to be worn by every Guild member, along with the ribbon one. In that case, two thousand could be ordered, and the cost would be much smaller per badge.

I should like the members to talk over the matter among themselves and send on their opinions. If in favour of a Guild badge, then please say how many your Lyceum, or Guild Class, would guarantee to take for its present and prospective Guild members.

THE GUILD.

(i.) The Lyceum Guild now numbers 1149 members, representing 114 Lyceums. Since last month's list was compiled, the following 28 new members have been enrolled:—

Collyhurst	6	Heaton and Byker	1
Hirst	6	Normanton	1
Rochdale (Regent)	6	North Shields	1
Hebden Bridge	2	Nottingham (Mechanics)	1
Newcastle (Rutherford St.)	2	Sheffield (Centre)	1
Batley Carr	1		
		Total	28

(ii.) The Guild tenders sincere thanks to the two who have so kindly sent subscriptions to its funds. The Guild is now out of debt, and has a small working balance in hand.

(iii.) The summary of members per class and the balance sheet are being held over for the Conference Report.

HOW I CAME TO BE A SPIRITUALIST.

By E. CALVERT, Normanton.

Here are a few of my reasons for leaving the Church of England, and joining the ranks of the Spiritualists.

Previous to joining the army in 1915, I went to Church every Sunday, took part in the Services, and took Communion regularly. I believed everything that the priests of my particular church preached; for I did not take the trouble to find out the why and the wherefore of those teachings.

However, one Sunday while I was in training at Rugeley in Staffordshire, an incident occurred that opened up to me a new line of thought altogether. On that afternoon I attended service at Rugeley Parish Church. The whole of the sermon was based on the old orthodox teaching that Christ, by dying on the cross,

redeemed mankind, and that anyone who believed this, could obtain forgiveness for all the wrong they had done, providing they repented. As I had heard so many sermons like it, I did not give much thought to this one. But, in the evening, I attended the service at the Parish Church at Hednesford. Imagine my astonishment when the Vicar took for his text these words, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked. 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.'" I thought it much more reasonable for every guilty soul to arise and become its own saviour, than to try to shuffle all its sins on someone else's shoulders. I thought that if a man, who had led a wicked life, could—by going down on his knees just before passing away—have his sins forgiven, and be put on a level with a man who had lived a good and holy life, what encouragement did it give a man to strive to live a noble life.

Another thing that set me thinking was a funeral in France of a comrade who had been terribly battered and was minus his legs. At the graveside, we sang,

"Soul and body re-united,
Thenceforth nothing shall divide.
Waking up in Christ's own likeness,
Satisfied."

After the service I asked the Chaplain what became of that body after burial; and if, as he said, it decayed and mouldered away into dust, how could it possibly unite again with the soul; and what became of the soul in the meantime.

All he could tell me was that it was one of God's ways of working; and it was a mystery that would be revealed in God's good time. I went away disappointed, and soon came to the conclusion that there was something radically wrong with these teachings.

Then, in 1916, I found myself in Malta, and saw what a great power the priests have over the people there. A priest has only to tap his walking-stick on the pavement, or go to a crowd of people in the street and hold up his hand, and they run away like frightened sheep, not knowing what to say or what to do, for fear of offending the priest.

Let us thank God that those things are fast fading away; and instead of men and women being frightened into believing, let them think and reason for themselves.

I will now relate how I first came to hear of Spiritualism. During August, 1914, I became acquainted with a young lady who was a Lyceumist, and whose mother was a Spiritualist. At that time I was a Churchman, and a member of the Bible class. I well remember the many arguments between this Lyceumist and myself concerning Spiritualism. More than once I approached our Vicar on the subject, and he always told me it was of the Devil, and I believed him.

Time passed on, and at last I agreed to go one Sunday night to the Spiritualists' service; just out of curiosity; but I shall never forget the grand and peaceful feeling that thrilled through my very being during that service, and I said to myself, "There's more in this than meets the eye."

However, the month after I joined the army, and could not pursue the matter further till I was demobilised in 1918, then I took up the subject seriously; and soon after I joined the Lyceum. I was immediately struck with the methods of teaching there, compared with those of the orthodox Sunday Schools; and admired the Lyceum's way of trying to draw out and develop the gifts and powers latent within the members, instead of cramming them up with creeds and dogmas.

After taking part in one or two Lyceum Sessions, and reading and studying the lessons set forth in that wonderful book, the "Lyceum Manual," I could do no other than accept these great and glorious truths. Since then I have had many tests given, that have proved to me that Spiritualism is true.

THE CONSTRUCTION, STOCKING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE AQUARIUM.

(WM. WOODALL, South Shields).

Having introduced your selection of seaweeds into the aquarium, it is advisable to let it stand for a week or a fortnight so that they may get established before the introduction of animal life.

The spores from the weeds will fall upon the rocks and form a growing green carpet from which bubbles of air will arise and so charge the water with Oxygen, so necessary to animal life.

SEA-ANEMONES. We take these first because they are the most beautiful of the inhabitants, and also appear to be a link between the animal and vegetable kingdoms owing to their being flower-like in appearance, but really purely animal in

nature. When hunting amongst the rocks at low water you will observe in the crevices substances of a jelly-like nature, some red, others blue, white or green or other shades of colour. They are attached firmly by their bases to the rocks. The best way to secure them is by a careful application of the finger nails so that the specimens are not harmed.

If you go to the extreme edge of the rocks and look into the deeper water, you may see them fully opened. It is like looking upon a beautiful flower-bed, filled with flowers of all hues.

When there is a ripple upon the surface of the water it causes a refraction that makes it impossible to see clearly. In order to overcome this difficulty, provide yourself with a tube about three feet long fitted with a glass made watertight so that the water cannot enter into the tube. Insert this into the water and look through it, when all the beauties of the under-water world will be revealed to you clearly to a depth of about 20 feet.

You will see the inhabitants in their natural home, undisturbed by removal or interference. In turning over the seaweed you will come upon some rather unsightly pieces of jelly, some red in colour, some green, adhering to the rocks. Remove these carefully and place in a basin of sea-water. Next day you will find they have blossomed into beautiful "flowers." Examine them carefully, look under the tentacles around the disc and you will see what looks like a ring of blue beads. It is these spherules that give to this class of anemones their distinctive name of beadlet. They are very hardy and suitable for the aquarium.

Another fine specimen is named the Dahlia Wartlet. When fully open this anemone resembles the flower of the dahlia, hence its name. The body is covered with substances like warts. To each of them is attached a small stone so that when closed up these stones are drawn close to the body and you would pass it by as a piece of stone. The tentacles are very short and coloured like the dahlia.

The Snake Locked Anemone, when disturbed, shrinks up so that it resembles a small flat button attached to the rock, and when you see it expanded you will wonder how it made itself so small. When expanded it is a tall slender column, the disc about 1½ in. diameter with 5 rows of slender tentacles, over 100 in number. It is very graceful in appearance.

The Parasite Anemone is generally found attached to the shells of the whelk. It is mostly of a dirty white colour, splashed with purple. One of the largest of the anemones, it often measures about 4 in. high by 2 in. in diameter. The disc is wider than the body and the tentacles hang down over the edge. The mouth is in the centre of the disc and raised a little higher. Careful handling is necessary as it has stinging powers and also emits a fluid of a most disagreeable odour that you cannot scrub off your hands.

The Trumpet Anemone is a very conspicuous one much resembling the Snake-Locked variety. Its column is very thin, enlarging towards the top and bent more in shape like a horn. The disc is like a thin membrane; the tentacles, rather long and curling about in a graceful manner, are in 4 rows. The colour is more of an orange, the disc dark grey, the tentacles brown.

About the most beautiful of all the anemones is the Plumose. When fully expanded it is most exquisite in appearance and colouring. It is usually found about 5 inches in height and 2½ in. broad. Hundreds of rather short tentacles surround the disc. The outer rim of the disc is puckered, and from these folds the outer tentacles droop over the edge. Its Latin name is *Dianthus* because the arrangement of the inner tentacles give the appearance of carnations in full bloom. They are of various colours, some pink, others white, brown, grey, red, or yellow.

Unfortunately these are only to be found in deep water, but can be procured by the use of a small dredge.

Anemones appear to have unlimited powers of expansion and contraction; they are also very voracious in their appetites. When taking them home it is by no means unusual to find that the larger ones have swallowed some of the smaller. They are a very interesting study, exhibiting as they do some of the great wonders of Nature.

TO GUILD MEMBERS.

The Guild wishes each member, who is taking the examination this month, the best of success; and hopes that each one will be able to apply for the next higher badge, and have earned gold bands on it.

The Making of the Earth.

Once there was no earth, no sun, no moon, no stars, as now. Where did they come from? Were they born just as they are now or did they grow?

If you looked through a telescope at the sky, you would see a lot of bright little clouds, which are really mists of fire. Seen with the naked eye, they shine like stars. I do not mean the clouds which bring us rain, for these are near the earth. Now we believe that the sun and all his family were once one big cloud of fire like one of those in the sky to-day. The Latin name for one of these clouds of fire is nebula; the name for more than one is nebulae. The sun's family is made up of the moon, of the stars which are fixed, and of the planets which move round the sun. The earth is a planet.

WHAT EVERYTHING WAS MADE OUT OF.

When you throw up a ball it always comes back to the earth. When an apple is ripe it always drops straight down to the earth. This is because every speck of stuff in the world tries to draw to it every other speck of stuff and the earth's attraction is stronger than that of an apple. This pulling power is always going on. It is called the law of Gravitation and rules throughout the whole world. It is going on in the nebula in the sky to-day.

Let us see what it did in the nebula from which the sun came. This nebula was a shapeless cloud. The little specks of stuff inside were pulling the specks on the outside all the time. The inside ones altogether were stronger and kept on pulling the outside ones farther in. This made the nebula shrink. It was moving all the time through space, but not empty space, for space is swarming with little bodies like sand and little pebbles which are moving rapidly. When the nebula constantly came in contact with these little things it would be made still hotter, just as a knitting needle will be made hot with rubbing, or just as a match will light with the heat made by friction.

This nebula was the beginning of the sun and his family, but we do not know exactly how the earth became separated from the rest of the family. The shape of the earth at the beginning must have been something like the sun is now. Some men tell us it was pear-shaped at first and not like a flattened orange.

WE WALK IN PART OF THE EARTH.

We are not walking just on the earth, but in it too. That seems strange, but above the ground is something which is just as much part of the earth as the soil and water. It is the air which spins with the earth and goes round the sun with it. If we could fly as high as we wished from the earth we should find that the air becomes thinner or rarer and that a hundred miles from the ground there is no air at all.

A VERY HOT GLOBE.

Enough heat will make anything at all turn into a form like that of air or the coal gas we burn. Anything in a form like this is called a gas. The earth was at first so very very hot that all the stuff in it was in the form of a gas.

When the earth was so very hot, it gave out light and heat, just as the sun does now. After a time it became cooler. Just as a piece of coal may stop giving out light before it has finished giving out heat, so the earth continued to give out heat, when the light had gone. After long ages, however, the earth became so much cooler, that the gases became liquid, as moist air will become liquid when it cools. The part which cooled first was that next to the surface, so this gas turned liquid became heavier and fell towards the centre, the innermost part still being gas. We believe that the interior of the earth to-day is gas or liquid.

RED HOT TIDES.

Remember that the earth has been spinning round and round ever since the beginning and the sun is pulling on the earth all the time. The sun's pull caused a heaping up of the liquid near the surface but since the earth was spinning round, all parts of the surface were pulled, and a red hot travelling wave or tide was made. Bits of it were whisked off into space and went whirling round until the law of gravitation made a round body which we call the moon.

All the time, the earth was cooling and the surface changing from gas into liquid and into solid, and you see that the very hardest rocks we have were once so terribly hot that they were not rocks, but gas.

THE WONDERMAN.

The Months.

By MRS. M. E. PICKLES.

(Continued from Page 1.)

The seventh figure in the pageant brings us to July and is represented by a soldier and an emperor, Julius Cæsar.

When the year began with March, this month was the fifth, and the Romans called it Quintillas, which means the fifth month.

Julius Cæsar not only conquered nation after nation, but he made wise laws, wrote books and set himself to reform the calendar.

He made the fifth month the seventh and because the old name would not suit and he himself was born in this month, so named it July. As we pass along we must not forget that it was he who taught the barbarians of our island to respect law and desire civilization, and so—

One life to be lived and only one,
And not what we gather, but what we give
Is the measure to God of the life we live,
And of work that is bravely done.
One life to be lived, for the life unseen,
Is but the fulfilment of life we see,
When we rise beyond what we strove to be,
To reach what we might have been.

After Julius Cæsar follows his grand-nephew, Augustus, who did much to add glory and power to his empire. The people anxious to flatter him called the eighth month August. But July had thirty one days and August only thirty.

The Romans thought that Augustus would be jealous of Cæsar's extra day and so they took a day from September, and tacked it on to the end of August.

The eighth month was chosen for the reason that Augustus celebrated the chief events of his life during that time.

It was in August that he was made consul, ended his wars and conquered Egypt.

Augustus remains for us a splendid figure in history.

His reign was called the "Golden Age," for not only did he bring peace to the war-tired world, but under his patronage literature and art flourished exceedingly. It was in his reign that a little child in Syria was born, and whose birth divided time, the great master mind, who taught the "Fatherhood of God," and lived the principle of the Brotherhood of Man," whose message to all the human race was—

To love is better, nobler, more elevating, and more sure than to be loved.

To love is to have found that which lifts us above ourselves; which makes us capable of sacrifice; which unseals the forces of another world.

He who is loved has gained the highest tribute of earth; he who loves has entered into the fruits of heaven.

September is the ninth month of the year and to call it Septe which means seven is quite wrong, but in the distant past when the year began with March, it was in truth the seventh of the year. But we smile when we think of dating letters like this, 10/9/22, for it is absurd to cause nine to stand for September which simply means seven.

But out of life's chaos these words do come,
Beautiful thoughts of home sweet home;
And always happy, never sad,
Always joyous, ever glad,
Always sunshine, friendship true,
May this your birthday, come to you.

After VII. comes neither god, goddess nor emperor, but another figure VIII. Here again is the appeal to antiquity. People disliked altering things, and they were too tired and too careless to touch the monuments of the past.

The Romans, when they had given the name of their great emperor Augustus to what was the sixth month, thought there could be no one worthy to have a month named after him, so they let the old titles stand, September for the seventh month, and October for the eighth month, for October was named when it was the eight from Octo, eight.

Even when the calendar was changed long after the birth of Christ, and January became the first month, so great a hold had these old names laid upon the world, that they were allowed to pass.

This month brings a note of sadness, sharing sorrow with a friend, who had received a shock, through the loss of a well loved son, so I would say with the soldier poet—

By all of all men's hopes and fears,
And all the wonders poets' sing,
The laughter of unclouded years,
And every sad and lively thing
By the romantic ages stored,
With high endeavour that was his
By all sad catastrophies
Make me a Man, O God.

November we know is the eleventh month, but it means the ninth. It is the month of Guy Fawkes fame, and at once we think of the story of gunpowder plot.

Our Saxon ancestors called it the "Blood Month," because it was at this time they slaughtered cattle to last them through the dreary months of winter.

We know it is the time of fog and sickness generally, especially among the older people, but

We know that naught is purposeless,
And, even in destruction we can find,
A power whose steady motion is to bless
The ultimate redemption of Mankind.
Ours is the privilege of sacrifice
And cheerfully we heap the sacred pyre,
Our willing selves, the offering, the price,
Demanded to make fierce the "cleansing" fire.

Last of all comes figure ten. How strange that December, which is Latin for ten, should be the name for the twelfth month.

However it is the time of reunion, and the joyous coming of Father Christmas.

The gods and goddesses have departed, the Roman emperors have strutted out of sight, and the scene is filled by this jovial English figure, the children's long looked-for Christmas friend. Sad hearts are longing for those whose voices once rang through the home, eyes look at the chairs once occupied by loved and lost ones, but words of cheer come by angel ministers through human instrumentality and send out the message upon the midnight of despair.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox says—

One ship drives East and another West,
With the self-same winds that blow,
'Tis the set of the sails and not the gales
Which tell us the way they go.
Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate;
As we voyage along through life,
'Tis the set of soul that decides the goal,
And not the calm or the strife.

TRANSITION OF MR. THOS. WORTHINGTON, OF BOLTON.

We regret to learn of the transition of one of Spiritualism's best workers. Though still a young man, he had done much to assist the B.S.L.U. and S.N.U. at various times. Mr. H. T. Batten sends the following report:—

"Bolton, Bradford Street, has lost another prominent and useful worker, in the person of Thomas Worthington, who passed away suddenly at his home. Cradled in the Lyceum, he passed through every office; at the time of his death he was Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary of the Society, and Secretary to the Local Committee.

"Called up during the war, he served five years in Mesopotamia, Egypt and India, attaining to the rank of Sergeant. He was a Lyceumist in the truest sense, practising in his every-day life the principles he so earnestly taught, ever active in the cause, he was the moving spirit in all that tended to keep the Lyceumists together during the week, thorough in all he undertook, ambitious for the progress of the movement, he lost no opportunity in promoting the welfare of his fellows. The movement is the poorer by his advancement, the field of his labour is widened.

"We wish him God speed in his new sphere and look forward to the time when we shall grasp him by the hand in the great reunion."

BIRTHS, IN MEMORIA, AND MARRIAGES,

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. In Memoriam for any previous year will be charged 1/- for 24 words, and 6d. for additional 9 words. Poetry 6d. per line.

MARRIAGE.

BEDWORTH.—LEE—ISON.—An interesting wedding took place at Bedworth Parish Church, on December 26th, 1921, between Miss Evelyn Ison and Mr. H. Lee, both Lyceum Leaders. May happiness and prosperity crown their future days.

IN MEMORIAM.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—Passed to the higher life on January 2nd, 1922, Thomas Worthington, in his 27th year. Late Secretary for Bolton, Bradford Street, Spiritualists' Church, a Lyceumist for 22 years. The body was interred in the Tonge Cemetery. Mr. H. T. Batten officiated, in the presence of a large company of friends. A faithful worker in the noble cause of Spiritualism, he was loved and respected by all who knew him.

Hearts that helped us bear our burden,
Hands that toiled from day to day,
From the fields of earnest labour
Now have borne their sheaves away.

GATESHEAD.—In loving memory of our son, Mark Hall, who was promoted to higher life on February 6th, 1921.
"Until the day breaks."

LINCOLN, Coultham Street.—In affectionate memory of Thomas Kent, passed to the higher life in service of King and Country and his God, January 1st, 1915.—A. Bailey

WOOLWICH.—Marjorie Osborne. In loving memory. It is the 7th anniversary since our darling passed into spirit life. A Lyceumist. "Waiting on the other side."—J.M.P.

Dear Editor,—

Our Lyceum would like to make an appeal through the columns of the BANNER for some books for our Library. We have only a few books which have been read and re-read, till they are no longer of interest. If any of your readers have any books which they do not require, and would like to dispose of, we should be pleased to accept them, and will defray any expenses incurred in packing or postage, and should be sent to Mr. D. Allen, 29, Willows Road, Walsall, Staffs. On behalf of the Lyceum,

Yours faithfully,
D. ALLEN, Secretary.

District Council Reports.

UNITED LYCEUMS' DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF U.D.C. MEETING.

The above Council will hold the half-yearly meeting on Saturday and Sunday, March 11th and 12th, at Manchester. On Saturday the business meetings will be held in the Collyhurst Church. Delegates arriving London Road Station take a No. 22 car from Piccadilly; those arriving at Victoria or Exchange take any of the following cars from High Street:—Nos. 17, 18, 19a, to Collyhurst Street. A Mass Session will be held in the Downing Street Co-op. Hall, also the evening meeting.

All delegates to this meeting are requested to write Mr. A. Sharples, 47, Downs Street, Newton Heath, Manchester, re their individual requirements, length of stay, etc., etc.

D.C. Secretaries are requested to forward annual returns and fees to U.D.C. Secretary as early as possible before March 1st, 1922.

J.S.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, February 11th, in Bradford Street Church, Bolton, to commence business at 3-15.

Business:—Minutes of last meeting; Correspondence; Presi-

dent's Address; Election of Officers; Votes of Thanks to Retiring officers and local friends; Open Council.

All delegates and associates are requested to attend
ERNEST WOODWARD, Sec.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.

Meeting held at Skipton, Sunday, January 8th, 1922.

All officers present, also delegates from Keighley, Skipton, Whetley Hill, Laisterdyke and Windhill. Correspondence read; much discussion arose out of same. Nominations were then gone through for all officers, who will be elected at the Annual Meeting at Laisterdyke on Sunday, February 4th.

Discussions took place why the Interchange of Conductors had not been going on. It was decided to again bring the matter up at our next meeting.

An Open Session was held in the afternoon and very much enjoyed, but sorry to say it was not well attended. The evening service was very good, Mr. E. Aked in the chair. Miss Stair, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Naylor addressed the meeting during the service. Three Lyceum scholars rendered solos, Miss Lillian Toon, age 9; Miss Dorothy Toon, age 7, and Miss R. Harris, age 13, and were highly appreciated. Vote of thanks given to our Skipton friends, who were delighted, and are looking forward to our next visit.

E. AKED, Sec.

BRADFORD AND DISTRICT COUNCIL SILVER SHIELD AND BELL COMPETITION, 1921.

Possible Marks 100.

Lyceums	Punctuality	Order and General	Singing and Harmony	Discussion and Recitation	Questions and Answers	Pearls and Comments	Group work	March	Callisthenics	Marks
1. Keighley	9½	13	8	8½	10	8½	14	9	8½	80½
2. Ripley Street	9½	13½	7	8½	7½	7½	7½	7½	8½	76½
3. Whetley Hill	8	12½	8½	8½	4	10	10½	7	5½	74½
4. Yeaton	9½	12	8	7½	7	5½	12	7½	4½	74
5. Windhill	9½	11½	7	7½	6½	7	9	6½	7½	71½
6. Harker Street	7	12½	9½	8½	5½	6	6	7	4½	63½
7. Boynton Street	7	12½	6½	8½	2	8	3½	7½	7½	63½
8. Skipton	5	12	6½	8½	7½	5½	6	5½	5	61½
9. Laisterdyke	5	12½	7½	8	2½	5½	5½	6½	4	57

Judges, W. THISTLETHWAITE,
W. BOOTH,
Secretary, E. AKED.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

The following are nominations for officers of the Council:—President, Mr. Ellis and Miss Lily Holroyd; Vice-President, Mr. Bramall and Mr. James Crossley; Secretary, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Manning, Miss M. E. Oade; Treasurer, Miss M. E. Oade and Mr. Kershaw; District Visitor, Mr. Ackroyd.

J. MANNING, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

General Meeting of the Council will be held at Batley Carr, on Saturday, February 25th, at 3-30 p.m. Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, Competition Business, Election of Officers,

District Visitor, Delegates, etc., Nominations, Management Committee, Statistical Returns, Associate Members, Vote of Thanks to Retiring Officers, Open Council. Tea provided, 1/- each.

A. W. HARDING, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

NOTICE OF D.C. MEETING.

The above Council will hold the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, the 18th of February, at Burnley, in the North Street Church. Commence 3-30 p.m.

Business:—Minutes; Reports; Election of Officers; Business and Motions for Conference, 1922; Amendments to Constitution and Bye-laws, etc., etc.

A full attendance of delegates and associates is desired.

Fees to Council and associates' fees are now due for 1922. Lyceum Secretaries are requested to complete annual returns and forward same to General Secretary.

Tea provided by our North Street friends at a nominal charge.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held at Rotherham (Percy Street), on Sunday, February 12th, 1922. Business will commence at 10-30 a.m. prompt. Council will take services for the day.

Agenda:—Minutes; Confirmation; Correspondence; Finance; Election of Officers; Reports, etc., etc. Affiliation fees for 1922 will be due, also amended fees for 1921. Lyceum Secretaries please note.

Delegates please bring their own lunch. Tea will be provided as usual. Lyceums please see that the meeting is a success by being well represented. Will Secretaries please return Nomination Forms as soon as possible.

C. H. SAXELBY, Sec.

S.E. LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Council was held in Regent Hall, Rochdale, on December 17th. Mr. James Lord in the chair.

There was a good attendance and all showed increased interest in Lyceum work. Arising from the proceedings of the meeting the following resolutions were carried:—Lyons Street, Shaw and Crompton were accepted as members of the D.C. A letter from Mr. A. Barley (Secretary) was read, tendering his resignation through continued sickness. Resolved to accept same with regret, and to send to Mr. Barley a letter of appreciation for past services and good wishes for the future. A letter from Miss E. Firth, tendering her resignation, through removal, was accepted with regret, and the D.C. wish success to her new venture.

Auditors' Report accepted. Resolved to leave all financial duties in hands of Treasurer.

The question of Area Representation to be brought before all Lyceums for serious discussion. (Conductors please note.)

It was suggested that U.D.C. meeting be held in February, instead of March, so that their published report can be considered by D.C.'s. before Conference is held.

Mr. Carter, D.V., was appointed delegate to U.D.C.

After discussion "Notice of Motion re Associates," it was resolved that: Associates do not hold office on D.C.

It was decided to recommend the following Notice of Motion:—"That Article 5, Section b, of the D.C. Constitution shall be amended by the addition of the following clause: 'That any Delegate who is unable to make the requisite attendances for business reasons shall be considered eligible for office if actively interested in Lyceum work.'"

Mr. Wright's *pro. tem.* appointment as Secretary confirmed.

Mr. Wright appointed as fraternal delegate to next N.E.L.L.D.C. meeting.

Resolved that this D.C. continue to pay all expenses of its D.V. incurred under its service, and recommend same procedure for general adoption by other D.C.'s.

That D.V. provide report for D.C. only, same to be forwarded to BANNER for publication.

After a vote of thanks from Dearnley Lyceum to the officers of the D.C. for services rendered at Mass Sessions had been duly accepted, Mr. Lord tendered the thanks of the Council to Regent Hall Lyceum for kind entertainment and good catering, to which Mr. Hudson suitably replied.

A. WRIGHT, Sec.

Will Secretaries please note that their orders and cash cannot be sent or acknowledged the same day as received in all cases. With the present staff of "one" it is impossible to reply to a rush of letters, especially when vital work has to be attended to.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

ACCRINGTON, Pearl St.—Our Church which was opened by Mrs. Tom Chambers and Miss Elizabeth Hollin, on May 15th, 1920, has been enlarged, and was re-opened on December 18th by an old member, Mrs. Walmsley, of Cloughfold. On Jan. 1st we held an Open Session which was well attended. We had recitations, solos, pearls, nicely given. We had a nice time together.

On Jan. 2nd we had our Annual Coffee and Bun Party; it was like old times, over 90 came. We had dancing, games, etc., it made one feel there was no higher religion than truth.—S. J. Wolmington, Sec.

EASTWOOD, Notts.—On the 15th we held our Election of Officers for 1922 and the following were elected: Conductor, Mr. R. Slater; Sec., Mr. I. Smith; Treas., Mr. W. Smithurst; Organist, Mr. C. Buckley; Capt of Guards, Miss L. Wing; Guards, Miss S. Slater and Master H. Whitehouse; Drill Instructor, Miss L. Wing; Auditors, Mr. C. Buckley and Master G. Goddard; and Marching Leaders, Miss L. Wing and Master G. Goddard. May success attend our efforts.—I. Smith, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Heaton and Byker.—We held our Lyceum Tea on Dec. 28th with a good attendance. In aid of £2000 Effort we had a Bran Tub, also a doll dressed by Lyceum Guild Members. The amount raised was £7 11 4½, showing the interest amongst our Lyceumists to raise their £10.

On Jan. 8th the Election of Officers for the year. Conductor, Mr. R. Hunter; Asst. & Calisthenics, Marching Instructor, Miss A. Shadforth; Guardian, Miss I. Groves; Treasurer, M. Shadforth; Leaders, Mrs. Shadforth, Mrs. Lunn, Misses Lamb, Shadforth, Dixon, Mr. Lunn, Robt. Fenwick, organist, Mr. Shadforth Fenwick, J. Wootton.—Mrs. R. Hunter, Sec.

BOLTON, Henry Street.—On January 8th, we held our Annual Election of Officers and announce the following:—Conductor, Mr. Shorrocks; Assistant Conductors, Mr. Bridge, Miss V. Hibbert; Guardian of Groups, Miss F. Inman; Liberty Group Leader, Mr. Shorrocks; Boys' Junior Groups, Mr. W. Bearman; Girls' Junior Groups, Miss H. Horrocks; Captain of Guards, Miss N. Higson; Musical Conductors, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Bridge; Secretary, Mr. W. Bearman; Treasurer, Miss Webster; Conductor of Marching, etc., Mr. Lowther Turner.—W. Bearman, Sec.

BOLTON, Deane Road.—On December 18th we had a most interesting ceremony in the naming of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cooke (*nee* Neild), ably performed by Mr. Hibbert, who gave it the name of Lily, spirit name Laurels, meaning triumph. We trust that the little flower will ever triumph over all difficulties during its journey through life and will ere long be one of our ranks. We express our deepest sympathy to all who are left to mourn the physical loss of our noble Lyceum worker, Mr. Tom Worthington. May his spiritual strength ever increase.—Miss S. Concannon, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—On Sunday afternoon, January 1st, we held our Open Session, which was well attended. Solos, recitations and duets were ably rendered by a good number of our Lyceumists. We are progressing most favourably, both spiritually and materially, and are growing in numbers. The workers win.—J. Babbs, Sec.

CALGARY, Canada.—On December 29th we held our Annual Christmas Tree and Social. Opening remarks and welcome by Mr. Messer, President of the Church. Sketch by Sybil, Winston and Hilda Cooke; songs by Miss Garrad and Mrs. Prevost; song and dance by Dorothy Trombley; recitations by Evelyn Cadmore, Harry Legg, Dorothy Legg and Greame Trombley, were well received. A ventriloquist sketch by Mr. E. S. Campbell, assisted by "John Willie," was greatly appreciated, especially by the children. Pianoforte solo by Willie Garrad and a mouth organ selection by Mr. Robinson was followed

by the "World Famous Kazoo Band" (15 instruments), by the Campbell Clan, conducted by Mr. Campbell, Senior, won great applause and laughter greeted this parody of the Great Souza Band. A much-awaited-for visit from Santa Claus, who arrived per sleigh and bells, was the feature of the evening. Santa was in great form this year and distributed presents to every Lyceumist, not forgetting the adult friends, assisted by Mrs. Garrad and Mrs. Campbell, Conductor and Guardian. Each child in the room received a small gift. Refreshments and dancing concluded a most enjoyable evening. Pianist, Mrs. Rushton. Lyceum officers for 1922:—Conductor, Mrs. Garrad; Guardian, Mrs. Campbell; Secretary, Mrs. Cooke; Musical Conductor, Alice Broadley; Physical Director, Veonon Garrad; Captain of Guards, Jack Leeming; Librarian, Jim Jess. The Calgary First Lyceums extend New Year Greetings and hearty wishes to Lyceumists all over the world. May God speed the right.—Mrs. Cooke, Sec.

DARLINGTON, Northgate.—On January 1st the above Lyceum was re-opened by Mr. Newman, President of the Church; 42 children, 25 adults present. On January 3rd the children had their Christmas Treat, when over 100 sat down to a splendid tea, provided by members and friends free, and a jovial evening was spent. On January 8th 52 children present, also a good number of adults, to witness the pleasing ceremony of naming Mr. and Mrs. Kell's baby boy by Mrs. Hodgson. On January 9th the following officers were elected at the Annual Church Meeting:—Conductor, Mrs. Christopher; Secretary, Mr. Christopher; Guardian, Miss Marley; Treasurer, Mr. Marley.—R.P.C., Sec.

ELLAND, Southgate.—January 1st we began our new year well with an Open Session. Our Conductor, Mr. Sadler, took the services all day. Marching and calisthenics, recitations and songs were rendered by the following Lyceumists:—Annie Aspinall, Annie Sadler, Edith King, Nellie Berry, Doris Caldwell, Thomas Aspinall and John Rae.—Elsie Green, Sec.

LANCASTER.—On Saturday, the 7th, we held our Lyceum Children's Christmas Party, when 86 scholars were entertained to tea. This number was supplemented by about 30 friends and members of the Church Committee. There was a plentiful supply of good Christmas cheer, such as delight the hearts of children. Toys were presented to the younger scholars from a real Christmas tree by our Conductor, Mr. F. Ball. Apples, oranges and games of every description followed. There was no reserve and everybody threw their heart and soul into the work and games to make the evening a convivial one. How well they succeeded was shewn by the happy smiles of the youngsters as they all trooped home. The remainder of the evening was spent in a continuation of the games by the elders. The ladies responsible for the catering deserve all praise. I am glad to say that the past financial year has been a very successful one. We have a good few pounds in hand and have nearly 100 active scholars. Our officers for 1922 are as follows:—Conductor, Mr. J. Kirk; Assistant Conductor, Mr. E. Thompson; Guardian, Mr. F. Ball; Secretary, Mr. W. H. Freeman; Treasurer, Mr. A. Bleasdale; Musical Conductor, Miss Alden; Captain of Guards, Mr. H. C. Stephenson, Sen.; Guards, Miss Swale, Miss A. Sharples, Master H. Troughton, Thos. Wright and W. Parkin, Sen.—W. H. Freeman, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—On December 28th we gave the Lyceumists a Christmas Tea, when games and singing were indulged in by all after the tea, when we had a merry time together.

On January 1st we held our Open Session, when solos and recitations were rendered by some of the scholars, but we had no visitors present.

On January 8th we had re-election of officers, in which all Lyceumists over 12 years old took part. We give a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers.

On January 15th we had with us Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, of Hebden Bridge, a pioneer in Lyceum work, as the speaker for the parent Society. We invited her to come and give the prizes to the scholars who were the fortunate winners of the same. There were a number of friends present. Mrs. Parsons was the recipient of a special present, given on behalf of the leaders and scholars of the Lyceum, for regular attendance on Open Sundays.—A. Hurst, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Moss Side, Raby Street.—On December 30th we held our Christmas Party and Dance. Over 80

partook of a good tea. Many arrived late owing to business. A fairy play from Shakespeare was well given by our young members, who were coached by Mr. Hart and Mr. Hassell. Also our thanks are due to Mdm. Troterie for solos rendered. She was well applauded by all present. Christmas tree gifts were distributed and we brought a happy day to a close by dancing. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Hart (caterer) and her workers; also to Mrs. Hart (Sen.) and the Misses Medcalfe for making the dresses, etc., for the children in the play.

January 22nd Mr. Gardner kindly gave a paper on the common grounds of agreement between Spiritualists and Theosophists, showing the need of unity and co-operation one with the other, which caused discussion, and thus proved appreciative.

NEW MANCHESTER.—On January 7th we held our first Annual Tea Party, which proved not over financially, but a social success. The help that was given mostly was in the form of a Christmas Tree from the Moss Side Progressive Church, to whom we give our heartfelt thanks; also the earnest workers who assisted to bring the same to a success. There were 16 prizes given to the children for attendance, and it is hoped that at the next presentation there will be more.—G. W. Barratt, Sec.

NEWPORT.—On December 26th we held our Annual Tea, Social and Prize Distribution. An excellent tea was served. The ladies on the Refreshment Committee deserve great credit. Prizes were distributed to nearly 50 Lyceumists for regular attendance by our esteemed friend, Mr. Silverthorne. Great credit is due to the Lyceum officers for this splendid effort, as nothing on such a scale has been attempted in this district in our movement. This was followed by a musical and elocutionary programme:—Violin solos, Master Wilkes and Miss Curtis; song, Miss Lillian Seal; recitation, Miss Winnie Ingram; violin solo, with piano, the Misses Ingram; recitation, Hilda May Rowe; song, Miss Young; recitation, Miss Ada Reade; marching song by Mrs. Folkes' pupils; recitation, Helen Smith; song, Miss Young; recitation, Willie Rowe; song, Miss Vida Pitman; recitation, Iris Higgins; pianoforte solo, Elaine Oakley; recitation, little Kitty Rowe; dance, little Ruby Oakley; recitation, Hilda May Rowe; light sketch, "Miss Mulligan's School," in which Mr. Folkes shone as Miss Mulligan; dialogue, "The Home Girls," Ivy Seal and Rhoda Williams, followed by a sketch from "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Vida Pitman, Rhoda Williams and Gladys Pugh. Oranges were distributed to a well-satisfied audience. Altogether a most enjoyable evening.—H. Folkes, Sec.

SOUTH MANCHESTER, Princess Hall.—The Lyceum held their New Year Party on January 2nd; 200 present. After a very good tea, all enjoyed themselves by taking part in games, etc., along with the children. We had the pleasure of the company of Mr. J. Bell and a number of friends from the Stockport Lyceum, who gave us songs and dances, which were greatly appreciated. Mrs. A. E. Bentley kindly distributed the prizes for attendance, etc., in a very able manner, giving the children every encouragement for the future. The usual Christmas Tree was heavily laden with presents. Mr. J. Hamer officiated as Father Christmas, again proving a success, to the delight of the children and friends. The time filled up and there was not a dull moment. The elders brought the evening to a close with dancing. Thus one more happy time has passed, but will remain in our memories. We now look to the future with every good wish and thoughts to all Lyceums and ourselves that success will attend all efforts.

On January 15th Mr. J. Garner conducted the Liberty Group and gave a paper on "Truths of Spiritualism and Theosophy," which was most interesting to all present. With best wishes to all.—Albert Hope.

STOCKTON, Brunswick Street.—We held our Open Session January 1st. Attendance was not so good as usual with adults, owing to sickness which was prevailing at that time. There was a marked improvement in the children, nearly all gave recitations.

On January 4th we had a tea for the children, which turned out satisfactory. After tea we had games and the children entertained us with recitations, etc. Songs were rendered by Mr. Dickenson, Mr. J. Brown, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Makin, Mrs. Dale, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Rickaby and Mrs. Phillips. Our thanks are due to all who contributed to make it a pleasant party.—A. Hickman, Sec.

Lyceum Secretaries are particularly requested not to exceed the number of words allowed below, unless they are willing to pay for the extra words as a Special Report.—Ed.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

- RULE 1.**—Reports must be written in ink or typed 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 Jan. 25th.
- RULE 3.**—Lyceums taking 1 dozen copies are allowed free insertion of 25 words; 2 dozen 50 words; 3 dozen, 75 words 4 dozen copies or over, 100 words.
- Additional words to be paid for at the rate of 6d. for every nine words. This Rule does not apply to Lyceums numbering fewer than 80 members.
- RULE 4.**—All Reports must reach this Office not later than February 22nd, to ensure insertion in the March issue.
- RULE 5.**—Colonial Reports, if posted to the Lyceum Banner within 7 days after the events reported, will be inserted in the next issue after receipt at the "Banner" Office.

BLACKPOOL, Albert Rd.—On the 26th Dec., Lyceum and Church held joint Social which waxes a splendid success. Lyceum held another Social Success on Jan. 4th. January 1st 1922, we held Open Session. I think some of the scholars must have made a New Year resolution, for quite a number either recited, gave pearls or sung solos, duets, etc. I hope they will keep it up. We spent quite a joyous and eventful afternoon.

We extend to all Lyceums our fraternal greetings and hope that we shall continue to progress in the cause of Spiritualism.—Harry J. H. Jordan, Sec.

BRADFORD, Boynton St.—On Jan. 1st, we held our Open Session. Recitation, Flora Wroe; Solo, Lily Scarborough; readings, George Tempest and Mrs. Ward.—Mrs. Ward, Sec.

BRADFORD, Harker Street.—We held our Open Session on January 1st, conducted by Mrs. Farrar. Recitations were given by Mrs. Shaw, Lillian Boocock, Minnie Thompson, Harry Stead and Fred Kellett. Songs by Annie Stead, Ernest Crowther, Jack White, Mabel Cooke, Annie Snaith, Annie Carter, and Amy Rayner. Duets by Minnie Leach and Florrie Shaw, Arthur Wells and Ernest Crowther, Albert Crowther and Fred Kellett, Cissey Brown and Mr. Stead, Walter Casey and Arthur Wells. Reading by Mrs. Leach. We had a good session throughout.—Miss P. Stead, Sec.

DARWEN.—We held our A.G.M. and Election of Officers. A good attendance is to be recorded and keen interest shown in the proceedings. Our Conductor, Mrs. A. Shuttleworth, gave the Annual Report which showed a keener interest in live "Lyceumism." The Education Scheme was discussed and it was agreed each group should work the scheme at the afternoon sessions. Our Church President, warmly complimented our Conductor on our increased efficiency. Greetings to all Lyceumists everywhere.

DEWSBURY.—Dec. 25th, Open Session. Mr. C. Phillips conductor. A pleasing ceremony was ably performed by Mrs. Seed of Brighthouse, in the naming of a child, who gave it the name of Herbert Bentley; Spirit name, Victor.

Result of Election of Officers:—Conductors: Miss E. Soames, Messrs. Byron and Nixon; Sec., Mr. E. Wilson; Treasurer and Musical Director, Mr. J. Whittles; Leaders of Groups, Miss E. Stott and Mr. J. H. Collier; Visitor, Mr. Peel. Delegate & Drill Instructor, Mr. A. Collier; Guardians, Misses J. Collier, E. Collier, M. Nixon and M. Hirst; Guards, Roy Collier (Capt.), J. Stott and E. Peel; Registrars, Misses R. Sheard and A. Ellis; Librarian, Mr. E. Whitworth; Auditors, Messrs. Peel and Schofield. Progress made last year, 32 having gained prizes.—E. Wilson, Sec.

HIRST.—On Jan. 1st, we held our Lyceum Day, the evening speakers were Mr. A. Ralph, our Conductor, and Mrs. S. Shering; quartet, silver chain and other recitations by Lyceumists; ably presided over by Mrs. Weir.

Jan. 2nd we held a 1 1/2 night and Social when solos, recitations, etc., were given; both nights were a great success, great credit is due to all who took part.—J. Stafford, Sec.

HEYWOOD.—The Election of Officers took place on Dec. 25th, also our Open Session. We had a most interesting ceremony in the naming of two children, a little boy and girl of Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, two old Lyceumists. The ceremony was ably performed by Mr. Shipley, who gave him the earthly name

Frederick John, spiritual name, Peace. Mrs. Birtwell gave the girl the earthly name of Beatrice Mary, spiritual name, Comforter. Mrs. Birtwell and Mr. Shipley are two Lyceumists. Pearls, recitations, readings and solos very nicely rendered. In the evening a service of song entitled "Netty," was rendered. Reader, Mr. Marcroft, the Conductor. We were pleased with a visit of friends from Bury. We had a very pleasant and harmonious session.—Mrs. Birtwell, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Cheetham.—Our Annual Party held 31st Dec. Prizes given. Miss Nellie Smethurst's little party gave a fine entertainment "Discontented Peggy." The evening was grand, Father Christmas was well displayed by Mr. Hynes, our conductor, Mr. Smethurst must feel pleased at result, thanks to all workers.—Mr. A. Robinson.

MANCHESTER, Moston.—On Jan. 1st, we held our Election of Officers when the following were elected: Conductor, Mr. A. Collinge; Sub-Conductor, Messrs. E. Eden; Secretary, Mr. Hood; Assistant, Mr. A. Pearce; Guardian, A. Pearce; Marching Conductor, Mr. J. Whiteley; Catechist Conductor, Miss E. Eden; Mus. Con., Miss M. Fletcher; Captain of Guards, Mr. J. Eden; Guards, Miss P. Hunter, Miss E. Haith; Council Delegates, Mr. Collinge and Mrs. Mutton. Trusting we will have even a more successful year.—G. A. Hood, Sec.

MANSFIELD.—On Dec. 31st, we gave our Lyceum Christmas Tea and Social and it was a great success. Many Sutton Lyceumists were present, and, including paying guests, over 200 sat down for tea. Good programme in the evening. A sketch by girls, and one by boys, being much appreciated by all. Solos by Miss B. Smith and Miss Staton of Sutton Lyceum, well rendered. Small sketches and recitations nicely given, and after other songs a lovely evening was brought to a close by Mr. G. Richardson proposing a vote of thanks with some encouraging words, seconded by Mr. Stafford of Sutton Lyceum. Thanks to our Conductor, Mr. Musson, to Mrs. Daykin, who worked so hard for the children. Wishing all Lyceumists a bright, prosperous and progressive New Year.—J. W. Wright, Sec.

NORMANTON.—Dec. 28th we had a very large gathering, over a hundred children and a large number of adults were present. We had a beautifully decorated Xmas Tree where Santa Claus gave each child a present which filled them with delight, also plenty of fruit and sweets were given. Afterwards solos, games, etc., were indulged in. Everyone spent a very happy evening. Many thanks are due to all friends who helped to make it a success. The Workers Win.—L. Walker, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott, St.—On Christmas Eve we held our usual Xmas Eve Social, which was a grand success and was enjoyed by everyone.

On Christmas Day we had the opening of the Choir which gave a delightful display of solos and duets and anthems. On Boxing Day we had the Annual Christmas Party and Entertainment which consisted of two dialogues which were rendered by the Lyceumists. Our Lyceum is progressing.—Victor Slater, Asist. Sec.

QUARMBY.—On Jan. 8th we again held our Open Session. Our Scholars were splendid. On behalf of Quarmby, I extend the wish of a Happy New Year to all.—Alice Ollerinshaw.

SHEFFIELD Centre Lyceum (Paradise Square).—Jan. 1st, we held our Open Session with a fairly good attendance. Several gave recitations and solos. Jan. 8th was Lyceum Day, Messrs. Orr and Holmes took the Services (two of our Lyceumists). In the evening the Lyceumists gave a Musical Reading "The Voyage of Life." All the three services were very interesting.—Mrs. H. C. Organ, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—Dec. 23rd at 10 a.m., the naming of the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson, by Mr. James, all members of the Lyceum. Earthly name, Hilda, spirit name, Sympathy. May she carry on the good work of the parents and live long to show the Sympathy the world needs.

Jan. 1st, Election of Officers, many taking over same office as last year. We held our Open Session; very enjoyable and all working together to start another successful year.—P. Parfitt.

SUNDERLAND, Victory.—We held a most successful Children's Christmas Treat on Sat., Dec. 24th. The children received presents from Santa Claus. The following took part: Mr. Payne, Conductor; Mr. J. Smith, Mr. J. Payne, Mr. A. Shaw, Sec., Mr. Smith was Santa Claus and caused much laughter among the children. We also wish to thank all who took part in making it a success and also to our able Conductor—Arthur Shaw, Sec.

BEDWORTH.—Open Session, January 1st. Recitations given by P. Alsop, M. Wood, K. Gravette, E. Adams, I. Tebbits and A. Tebbits. Lyceum hymns rendered by Shore and Beacon Groups.—Miss C. Rowe, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On December 25th we held our usual Open Session, a fair number being present. Distribution of prizes for good attendance took place; 32 scholars with over 82 attendances out of 100. On Boxing Day, Dec. 26th, we held our Annual Tea Party and Entertainment, when 188 sat down to tea, followed by two cantatas, "The Wonderful Dollies" and "A Christmas Vision." Both were exceedingly well rendered by the Lyceum scholars, and were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. A most enjoyable day and a great success.—Mrs. A. Robinson, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—We held our first Open Session of the year on January 8th. There was the naming of a baby by Mrs. W. Johnson, a son given to two of our Lyceumists, Mr. and Mrs. T. Combs. Its earthly name was given as Tom and the spiritual name Victor. Our speaker for the day was our esteemed worker, Mrs. Jessie Greenwood. We regret to report the passing away of one of our young and earnest workers, Thomas Worthington. Tribute to his work was given in the evening by Mr. H. T. Batten, and Mrs. Greenwood spoke suitable words. A day to be remembered.—E. Scaife.

BRIGHTON, North Gardens.—Annual meeting held January 6th. Old workers elected to principal offices, with Miss A. Scoggins Conductor; so the year opens well and full of encouragement. Larger and more convenient premises required for ever-growing numbers. Visit of Mr. H. Boddington (Jan. 1st) much appreciated.—H. J. Everett, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On January 8th we held our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, when the following Lyceumists were put into harness:—Conductor, Mr. Welch; Assistants, Mr. E. Hobster and Mr. Pleasance; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Hobster; Guardian, Mrs. Siddall; Captain of Guards, Connie Ridler; Guards, Ethel Wale and Aaron Beckett; Marching Conductor, Mr. Welch; Librarian, Mr. Widdowson; Delegate, Mr. Bown; Group Leaders, Mr. Widdowson, Mr. Bown, Mr. Tattersall, Mr. Campbell, A. Beckett and Connie Ridler; Musicians, Lillian Gore, Ethel Wale, Miss Marsh and Miss Horton; Session Secretary, L. Horton; Trustees, Mr. Welch, Mr. Bown and Mr. Pleasance.—J. J. H.

COVENTRY, Foieshill.—Open Session, January 1st; good attendance. Pianoforte solos, violin solos, songs and recitations by Lyceumists. A very enjoyable session.—Mrs. E. E. Hutton, Sec.

DARLINGTON, Psycho.—Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mr. W. A. Jackson; Assistant Conductor, Miss W. W. Airey; Guardian, Miss A. Moore; Secretary, Mr. C. Wilson; Treasurer, Miss Seaman; Captain of Guards, Mr. Glendenning; Musical Director, Miss Hutchinson; Assistant Musical Director, Mrs. Keith; Guards, Miss S. Jackson and Mr. Hastie; Liberty Group Leader, Mr. A. Mitchell; Group Leaders, Mrs. Hawman, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. J. Jackson, Miss Petch (assisted by Miss I. Moore); Lyceum Auditor, Mr. Petch; Representative, Miss Airey; Delegates, Mr. A. Mitchell and Miss A. Moore. I am pleased to say that nine of the above officers have been returned to office again from year 1921, which notes the confidence that the Lyceum in general hold in them.—C. Wilson, Sec.

EARBY.—On January 1st we held our Open Session. Recitations were given by G. Milword, J. Waddington, E. Barker, E. Clarke, P. Ion, M. Nichol and J. Fester. Songs by E. Clarke, H. Milword, J. Waddington, G. Milword, J. Foster, M. Robinson, M. Astley and H. Eastwood. We spent a very pleasant afternoon. Best wishes to all Lyceums and Lyceumists.—F. Astley, Sec.

EASINGTON LANE.—On December 26th a Grand Tea and Concert was held in the Miners' Hall. Tea commenced at 4-30 and all present enjoyed the fare provided. At 7 o'clock all was in readiness for the concert, when the children of the above Lyceum officiated. Songs, solos and recitations were rendered and everyone present appreciated the efforts made. Later in the evening Santa Claus paid a visit and distributed prizes to the children for good attendance during the past year.

Thanks are extended to all members of the Society who gave their services at the tables; also Mr. Gorden, of Haswell, who ably officiated at the organ.—E. Reay, Sec.

GLASGOW, McLellan Galleries.—On Christmas morning we held our Open Session, which took the form of a Toy Service. There was a good selection of solos, recitations and pearls, and the marching was up to the usual standard. Then prizes for attendance, etc., for the year were presented by Mr. E. Spencer, who gave a very fine address to the children. In the afternoon the toys were taken to the Eastpark Home, where they brought joy to the little inmates.—W. Shaw, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—On January 1st we held our Open Session, when the following scholars took part to make the session a success:—S.C., Alice Lank; M.R., Hubert Norris, Mrs. W. Howarth and Alice Hopper; G.C.R., Wilson Howarth. Pearls were given by William Parkinson, Willie Barrington and Mrs. F. Howarth. Recitations by Sidney Hudson, Florrie Pickvance. Solos by Ada Frankland, Annie Thornby and Alice Lank. Duet by Mrs. J. Hodson and Alice Taylor.—A. Waterhouse, Sec.

HORWICH.—On January 14th, 1922, we had a free tea for the artistes of our grand operetta. We had a social evening and prize distribution. There were a good number of prizes given by our past Conductor, Miss Doris Ward. Our present Conductor, Mr. J. Beck, presided on this occasion, and it was a treat to listen to their remarks. Our worthy President of the Church, Mr. Fernihough, tried to encourage all Lyceumists to go forward in their good work for the upliftment of humanity. Let us be up and doing in the future. Best wishes from Horwich.—Annie Purchas, Sec.

HUCKNALL SPIRITUAL CHURCH LYCEUM.—We held a school treat December 31st. Members of the Church were invited at 1/3 per head. A joyous evening followed, consisting of songs and recitations by Lyceumists and games for all. Presents were distributed from the Christmas Tree to the children. All had a good time and parted feeling better for attending.—W. Leverton, Sec.

HUDDERSFIELD, St. Peter's Street.—On Boxing Day we had our Annual Treat for the children. It was well attended by a good number of adults. Each child present received a bag of nuts and sweets, an apple and an orange. Every scholar, old and young, received a present from the Christmas Tree, presented to them by Father Christmas (Mr. W. W. Wallis). The presents which were given to the elder ones created a good deal of amusement. Every Lyceumist and friends received a light supper. Both old and young had a very enjoyable evening and everybody contributed to the general fun.—W. Hirst, Sec.

DAIRYCOATES.—On January 1st and 8th the above Lyceum held their Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, when the following were duly elected:—Conductor, Mrs. Downs; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Barker; Marching and Calisthenic Conductor, Miss Dora Downs; Secretary, Mrs. Cook; Treasurer, Mrs. Jackson; Guardian, Miss Barker; Librarian, Miss Vickers; Captain of Guards, Mr. A. Halstead; Guards, Miss Tozer and Miss Sharp; Leaders of Groups, Miss Milly Lyons, Miss Vickers, Miss T. Cook, Miss Downs, Mrs. Allen, Mr. Wood, Miss Priestman, Mrs. Render, Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Barker and Mr. Downs; Auditors, Mr. Downs and Mr. Sharp; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Barker.

HYDE.—We held our Open Session on December 18th. The response to recitations and pearls was good in the afternoon. The attendance was excellent. Mrs. Charney conducted the evening service. Miss Greenhalgh, a Lyceumist, rendered a solo. The attendance was again much larger than usual at the evening services on Lyceum day. The Lyceum children, under the leadership of Madam McEwen, gave a good performance of the operetta, "Snow White." A crowded audience gave it a good reception on Bank Holiday. It has been repeated since, in aid of New Building Fund. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceumists.—E. Hyde, Sec.

LEICESTER, Rupert Street.—On January 1st we had our Election of Officers and Leaders, Nurse Welbourn, President of the Society, in the chair. Conductor, Miss A. Clarke; Assistant Conductor, Mr. J. H. Wicks; Treasurer, Miss Doris Goldsmith; Leaders, Mr. H. Jayes, Miss E. Wicks, Mr. W.

Jones, Miss Irene Brown, Mr. R. Smith and Miss Alice Clark; Musical Conductor, Miss Phyllis Goldsmith; Marching Conductors, Miss A. Clarke and Mr. H. Jayes.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LINCOLN.—January 1st Sessions conducted by Mr. Dobby. Mr. Sharpe ably officiated in unveiling a portrait of Thomas Abner Kent (an old Lyceumist), who was drowned on H.M.S. Formidable, January 1st, 1915. January 15th, Mr. Rothwell (Rochdale). Mrs. Ramm conducted 15th Anniversary Services. Conductor, Mr. Freeman.—A. Bailey.

LONDON, Ilford.—The Lyceum is doing very well and the attendances are beginning to improve. Our Guild Class meets regularly on Tuesday evenings and we believe that in this direction we are doing very useful work. Miss Parrish, our Conductor, has won a Special Star in a recent Lyceum Guild Essay Competition, with 92 per cent. marks. Last Thursday evening (January 12th) the Lyceum held its Annual Tea at Mrs. Parrish's, at her kind invitation. We had a very enjoyable time, and are very grateful to her.—Eva Connor, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham.—I have taken much pride and pleasure in being selected to perform the duties of Session Secretary to the Tottenham Lyceum. I have tried to do my best with the reports (each week) and calisthenics, which I enjoy very much, and I sincerely hope the attempt has been successful. It has been a very jolly month and I am sorry it has come to an end.—Evelyn Buttall (aged nine), Session Sec.

LONDON, Woolwich and Plumstead.—Progress maintained. Good interest in Session by little scholars, who entered gladly into the marching and calisthenics; also individual efforts. The Secretary, Mr. Hockley, has been dangerously ill, but glad to report improvement. Thursday, 26th, Annual Prize Distribution and Tea. Some of our poorest scholars were entertained at a "Robin Dinner," where 530 poor sat down. The dinner was organized by Mr. Fidler, the Secretary of Parent Society.—H. Wattleby, Sec., *pro tem.*

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On December 28th, 1921, we held our Monthly Meeting and Election of Officers for ensuing year:—Conductor, Mr. Roeder; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Lofthouse; Guardian, Miss V. Bonsor; Captain of Guards, Mr. E. Edwards; Musical Director, Miss E. Bonsor; Treasurer, Mrs. Bonsor; Secretary, Mr. A. H. Colbourne; Financial Secretary, W. Hainsworth; Registrar, Miss I. Galloway. We held our Children's Treat on January 2nd which was well enjoyed. Our Choir also was out during the festival and did well as regards finance. We have had two naming ceremonies. Best wishes and fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—A. H. Colbourne, Sec.

NEWPORT, MON., Central.—We held our Open Session on January 1st. Songs, recitations and pearls by Iris Higgins, Hilda Rowe, Ada Read, Helen Smith, Olive Bayley, Ivy Seal, Vida Pitman, Willie Rowe, George Smith, Jack Read and Ivor Gamlin. We also had a Naming Ceremony, in which our Conductor, Mr. Rowe, named the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coombes, Pearl Maude; spirit name, Alaricia. On Sunday, January 8th, we had another baby to name. Mr. Rowe named the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gamlin; spirit name, Orea. Miss Lillian Seal sang "Joy Bells" beautifully. On Sunday, January 22nd, our Conductor was busy again in naming the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Iris Doreen; spirit name, Agatha. Soloist, Miss Young. We have started the New Year well, and our best wishes are extended to all Lyceums.—H. Folkes, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—On January 15th Mrs. Bentley ably conducted the session, and on the following Sunday Mr. Tayler Gwinn spent the afternoon with us.—R. B. Long, Sec.

PRESTON, Clarke's Yard.—We held our Open Session on January 15th and had a good time. The discussions, musical reading, marching and calisthenics were enjoyed by all and we were favoured with a duet by Maggie Hughes and Maggie Pragnall; a solo by Miss Eastham and a reading from the *Lyceum Manual* by Fred Dodson. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—F. Dodson, Sec.

PRESTON, Lancaster Road.—We held our Open Session on January 1st, 1922. We had a record session. Nearly all Lyceumists took part in various ways; a grand start for the New Year. On January 8th, 1922, we had Mr. Batley, of Fleetwood, to conduct our session. We had a grand time and he left us with plenty of food for thought.—P. Smalley, Sec.

PRESTON, Progressive.—I have to report the marriage of two of our Lyceumists, i.e., Mr. Thomas Fishwick (our Con-

ductor's son) and Miss Beatrice A. Roberts. The ceremony took place on December 24th, at the Central Spiritualist Church (Clarke's Yard), Mr. J. W. Simmonds officiating very ably as minister. Our best wishes go out to our two friends in their new state. On January 1st we held our Open Session, recitations being rendered by Master Jack Mason, Hilda Singleton and Mabel Cartmell; a solo was rendered by Mrs. J. Cartmell and a fine pearl by Mr. J. Cartmell. A pleasing little ceremony took place in the form of presenting to our newly-married Lyceumists a beautiful framed picture, presented on behalf of our Church members and Lyceumists, by our Lyceum Secretary (Mr. W. E. Mason). The season's greetings to all old friends, both at home and abroad.—W. E. Mason, Sec.

ROCHDALE, Regent Hall.—We held our Open Session on January 1st. Conductor, Mr. Hudson. Invocation was given by Mrs. Firth, silver chain by Edith Clegg; musical reading, responses given by Miss Robinshaw, Mr. Jenkinson, Miss Harrison; golden chain conducted by Mr. Raynor; marching conductor, Mr. Jenkinson; calisthenics conductor, Miss Robinshaw; recitations, Eric Jenkinson, Mr. Firth, Alec Jenkinson; duet by Mrs. Firth and Thomas Firth; musical conductor, Agnes Firth.—Agnes Firth, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—Afternoon Session, December 25th, was conducted by Mr. S. Smith, during which a very interesting ceremony was capably conducted by Mrs. Bacon (Church Worker). The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Foster was named Mary, with the beautiful spirit name of "Harmony." Open Session, January 1st, was conducted by Mr. P. Ballard, assisted by other officers. January 2nd our Children's Treat was held, and all present seemed to have an enjoyable time, and in reply to our Conductor all promised to attend regularly during 1922. The following officers were elected to do duty for the year 1922:—Mr. J. K. Jones, Auxiliary Conductor; Mr. P. Ballard, Conductor; Messrs. F. Smith and G. Armitage, Assistant Conductors; Mrs. C. Nelson, Treasurer; Mr. C. H. Saxelby, Secretary; Mr. E. Johnson, Assistant Secretary; Mr. C. Nelson and Master Robinson, Musical Conductors; Miss E. Stanford, Marching Conductor; Mr. A. Guy, Guardian; Miss M. Salmon, Captain of Guards.—C. H. Saxelby, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Gifford Road.—On January 1st we had Open Session. Pearls, recitations, solos, were rendered by Lyceumists. Lyceum Annual Tea and Christmas Treat, when the children enjoyed themselves.—G. Porter.

SHIPLEY.—We held two days' At Homes, December 26th and 27th, 1921. Lyceum scholars provided the programme on Monday. The Merry E's, from the Psycho, Leeds, gave us a splendid programme on Tuesday. We had an Open Session, January 1st. The Lyceumists readily responded with recitations and solos. Altogether a very good session.—E. H. Coles, Sec.

SHILDON, Newlands Avenue.—On December 27th a Social and Christmas Tree was held in the above Church for Lyceumists and members, there being a fairly good gathering. After refreshments and games had been indulged in, and each Lyceumist received a present from the Tree, there was a Surprise Presentation to Mr. Smith, our worthy Conductor, and his wife, Mr. Smith receiving a gent's bag and leather case and a jam dish for his wife. Mr. C. Brown, in making the presentation, said he was proud to say that Mr. and Mrs. Smith had accomplished 20 years' good service. Our Conductor and his wife suitably responded, and this brought a good time to a close.—T. Jones, Sec.

WEST MELTON.—We held our Open Session on January 1st, and a very happy time was spent; a good beginning for a New Year. Recitations and pearls were rendered by the following:—Maud Elliott, Olga Mawson, Harriet Turner, Doris Penuluna, May Staley, Mrs. Staley, Connie Gray, James Penuluna and Jack Staley; calisthenics and marching by Mr. Lee and Dorothy Elliott.—H. Elliott, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Canada.—On January 1st we held the Open Session and it was not very well attended. The most interesting part of the session came when a baby of one of our old Lyceumists was named. Mrs. S. Forrest, pastor of the Church, named the bonny girl Ida May; she sang lustily throughout the ceremony. We had pearls from Jean Benson, Ella Crawley, Sylvia Parkinson, Miss Johnson and Mr. C. L. West. Recitations by Ella Crawley, Sylvia Parkinson, Mr. C. S. West and Mr. Wm. T. Brown, Conductor. There were two solos from Mrs. H. Forrest and Mr. Pearson.—Louis W. Brown, Sec.