

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 384. Vol. XXXIII.

FEBRUARY, 1923.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

The M.C. at Stockport.

The Management Committee held their Quarterly Meetings at Stockport on Sat. and Sun. the 13th and 14th of January.

Baker st., Central and Hillgate Lyceums and Churches united their Services for the occasion and great results accrued from the efforts.

The Armoury was taken for the Sunday's meetings. United Sessions were held in the morning and afternoon.

A great array of talent was displayed by the united Lyceums.

Mrs. E. Moulton presided and handed over the afternoon session to the President, Mr. C. J. Williams, to conduct.

Mrs. Edwards took charge of the Physical Exercises.

A String Band provided the orchestral music: it was provided through the efforts of Miss Moulton.

Members of the M.C. took part in the Session. Mr. Ford gave the fraternal greetings from the Southern Lyceums.

Some pretty children gave a "welcome all" to the gathering with floral lettered designs signifying group colours and carried by children of appropriate ages.

WELCOME ALL.

We give you all a cordial greeting,
On this our happy day of meeting,
We trust sweet memories will ever be,
Of January fourteenth, nineteen, twenty-three.

Ever and anon, as we live and grow,
The fruits of our labour, for weal or woe,
Are leaving footprints to shine or to stain
And oh how *sweet*, to leave an honoured name.

Looking around, at our Lyceum band,
We see one who has worked with heart and hand,
Who has sacrificed *much* for the Lyceum Cause
To dear Alfred Kitson, we give loud applause.

Can we your labours quietly ignore,
Or the sacred memory of those gone before;
No! we stand with dear President Williams
And trust our followers will come in millions.

Onward we journey with Truth as our light,
And *others* we see have joined in the fight;
Our staunch co-worker, dear brother Mack,
Stands like a shield at our President's back.

Many will know our Editor, Fred Knott,
As a chum for the boys, he'll e'er be forgot;
Then, to our Treasurer, dear Robert Owen
We trust our *cash* and HE knows where it's going.

Each one has a work in our Union's control
As they strive to reach that blissful goal;
We've tried Mrs. Pickles and found her *true*,
Miss Elliott has entered the great vineyard too.

Along with these, our sweet thoughts would dwell,
With Messrs. Ford, Hunter, Hibbert, Burrows, & Bell;
After patient toil in their own home sphere,
It is with *pride* that we greet them here.

Let their efforts be as a shining star
To you and to me, wherever we are.
The strength of their labours will *never* be told
For wealth of the spirit is more precious than gold.

Let us greet all within reach of our voice,
And for past progress, we bid you rejoice;
We pass life's milestones, *one by one*,
And who shall say when our labour is done.

We honour our workers, we ask for more
The vineyard is great the Victory sure;
The angelic forces of light never fail,
Then let us with gladness sing Hail all Hail.

E. MOULTON.

EVENING MEETING.

Mr. C. J. Williams, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Hibbert invoked a blessing.

Solo: "Beyond the Darkness," by Miss Mason.

Mr. C. J. Williams explained the purpose of the meeting: to propagate the principles of Spiritualism as taught to the children of Spiritualists.

Mr. A. Kitson addressed the meeting and expressed his pleasure at re-visiting Stockport. He dealt with the plastic temperament of the child-mind and its easier grasp of new revelations. It is difficult for older people to uproot earlier impressions, even though Spirit has brought broader and higher views, raised us from sensual beings with a material conception of life and its finality of death. Spiritualism brings us into touch with our real self and we only have our bodies for the expression of our higher self.

If we are now spirits, as we claim we are, occupying physical bodies, the higher revelation of Spiritualism from the other side of life enables us, through the schools of a liberal and harmonious education, to educate the adults and children.

The foundations of religious thought have been attacked by agnostics and enquirers.

The free and open enquiry of Lyceumists and Spiritualists open the way for a liberal interpretation of religion.

If there is any discrepancy between God's word as written by man and His evidence through nature round about us, God's harmonial law will adjust our errors if we will search his revelations in life and to mankind.

Mrs. M. E. Pickles spoke on the subject: "If a man die, will he live again." She said we shall all soon realise that life is continuous and we shall want to know how to live the life we possess. Schools are necessary to help children to imbibe in their minds the value of truth.

We build in young life our ideals and endeavours to train the children to face the crisis of life which the changing years bring to youth and the fuller life. Knowledge must be given to humanity; there is no death, Spirit power is drawing heaven and earth nearer together. Spiritualists are instruments in the hands of the spirit world and their psychic powers are being used to guide generations to the value and purpose of Spiritualism.

Mr. Mack, Vice-President, thanked all the local friends for the hospitality and very cordial welcome given to the M.C. and detailed the very many ways in which Stockport Lyceums and friends had prepared and financially supported the Movement by sending us forth with a profit.

Mr. G. F. Knott also spoke to the meeting.

Miss E. Elliott gave some delineations to an interesting gathering.

Mr. Bell (the local Secretary for the visit), writes that he hopes to forward the Union's Treasurer a clear £10 above all the expenses incurred.

This is a great accomplishment, and ever better than on the occasion of the visit of the M.C. in 1921.

The Editor appreciates the favourable comments on the LYCEUM BANNER which are received after every issue. The contributors are, in turn, thanked for their continued interest in the paper.

Uncle Bert joins the staff and his copy should be anticipated by children. Three year's search has resulted in Uncle Bert coming to help us.

The first meeting of the Lyceum Manual Revision Committee, elected by the 1922 Conference, met at Leeds on Sat., 6th Jan., 1923. Mrs. M. E. Pickles was appointed Chairman and Mr. A. T. Connor is the Secretary.

The Committee's work will not be completed for ten years (by Conference resolution), but it is imperative that suggestions should be sent to the Secretary as early as possible. The Committee are going through every item in the book and will report progress to each Annual Conference until the completion of the revision.

An official notice from the Revision Committee appears in this issue and Lyceumists are referred thereto.

Our Education Page.

(THE B.S.L.U. EDUCATION SCHEME).

EDUCATION SECRETARY—(Miss) M. E. Kitson, B.A., 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks.

ORAL GRADE SECRETARY—(Miss) A. Hesp, 17, Burlington Place, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.

TO CANDIDATES.

The Education Committee takes this opportunity of wishing each candidate the highest success in the coming examinations (18th 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) Read the letter to yourself (sent with the admission-cards) carefully; and please make a point of supplying the Supervisor with all that is necessary—as set out in the letter.

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

(iii) The Supervisor's name should not appear *at all* on the foolscap writing-paper; ONLY on the slip of paper attached to it.

TO OUR BENEFACTORS.

The Education Committee begs to tender grateful thanks to each one of the several donors, who has so generously contributed to the funds. Sums ranging from three to thirty shillings have been sent, in response to the appeal for help; and most of our helpers modestly desire to remain anonymous. Out of respect for their wishes, we give no list of names.

The need for money is still a real one; and further donations will be welcome.

HINTS TO CANDIDATES.

A. EXTRACTS FROM 1922 EXAMINERS' REPORTS.

General. Most of the Examiners said that marks had been lost because of the following faults—(i) candidates not keeping to the subject, (ii) careless reading of the *questions*, with consequent wrong answers.

Grade I.

"Most papers showed a good grasp of the matter in the Handbook: and intelligent and careful study. The questions that were answered least satisfactorily were those about the MANUAL selections. This can be remedied by candidates asking in the Lyceum the meanings of difficult words or lines. Many children did not understand the meaning of "Principles"; and gave quite wrong answers, e.g., Session Programmes, Pioneers."

Grade II.

"The Aim of Spiritualism' (as per Handbook II.) was often quoted instead of G.C.R. 137. It is surprising how many think that there is *only marching and calisthenics* done in the Summerland."

Grade III.

"Many students answer too generally, failing to marshal their points under their separate headings.

Many fail to state that 'Christianity is based upon *alleged Divine Revelations*' and that 'Spiritualism is based upon *facts of Nature, etc.*'"

"Most of the students compare the crudest form of Christianity with the highest phase of Spiritualistic philosophy, apparently not having been taught the great progress in liberal religious thought, largely brought about by our teachings.

It is quite apparent that a number of students have simply crammed for the examination, and parroted things told them. When originality was necessary, these lamentably failed. The groups should function all the year, and the students be trained

in the idea that the examinations were the opportunity to show how much they really knew, *not* that the examinations were ends in themselves to be 'crammed for' a few weeks beforehand.

I note again the tendency to substitute rhetoric and florid language for argument.

A few have evidently been quite floored by some of the questions, probably having 'crammed' others, and mistaking the very purport of the question."

Grade IV.

"The papers are generally good. All the students express themselves with a marked degree of originality; but whilst they shew a good grasp of the truly spiritual and ethical side, yet the majority fail in science and philosophy, and the phases of mediumship. Regarding the latter their knowledge is very scrappy, and such ideas as they have are badly expressed.

A great need is shewn, in the answers to question 3, for the establishing of Speakers' Training Classes. Few of the students have any idea how to prepare notes for an address."

Grade V.

"Some of the answers are to the point, but very restricted.

In dealing with phenomena, the candidates seem fairly clear, but do not appear to realise the connection between psychic phenomena and spiritual life (as embodied in pages 19 to 33 of the Handbook). I would suggest that some steps be taken in liberty groups to emphasise the relationships between psychic phenomena and the teachings of the spirit people. Liberty groups too, it appears to me, might well devote some time to experimental seances."

B. HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

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

(a) for facts and details;

(b) for opinions; or

(c) for facts *and* opinions;

(d) to deal generally with a whole subject; or

(e) 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.

(e) arranging your details so as to make them interesting.

3. When asked to compare two subjects, always (a) state impartially *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.

5. If asked for a summary of a S.C.R., G.C.R., or M.R.—ALL that you should give is a statement, *in your own words*, of what is SAID or TAUGHT by the author of the given piece. Your own opinions should NOT be stated—you must put down what the author says, *whether you agree with it or not*. (Compare G.C.R. 138 with the summary of it published in the January BANNER).

6. But if asked for the LESSON of a MANUAL selection—then you would give *your opinion* of what it teaches. A good way is to describe how you feel when reading it, and what you think it urges you to do.

7. If asked for a Connective Reading after a given verse—DON'T write a short essay (you are only asked for 100 words). Read the verse till you grasp the general idea of its teaching. Then in your "Reading" connect the verse with the one that follows by pointing out (a) the lesson of the verse (See M.R. 238), (b) how our lives may be affected by putting the teaching into practice (M.E. 236); (c) how our lives may be made happier and better because of the knowledge obtained (M.E. 223)—or any other idea that comes to you after studying the verse.

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.

LYCEUMS, AND THE EDUCATION SCHEME.

The following particulars will be of interest to many of our readers.

The B.S.L.U. Education Scheme, up to July, 1920, was based on Handbooks I. and II.; and comprised three Grades. The London L.D.C. Education Scheme, till the same date, was based on the Manual; and comprised three Grades; besides having an Oral Grade (and a Catechism for the same).

An amalgamation of the two Schemes was effected in July, 1920; and the new National Scheme consisted of a Five Grade Course, but omitted the Oral Grade. But in April, 1922, the Oral Grade was also included.

Under this new Scheme, this month's examinations will be the third set held; and the following figures of Lyceums that have taken it up are of interest.

(i) In 1921, 81 Lyceums sent in candidates. Of these, 9 dropped out entirely after the one effort; and 3 rested during 1922, but are sending in candidates this time.

(ii) In 1922, 112 Lyceums entered. Six of these had not entered in 1921, and are not in the list for 1923 either; whilst 7 Lyceums sent in candidates in 1921 and 1922; but are not sending in any this time.

(iii) For the 1923 examinations, 117 Lyceums have entered candidates. Of this number, 60 are good stalwarts, having been in the list each of the three years; 37 of the rest entered in 1922, and are going on with the work; 3 of the remainder entered in 1921, and are in again after a year's rest; leaving us with 17 new Lyceums who are taking the examinations this year for the first time. May their names be in the list each succeeding year.

To summarise:—

9	Lyceums sat in 1921 only, then dropped out.
6	“ “ “ 1922 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
7	“ “ “ ‘21 & ‘22 only, then dropped out.
3	“ “ “ 1921, and again in 1923.
17	“ “ have newly entered for 1923 examinations.
37	“ “ have entered for 1922 and 1923 (not 1921)
60	“ “ have entered each of the three years.

That makes a total of 139 Lyceums that have worked the Scheme one or more years. As 117 of them are entering this time; it leaves 22 that have dropped out.

(iv) We have tried to find out *why*; and the following is a summary of our results—

3 Lyceums have lapsed; 2 are unaffiliated now, 9 are in low waters, lacking adult workers, and funds. The remaining 8 have not been courteous enough to send any word about their dropping out of the Scheme; though rumour whispers various causes.

(v) Of this year's 117 Lyceums, 19 have taken up the new Oral Grade; and are sending in candidates.

ENTRIES.

	Grade	Oral	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	Total	Lyceums
1923 entries	88	783	349	187	41	16	1464	117
1922 entries	—	874	343	85	20	5	1327	112
1921 entries	—	887	162	38	10	8	1105	81

Detailed particulars, and further information will be given in the printed Lists of Results, issued just before Conference (see later announcements).

Electric fittings with a movable light have been installed in the Union's office, along with a few other minor improvements. The cost has been met by the General Secretary.

Mr. Tom O'Neal, of Fern St., informs me he is now the Secretary of Keighley Lyceum.

Conductor: What follows the vegetable kingdom?
Lyceumist (aged 5): Pudding! teacher.

Mother: O dear! this bilious attack is disagreeable.
Little Girl: Don't play with disagreeable things. I don't, Mother.

Mediumship and Circles.

THE PASSPORT TO SPIRIT COMMUNION.

By Mrs. M. E. PICKLES.

There has been a request from many Lyceumists for an article on "How to conduct a private circle for development." I will try to enumerate several items that are vastly important if there are to be successful results.

First of all home is the best place for the beginner. Almost all families have one or more mediums if they only know, and in forming the circle and sitting regularly mediumistic powers will begin to manifest. Select the night and the hour that you think will be free from intrusion, and as far as circumstances will allow do not change it.

Matters are facilitated by reserving if possible, one room that is not used for any other purpose.

Do not sit in darkness, but in a subdued light, so that you can see each other plainly. I shall have more to say of this when we arrive at the stage of the advanced circle. Six or seven people is a sufficient number, but of course often good results are obtained by a less number. It is generally best to have both sexes, though I remember sitting quite a long time with three other ladies and the whole of the time we were getting exceedingly good results. I always advocate a little preparation before the time for starting. Try to make yourselves happy all the day; let no jarring thought remain with you. Be determined to sit down at peace with all, and you will be surprised at the harmonious conditions you have created. Good results very often are obtained by this method of preparation, for you are absolutely inviting the spirit people to join you.

Always sit on the same chairs, and in the same places, until you have advanced a little; if you are not sitting correctly for immediate results, you will be impressed to change. It often happens in well established circles, that sitters are requested to exchange places, so that some especial phase of phenomena can take place for that night alone. Clasp each other's hands with the right palm, in the left of your neighbour, and if you are at all sensitive, you will feel the psychic force going round.

Generally the dark people manifest first and often enough begin with what appears to us at first to be gesticulations and incoherent chatter in foreign language. Their work is to pave the way for other intelligences, and eventually they slip into an appointed place as a bodyguard or sentinel to the medium. When guides and mediums become more conversant with each other, these coloured friends will let no undesirable entity take possession of the instrument until the time comes when the medium has full control over both himself and guides. Just at this point I desire to emphasise the fact that this control is necessary.

I have little patience with people who are allowing themselves to be used in all places and at all times. Mediumship is too sacred for this general publicity. It has gradually evolved for a far higher purpose; that of the further advancement of the soul.

When you take your seat on this special circle night, open out, and become a negative, when you have sat your hour, shut in, and become the positive again. You will soon begin to realise that those intelligences who are attracted by the above process will understand and will work with you all the more readily towards ultimate success.

I must switch off now, because the editor warns me that short articles are most appreciated. And I leave you longing for my next.

(To be continued).

Battersea Spiritualist Church, Bennerley Hall, Bennerley Road, Battersea, are opening a Lyceum on Sunday, February 11th at 3 p.m. Come and support. All are welcome.—W.J.C.

(Continued from page 26).

Mr. Vickers dealt with the matter in two Presidential Addresses: Mr. Kitson, the then General Secretary personally supported successful appeals of C.O.'s against military service. The present General Secretary advised Ambulance Service as the only possible form of service during the war, if a Lyceumist wished to live up to the teachings. The M.C. issued a card stating the Lyceum teachings in relation to war. The question was discussed at an Annual Conference and resulted in a divided vote. The B.S.L.U. is affiliated to the National Peace Council.

The Aim of Spiritualism is outlined in G.C.R., 142.—EDITOR.

Advent.

THE BEGINNINGS OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM.

By A. T. CONNOR.

CHAPTER II. (Continued.)

Friday, 31st March, set in cold and stormy, snow falling all the day. During the afternoon Mrs. Fox confided her troubles to her son David (who lived on a farm two or three miles away), and he was inclined to smile at the whole affair.

"Well, mother," he said, "I advise you not to say a word about it to the neighbours. When you find it out, it will be one of the simplest things in the world."

On Friday night the family prepared to go to bed about dusk, in the hope of getting a good night's rest. But before Mr. Fox had got into bed the noises commenced. Mrs. Fox, who had retired, got up resigned to enduring another weary night of disturbance. But on this occasion a new direction was given to the proceedings. The little girls, grown used to the knockings, and doubtless feeling bold in the presence of their parents, tried to be "saucy," and Katie suddenly snapped her fingers and called out:—

"Here, Mr. Split-foot, do as I do."

To their great surprise, "Mr. Split-foot" did it! He replied to Katie's snappings with an equal number of raps. Thoroughly enjoying the game, Margaretta joined in. She clapped her hands, crying—"Now do just as I do: count one, two, three, four"—and the raps came, as before. Katie then made a number of motions with her finger and thumb in the air, BUT WITHOUT NOISE, and the invisible rapper amazed them all by giving a corresponding number of knocks, causing Katie to exclaim:—"Only look, mother; it can see as well as hear!"

It is easy to imagine their mixed feelings of fear and wonder for here was AN INTELLIGENCE, which seemed like a human intelligence, at work—and there was nobody to be seen. In amazement they racked their brains for an explanation, and at last Katie thought that she had found one:

"Oh, mother," she said, "I know what it is: to-morrow is April-fool day, and it's somebody trying to fool us."

But Katie was wrong, as they very soon found out. Mrs. Fox thought that, if it was anybody trying to play the fool, she would ask some questions that would quickly put an end to the foolery.

"Count ten," she said, and the raps obeyed.

"How many children have I?" "Seven" was the reply—and at first she thought this was wrong; but the raps afterwards pointed out that she had six living and one "dead," which was quite correct. In answer to other questions the ages of her children were rapped out, with a pause between each sufficiently long to individualise them—until the seventh, at which a longer pause was made, and then three louder raps were given, corresponding to the age of the little one who had died.

Thoroughly roused, now, Mrs. Fox asked further questions. When the answer was in the negative, there were no knocks, but when it was "yes," she was answered with a number of raps. When she asked—"Is this a human being that answers my questions so correctly?"—there was silence; but when she asked—"Is it a spirit? If it is, make two raps"—the two raps were given at once. By using this method, Mrs. Fox learned that the invisible knocker was the spirit of a man, aged 31 years, who had been murdered in that house, and his body buried in the cellar; that his family had consisted of a wife and five children, all living at the time of his death—but that his wife had since died.

It may, perhaps, be presumed that the children had started the rappings in sport, but the answers that had been received to their mother's questions had driven all idea of fun from the little girls' minds, and they now sat up in bed, clinging to each other and trembling in terror. But Mrs. Fox was determined to find out more, and in the presence of witnesses, so she sent Mr. Fox for her nearest neighbour. Mrs. Redfield was a level-headed, outspoken woman, who didn't believe in ghosts, and she came prepared to laugh. But the pale, fear-stricken faces of the children impressed her, and she began to take the matter seriously. A few questions asked by Mrs. Fox on her behalf were answered correctly, and when her husband was called in, what he heard induced him to call in others, many of whom have signed statements in which the phenomena observed are minutely described.

Mr. William Duesler, who with his father had lived in the house about seven years earlier (1841), arrived about nine o'clock, went straight into the "haunted" room, and sat on the

bed. Mr. Fox was asking questions, and as the raps came in answer, he could feel the jarring of the bedstead under him. Mr. Duesler soon got permission to ask questions, and introduced a variation into the method of asking. If he got no answer to a question, he reversed it. To quote an example from his own signed statement:

"I asked if it was an injured spirit, and it rapped. I asked if it had come to hurt anyone who was then present. It did not rap. I then reversed the question and it rapped. I asked if I or my father had injured it, and there was no noise. If we had not injured it (would it) manifest by rapping—and we all heard three distinct raps."

He then named the several families who had formerly lived in the house, but there was no response till he mentioned the name of John C. Bell, when there sounded three loud raps. Pursuing this method, the following details were obtained, which for the sake of clearness I have attempted to piece together into a connected story. The knocker claimed to be the spirit of a man who had been murdered in the east bedroom about five years before. It was a Tuesday night, and he and Bell were alone in the house, Mrs. Bell (who knew what was going to be done) having gone away with the hired girl during the afternoon. At midnight he was awakened by feeling the murderer at his throat—Bell had attacked him, and was trying to kill him. He struggled hard for his life, but was at last overpowered. His body was then dragged through the pantry and down the stairs to the cellar, where it was allowed to lie till next night, when it was buried in the centre of the cellar to the depth of ten feet. He had brought with him a trunk and pack full of goods, and had in his possession five hundred dollars—and for these he had been done to death.

Mr. Redfield then descended to the cellar, and stood in several positions as directed, but no sound was heard until he stood over the place where the body had been buried, when the rapping commenced—ceasing as soon as he stepped aside.

It will be seen that the above story confirms and adds to the information obtained earlier by Mrs. Fox.

All attempts to get the murdered man's name were in vain, and at midnight Mr. Duesler went home. But before going he had tested the spirit's reliability in another direction; asking the ages of various people in the room, the number of children in their families, and even the number of deaths that had occurred—the answer in each case being declared correct by the people concerned. His statement (made on 12th April, 1848—less than a fortnight after the occurrences) ends with a declaration that he had heard no knockings during the time he lived in the house, and that other tenants who had lived there before the Bells had declared to him that they had never heard any mysterious noises.

Mrs. Fox and the two girls had been taken away to neighbours' houses, but Mr. Fox, Mr. Redfield and a number of others spent the night asking questions and making further inquiries into the identity of the knocker. They obtained the further information (suggested by the mention of a trunk and pack), that the victim had been a pedlar, and no amount of cross-questioning could shake him in his accusation of John C. Bell as the murderer. The party went down to the cellar, and the knocks accompanied them, and indicated the place where the body had been buried, the rappings being given on the spot above the place already pointed out. An attempt was made to find out the spirit's name, through raps, by calling out the letters of the alphabet; the sounds responded to C and B., but it was not till some time later that David Fox succeeded in obtaining the full name of Charles B. Rosna.

* * * *

Thus ends the story of the first phase of the Hydesville knockings. I have given every detail of which I could obtain knowledge, as, when we come to examine the evidence, and try to assess its value, we shall perhaps find that many of these apparently trivial details are really of the utmost importance. The fulness of the story cannot but give us a very high opinion of the patience and perseverance of these early investigators, and impress us with a realisation of the tremendous amount of trouble they must have taken to obtain information. For instance, the time of the murder was only discovered by naming every hour of the day, the raps coming at the mention of "midnight." To them must be accorded all honour, especially as thus earnestly and patiently they laboured, not realising as yet that they were enacting the first scene of a new Act in the eternal Drama of Life and Death.

(To be continued.)

Uncle Bert's Letter.

My dear Boys and Girls,—

The Editor of the BANNER has asked me to write you a letter each month; I regret that my first letter was not in time to be printed last month, because I gave you a New Year Message and wished you a Happy New Year, but now I hope to write to you a letter every month in which I shall endeavour to give the "tiny tots" a message, and also something interesting for the older boys and girls. Now first of all I expect you all want to know who I am. Well I will tell you I am just going to be a real big Uncle to you all, and as my Christian name is Bert, you will just call be "UNCLE BERT." I live in a real house, I eat real food. I am a real live Uncle and I am trying to be a real Lyceumist, and now I have told you who I am, I want to know all about the boys and girls I am writing to, so I want you to send me letters, which you will address to UNCLE BERT, 2, VILLIERS ROAD, OSTERLEY, MIDDLESEX, telling me all about your Lyceum, your playmates, the games you play, your books and toys. I am interested in all these sort of things, and then the older children can send me a pearl and I will try and tell you which one I think is best, and perhaps in a few months' time we shall be able to have some Competitions for you, but this is only a little idea up my sleeve at present. Now I want you to help me because a full page letter means writing about 1,200 words, and I am not Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, you know. So you keep me posted with interesting letters and I in return will try and give you some interesting letters back again. Now for my story.

In all the games tiny tots love to play is the game of Mothers and Fathers, and as I am always interested in all games boys and girls play (big or little), because by watching and listening I know how to play too, so let us have a pretend game of Mothers and Fathers; I shall have to be a big Uncle who has come to stay at your dolls' house for the week-end, of course you will let me sleep in the best bedroom, and you will get your best tea service out, and dress all your dollies in their Sunday best, and of course I in return must have my pockets full of nice sweeties, and nice presents for them; what a time we're going to have together! What a pity it isn't all real instead of pretend, but now for the game.

First we must have two little girls, we will call them Bess and Betty, and two little boys, Bob and Rob. The boys can be the School Inspector (or as I have heard him called in Yorkshire "The Kid Catcher") and the Doctor, and then we have to collect up all our dollies, those with legs off and eyes out and even with heads off, as well as our last brand new one; then we have to have some of Mamma's chairs, one to be the School, one the Shop, one the Hospital and so on, now we start.

Bess says to Betty "you be Father, I'll be Mother." Then says Betty, "its not fair, you always want to be Mother, its my turn to be Mother, and if I can't I shall not play," and after a few words (which of course you would not think of saying) we go on with Betty as Mother and without repeating the names over and over again, this is how the game goes on. Betty, addressing dollies: "Now you children its time to go to bed," and of course all the dollies answer at once "I don't want to go to bed, I want another biscuit and I want another drink of milk." "Very well then," says Mother, "if you do not go to bed at once you must all be smacked," and then there is a good sound spanking given all round. Wouldn't it be nice boys and girls just to change places with our dollies at bed-time. What! You do not think so; well never mind, we will pretend all the dollies have gone to bed and the next day has arrived. Now come on, you children, its time to get up or you will be late for school, "I do not like school" begins one, "I've got a bad head," says another, and "I want to stay at home with Uncle," says a third, and Mother has been so worried that the school bell goes, and the children have not gone to school. Then the Doctor calls and says one dolly has got diphtheria on both sides, and the others have only got stay at home from school fever (this is a very bad complaint, I wonder if you ever get it). Then after this the School Inspector calls and wants to know all about it, and then trouble begins, and there are such a lot of other things I could tell you but I think you know how dollies object to being washed and having their curls done, etc.

Now I have told you this game for a purpose, I want you to be the dollies sometimes and your real Mamma and Dadda which they are. Now I wonder if at bedtime or schoolltime you give them as much trouble as your dollies give you. Why, of course not! I know you would never be so unkind, because these is no one in the whole world who loves you so much as your own

Mamma and Dadda; so always remember what you expect of your dollies, Mamma and Dadda expects of you. Ready to go to bed when they say bedtime. Ready to go off to school brightly when the school bell rings and always ready to do as you are told quickly and then there will be no spanking to be given.

Here is a Pearl for the older boys and girls.

"Energy at the start is already halfway towards the goal."

I take it for granted that most of you play some game or other, such as football, cricket, hockey, tennis, rounders, etc., and you know if you want your side to win, you must put your best into the game from the start, and your best in energy and that is a secret to success, or as my pearl says halfway toward the goal. If you take an interest in your school teams, you know, if there is an important match arranged, special training is undertaken so that all the players are fit for it; and this is what I want you boys and girls to do with all you undertake for your Lyceum or your whole life, for if you start with energy by the time you get halfway you will find the second half easier and you will win.

Energy is sometimes called by other names, one is Elbow Grease, and you always get a better shine on the knives and forks, on your boots or on your bicycle if you put plenty of Energy's Elbow Grease into it. Just you try, and as many well known advertisers say, money refunded if satisfaction is not given.

Here is a story I heard the other day. A little girl drew a picture of a hen; it was so real that when she threw it under her desk it laid there.

This month I should like to receive letters telling me all about your Lyceum. How many members you have, and what part you take on Open Sunday.

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middx.

Keep smiling,
Yours,
"UNCLE BERT."

Wedding.

GURNEY VALLEY.—Stoker J. Winship, of H.M.S. Constance, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Winship, Gurney Valley, to Lill, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Aschough, "Black Boy." Gurney Valley, nr. Bishop Auckland.

An admirer of the BANNER has sent, under the name of "Midlander," a donation of £1 to the funds of the BANNER. We gratefully acknowledge the receipt and add that our knowledge of the contributor sweetens the path of life, as it emanates from a soul who wishes to see humanity rise to concord, happiness and peace. And thus the fuller life proceeds.

NEWCASTLE, Heaton and Byker Lyceum Guild.—We held a fancy stall in aid of Church Building Fund. Mrs. Clarke, of Jesmond, opened the sale and wished the young ladies of the Guild every success. Vera Lunn presented Mrs. Clarke with a lovely bouquet of flowers, and recited a welcome to all. In the evening a sketch was given by Mrs. Lunn, Miss Wardle, Miss Dixon; fancy dancing, J. Jobson, E. McMillin; a song by Miss H. Lamb; all being much appreciated. Everyone working hard to make the effort a success, which it undoubtedly was. The Lyceum will be able to hand over to the Church Building Fund at the end of year over £50. All arrangements were carried out by Miss Lamb, Miss Shadforth, assisted by other Guild members.—Mrs. R. Hunter, Sec.

The world in too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon;
This sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn.

SERVICE.

In every thought for others,
Inspired from above,
We find we act like brothers,
In God's unfolding love.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

EDITOR: G. F. KNOTT, D.N.U.

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

Twelve copies, 1s. 9d.; 18 copies, 2s. 7½d.; 24 copies, 3s. 6d.; 36 copies, 5s. 8d.; 42 copies, 6s. 1½d.; 48 copies, 6s. 8d. All orders for four dozen copies and upwards are supplied at 1s. 8d. per dozen. All parcels sent post free. Accounts due quarterly: March, June, September, and December. Single copies, 3d. post free.

Send your Orders not later than the 23rd of each month.

Annual subscription, post free, 3s. 0d. To Canada and the United States, 65c. Foreign currency taken.

Money and postal orders should be made payable at Wardle worth post office.

Office: 39, Regent Street, Rochdale, England

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 6-30 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Callers by appointment.

FEBRUARY, 1923.

Sowing the Seeds of Truth.

With the ever-growing number of enquirers and investigators appealing to Spiritualists for definite information regarding life beyond the grave there comes a necessity for a thorough knowledge of the laws and forces by which contact with spirits take place.

Large numbers of people have attended circles, meetings, seances, and lectures on Spiritualism. Very few people have gone beyond the acceptance that communion takes place, or the satisfaction that through special mediums phenomena of a definite kind can be demonstrated. Many books have been printed which are the exposition of spirit-communion but are interwoven with the past ideas of the authors. The further investigation and relation of the new facts are not carefully studied and the author rushes into print before the real inferences and vital significance of the new experiences are collated and studied. Others pander to popular sentiment by accepting the religious doctrines of the religion which prevails in the land where the author resides, and uses Spiritualism to coincide and deepen the religious faith peculiar to the bulk of their nationality.

True religion depends on a knowledge of the unfolding laws of God and the devotion of life, conduct and service to the promulgation and practise of the divine laws. It cannot be encircled in a formal creed where belief is the essential factor, as knowledge is essential to wisdom.

People in England are mainly Christians; people of other lands follow Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, etc. The Chinaman who takes a bowl of steaming rice to the grave of his "dead" friend is followed by the Englishman who carried flowers to the memory of one of his countrymen. The act and the motive is the same in each case, yet one is the act of an infidel and the other is the act of a follower of the faith. Why should these men differ in religious opinions and call each other infidel and unbeliever when the motive is the same in both cases?

How are we to surmount the different morals, religious and prejudices, which divide the universal concept of divine laws as revealed by God to humanity in every land?

There are common experiences taking place all over the Earth wherever human beings exist. Morals largely depend on the existing conditions which prevail. There is no excuse for the people in England becoming cannibals. The Eskimo may think it necessary to sustain the physical life by killing off and eating the old or young portion of their race during a shortage of other kinds of food. The Russians are Christians, but they have done this horrible thing to preserve the life within their own bodies. Morals are the outcome of desires which are the fundamental causes of social conduct. The social conduct of the people of a country may be, and in the case of Russia, were, influenced by the social or unsocial conduct of the people of other countries towards them. Hence we find the welfare of mankind in all lands depends on some universal reciprocal law being put in operation to provide the necessary food to prevent cannibalism.

Religion is the universal force which moves mankind on pro-

gressive lines to stages of higher development. We must realise the existence of this force before it can play a definite part in our lives, and then we shall know that morality is but a secondary way of applying religion to the secular things which influence life and conduct.

A man is religious or irreligious, moral or immoral for one of two reasons; he is without religion, undeveloped and ignorant, or bad because he knowingly performs wicked deeds. He is religious by a law of association or by knowledge of the laws of cause and effect which are the basic laws of God for the social and religious life of mankind: "as a man sows, so shall he reap."

There are two phases of religion in the world: one is the ideal conceived by mankind from past experience; capable of being imparted by others and superimposed on the minds of men by the initiator. And the other phase is the divine influx which can be felt by all free-thinking men who are un hypnotised by the nostrum of any peculiar sect which will not tolerate the facts of nature and of God as revealed to humanity.

The world of humanity is reaping to-day the effects of bad and ignorant social and religious policies. If we are wise the experience will not be lost upon us. We shall see with a clearer vision because of our suffering.

The undiluted truth is filtering through, yet some evidences are also pouring in which prove that the spirits of the "dead" reveal themselves with a portion of their old ideas permeating their thoughts.

The great test is to prove, by the divine laws of harmony and love, the evidence and advice placed before us.

We find the human soul or spirit is born in love and shaped by desire, subject to the human will. We can make our love passionate or sublime. If passionate, we are not moral to our offspring. If sublime, it is one of the most divine acts of God's creation: a home is made more sacred by the presence of the united symbol of immortality through this eternal spring of being. "A beautiful home, musical with loving voices, is the nursery of heaven." How few are the homes which can enter into this paradise? What a horrible mess we have made of the laws of God for the Brotherhood of man.

This paper is printed in the interests of children. The parents guide their footsteps and prepare the world for them. For hundreds of years it has been taught that the devil has been using his influence and children were born in sin. Salvation is only to be obtained through a belief in the divine sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This is a grave error which has affected the morality of the people and some individuals have used the vicarious sacrifice as an apology for bad conduct, by payment for indulgences.

Converse with spirits has revealed that we are personally responsible for all good or evil deeds we perform. No man can sell his soul without paying the price.

Instead of being children of the devil, Spiritualism teaches we become children of God, have his spirit as the moving force of life, and we cease to dread the ignorant horrors thrust upon us by bigoted people. We know their threats of eternal vengeance are without foundation.

The children of Spiritualists are born in a new atmosphere of love and harmony. Parents need to study the laws of God and nature, the unfolding powers of the mind and the inter-relationships of the influence of the peoples, and environments which affect human growth and development.

The Lyceums provide a stimulus and assist parents in the general study of child-welfare so that a higher morality and religious practise may enter into the actions and motives which prevail amongst mankind. It is essential that the child must have parents and leaders who can approach their relations to life from the broader understanding which is revealed by spirit-intercourse and guidance.

Holy truth, eternal right,
Let them break upon my sight;
Let them shine serene and still,
And with light my being fill.

LYCEUM MANUAL REVISION.

The "Manual" Revision Committee invite all Lyceum-ists, and Spiritualists generally, to assist them in their endeavour to produce a perfect text-book for our Movement. All suggestions will be carefully considered, and should be sent to the Revision Secretary—Mr. A. T. Connor, 19, Oakhurst Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

To Lyceum Secretaries.

There are a number of complaints to hand concerning the delays in answer to orders sent to the office, especially during December and January.

There are cases of multiple personality, but no two phases of character show themselves at the same time. The General Secretary is also Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER, Salesman, book-keeper and errand boy.

There is an agreement in the office safe that the Secretary shall work from 9 to 12-30 and from 2 to 6-30 with a half-holiday twice a week. These conditions may prevail in Arcadia where the dream Secretary may have his visions, but they have never prevailed in the office of the B.S.L.U.

The holder of the office has toiled early and late to meet the needs of Lyceums and, as far as human ability permits, has tried to serve the interest of the Lyceums in whose service he has been appointed.

The LYCEUM MANUAL was sold out at the beginning of January, 1922. No supplies were obtained until late in the year. During December large supplies of MANUALS were delivered to the Union. Some orders were placed for books early in Feb. Goods to the value of nearly £200 were sent out during December and this has delayed the replies to current letters to orders.

The tolerance of most Lyceum Secretaries has been appreciated by the General Secretary. There will be sufficient stock shortly to meet orders as received, though a reply by return of post can never be guaranteed with the present staff. Steps are being taken to provide assistance to overcome this difficulty. The additional expense is being paid by the Secretary.

The delay in delivery of the new stock occurred through the failure of the Revision Committee to complete their work before the old edition was exhausted.

The General Secretary ordered a few copies to be completed for last Conference to show the book was in progress. This unfortunately held up the printing of the remainder. The printer's dispute and Christmas bindings further delayed delivery.

The dispatch of Manuals is at present delayed through a trade dispute at the binders.

The above inconveniences has caused the Secretary to send three and four parcels to complete one order, duplicating the work, delaying attention to correspondence and decreasing the financial turnover which would have occurred had affairs been normal.

Home, Colonial and Foreign Lyceums have been waiting to send orders. The General Secretary has conferred with the printers and hopes to be able to supply all demands as they come to hand.

The Harmonised Edition is sold out and all supplies in future will be the 1922 Edition of the LYCEUM MANUAL.

G. F. KNOTT,
General Secretary.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J.G.—The big words in last month's leader were not written in humour, but to emphasize the necessity for study before attempting to conduct circles for development. The words will probably not be found in the dictionaries, as many of the terms describing spirit phenomena have had to describe new phases of mentality or physical possibilities.

The words were taken from F. W. H. Myer's book: "Human Personality and its Survival of Bodily Death." It is a great book by a learned scholar, contains its own definition of terms, and should be studied by every student of Spiritualism.

1. Veridically:—of hallucinations, when they correspond to real events happening elsewhere and unknown to the percipient.

2. Metetherial:—the metetherial environment denotes the spiritual or transcendental world in which the soul may be supposed to exist.

3. Dynamogonously:—by means of the increase of nervous energy by appropriate stimuli (rather than by inhibition.)

4. Mnemonic:—memories which persist after an interruption, as by death.

5. Paraphasial:—The erroneous and involuntary use of one word for another.

6. Retrocognized:—knowledge of the past, supernormally acquired.

The writer of the leader was turned to the book by inspiration and thus found expression for his thoughts in more defined language than he could personally use, but the directing intelligence is unknown: possibly some friend or student of Myers. Thus we mutually live and learn.—ED.

Our Lyceum Guild.

Guild Motto:—"We live to learn and learn to live."

Guild Aims:—To develop ourselves—Physically, mentally, psychically, spiritually.

(For further particulars of the Guild and its work; and for application form to become a member, apply to the Leader—(Miss) M. E. KITSON, B.A., 17, Bromley Rd., Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks.)

OUR MEMBERSHIP.

During the past month, fifteen new members have been enrolled; and our total membership stands now (on 21st January) at 1442 members, representing 132 Lyceums.

The 15 new members are from Southampton, Cavendish Grove (5); Fleetwood (4), Newcastle, Rutherford St. (2); Sale (2); Nelson (1); and Leicester (1).

FROM OUR MEMBERS.

(i) Almost equally with the Education Fund, the Guild Fund has recently benefited by donations from generous members, who wish to remain anonymous. We take this opportunity of thanking each one; and hope that their example will be followed by other members and friends.

(ii) The Guild heartily congratulates two of its members, Amy Pulman and Edith Smith (both of Halifax, Alma St.) on winning Swimming Certificates. Amy obtained her Elementary Certificate; and Edith her Elementary and Advanced—as a result of the Guild Class Summer Swimming Season.

(iii) Pleasing news also comes of Guild Class efforts at Heaton and Byker Lyceum. We read, "Our Guild Class has been working hard, and in November we held a Fancy Stall, and Concert in the evening. They have handed over to the Church Building Fund nearly £40. There was only about a dozen of them; but 'The workers win.'"

The Guild agrees with the writer that they have done very well; and hopes that success will continue to be theirs.

OUR SERIES OF ARTICLES.

The second article of Mr. Connor's series on the Hydesville Knockings will be found in another part of this issue.

LYCEUM IDEALS.

By J. TINKER.

II.—FACULTIES.

The unfoldment of the faculties in their due order and degree (108).

What are faculties?—Powers to do and to make; and therefore to endure, for the hardest labour of unfoldment is continuance in well-doing. Davis emphasises the difference between instruction and education, yet our Lyceums are almost entirely limited to instruction; that is, pouring thoughts into the mind as a preliminary to education, which is drawing forth and developing all our powers, not only to think rightly, but to act lovingly (108). Fortunately, instruction calls forth powers. The teacher must gain the attention of the pupil and must retain curiosity and interest about the subject; must ensure pleasure in the lesson; excite emulation; educe sympathy. This is not the place for psychological lists. Get interest and emulation, pleasure and sympathy, and you have the rest at your service. Education comes by exercise, spontaneous and instructed, associated with agreeable and repugnant environment, out of school more than in it. Hence the necessity of the Guild for week-day social activities and individual culture. We cannot work miracles of character-building by Sunday sessions alone.

"Experience teaches." The compilers of the Officers' Edition of the Manual therefore "urge upon all officers the great necessity of personal development of the faculties upon the lines laid down, in order that the Lyceum movement may be of real and permanent value." (Pref). Our ideal is not attained by words—words—words! "Example is better than precept." (30.) We must make our morals harmonise with our Manuals. Memorising maxims is not ideal culture. Happily, our conative nature impels us to act upon acceptable maxims and to verify them by exercise. (Questions 6, 7, 10 in 108).

HEREDITY.

"The child is the repository of infinite possibilities," says Davis; which means that we have to turn possibilities into actualities out of the innate tendencies organised by our human and animal heredity. Therefore, "different minds demand different methods. It is impossible for one teacher to quicken

and instruct every type of character." (D.M., p. 2). We need many teachers and many groups, and not a stereotyped routine for everybody all the time. "Children are born with two distinct characters: one inherited from the Fount of every blessing and the other from their immediate progenitors." (D.M., p. 14). Some of us do not separate our heritage. We trace it through a continuous line of ancestry far beyond our "immediate progenitors"; but, single or dual, we attribute it to the "Fount of every blessing" and of every curse.

The Lyceum relies upon the Fatherhood of God. But it does not dogmatise on processions of distinctively divine propagations, either by sparks, rays, monads or germs. The wiser we get the more firmly we refuse to bind our educational systems to unverifiable dogmas regarding spiritual origins and celestial substances. We must not confuse our successors worse than we were confused by Athanasian creeds of all patterns, Gnostic and Agnostic. Let us attend to needed development in our due order and degree as earth's citizens.

Human faculties here demand the presentation of the abstract by the *concrete*. We must deal more concentratedly with the improvement of the *objective* common and garden varieties and household examples of Fatherhoods and childhoods." When the child sees the "sparrow and the bee" alive and at work it recognises the common soul that is also "in the mind of man"; and the less we give it of theological "isms" the better—even the pantheistic isms. It learns because it is of the same nature, with the same powers. How else can it learn? (L.M.2). Parents and other teachers need not dispute the evolutionist assertion that their infant god is an infant beast. They see that daily. The value of the evolutionist is that he helps us to understand how man gets his beast-and-human faculties, and thus supports our contention that "the life that moves us is divine; for there has been and is a perfecting transmutation of faculties throughout the chain of evolution by "the intrinsic goodness." (D.M., p. 3, L.M., 123). Problems as to *how* that goodness and imminent life in all faculties are emanations of a transcendent Divinity may be left till we've passed through our classes in these lower grades with more credit (79, 57).

(To be continued).

HERBS. WHEN AND WHERE TO FIND THEM; AND THEIR MEDICINAL VALUE.

By WM. WOODALL, S. Shields.

February is generally rather dull and dreary so far as the herbage is concerned—being in the grasp of winter which holds it in check. Most plants are having their rest and sleep. Still, on a bright day, when the sun struggles out and thaws the frost-bound earth, we may find one or two hardy plants struggling through. Some are making their appearance but they will be described under the month in which they are at their best.

You may find Lichens and Mosses, and they all have their use. *Ground Moss*. When walking in the woods and other shadowy moist places by ditch and hedge, you may come across beds of this pretty little plant. It spreads very much, looking like a mass of triangular leaves out of which spring very fine reddish stalks about an inch long, having on the top cups of a whitish colour. This is good for breaking and expelling stone and gravel, and very good when boiled to ease inflammations, also good for the dropsy.

Mezereon Spurge. Sometimes called Dwarf Bay. The root of this plant is woody, tough and spreading. It grows five or six feet high with a stem covered with branches, of a shrubby nature, the bark is greyish. The leaves grow in clusters from small projections in the bark, in shape oblong with a smooth surface, dark green in colour and not dented at the edges. The flowers are very plentiful along the whole length of the branches. The seed is rather fleshy, nearly round and grows single. This plant is often kept in gardens and flowers from January to March. This plant is poisonous, acrid and biting in taste and of a corrosive nature; so must be used with great caution. An ointment made from the bark or the berries is good for foul ulcers. If you boil a drachm of the bark of the root in three pints of water down to two pints and take this quantity during two days for some time, it will be found to be good in dispersing venereal swellings, &c. Great caution should be used with this and only strong people should use it. It is also useful in chronic rheumatism.

Nailwort. In some districts called Whitlow Grass. This grows about four or five inches high, the leaves are small and

longish, the slender stalks rise from amongst them bearing small flowers one above another. The seeds are contained in small flat pouches, rather bitter in taste. It grows on old mossy walls, and in sheltered gravelly places. As its name implies it is good for Fellons, Whitlows in the finger nails, a good wound herb, and good for warts. Taken inwardly it is good for the lungs and gravel and is balsamic in its effects.

In February besides the above the *Butter Bur* with its red flower spikes may be found by stream and river sides. These flowers only abide about a month when they die, and the leaves appear in April. The leaves are large, round and rather thin upon reddish stalks about a foot long, set towards the middle of the leaf; the lower part divided into two round parts close together, of a green colour, hairy underneath. The root is long and spreading, black outside and white within, and of an unpleasant bitter taste. This is a great vitalizer and strengthens the heart, helps those are are short winded; the powder takes away spots and blemishes from the skin.

To conclude this month I would like to give two recipes that are good for every person. First, if you would like to renew your strength, especially old people, and feel young again, take some common nettles and boil them and drink freely of the water. Second, a smoking mixture to cure colds and remove catarrh and Asthma and also to break off the tobacco habit, 3 ozs. Coltsfoot, 1 oz. each Yarrow, Stramonium, Lavender Flowers, Mugwort and Marigold flowers.

No lady will object to the smell of this mixture.

(To be continued.)

The Poetical Language of the Mental Faculties.

To be recited by Groups of Children.

Written by F. W. C. and ISABELLA CLARKE.

ALICE:

Sister dear; do you know, Mother told me to-day,
When little girls tire of their work and their play,
If they're been very good, although p'r'aps not quite,
As they lie down to rest, or are sleeping at night,
Good fairies oft' come, and touching their eyes,
Fill them with wonder, and joyous surprise.
I wonder if we just pretended to sleep;
And lie just as quietly as mousie can creep;
If fairies would come to you, and to me,
And show us those sights that are lovely to see?

BEATRICE:

Oh! I should be frightened, if I were alone;
And found that some fairy had really flown
To my bedside; and stood where my eyes she could touch,
Although I should like it; oh! ever so much.
And fairies see all that happens you know;
It's no use pretending, or making a show;
For Mother says, fairies you cannot deceive;
They know when you're playing at making believe.
But I *am* feeling tired; and perhaps we shall find,
If we're close together, that we needn't mind:
And then they could come when we go to sleep;
And we won't be "waked up" if they quietly creep.
It would be "just lovely"; so hold my hand tight
And we'll just go to sleep, cos' I think its alright.

THE FAIRIES' SONG.

We're a joyous band of fairies;
And our Queen's mind we obey;
We must ever give expression
To her thoughts, or grave, or gay;
We're commanded to attend her
O'er the Earth where e'er we go;
Ready service we will render
To her needs attention show

Night or day we'll ever serve her;
At her call in ev'ry hour,
You will find us ever ready
Aiding with our magic power.
Call we to our aid our Daimons,
Workers summon one by one;
They shall speak, and at our bidding
Tell you how our work is done.

So sing, and be gay; so carol away:
For life should be joyous, be joyous and gay.

FAIRY QUEEN'S SPEECH.

My name is Truth; I am all that is true.
All fairies love me, and some mortals too.
Some hide their faces when I am in sight;
Some turn and shudder in terror and fright.
But I'm loyal and faithful, and ever reside
In the "house of Disclosure," with doors that are wide.
None ever fear me who walk in my ways;
To them I bring joy through life's varied days.
To all, I am candid; and from earnest and bold,
Who seek it, my counsel, I never withhold,
Search well! for my powers o'er the Earth I reveal!
And from those who may earn it, no knowledge conceal.
To-night, I have come with my fairies and Train,
To tell you the story of man's wondrous brain.
If you'll listen with patience, and follow us through,
We will tell what each part of his brain ought to do.
Then some may be wiser; and we hope all will say,
With pleasure and Profit your time's passed away.

AMATIVENESS.

Some day, all will be known as they are,
So my name I will freely confess,
The world would get on very poorly I'm sure
If it were not for Amativeness.
You've all heard of "Amo," that just means, I love;
I give love for the opposite sex,
Their charm and attractions I always espy,
And but seldom in ways that would vex;
Tis when I'm abused and my powers uncontrolled
I'm disliked by the wise and the good,
But I'm welcomed, as needful to serve Nature's Laws,
When my powers become well understood.
You'll agree, I am sure, that life would lose charm
If it were not for "True Sympathy"
Well—that is occasioned; or brought into life,
By powers, that are vested in me.

CONJUGALITY.

If you're feeling very lonely, and desire to find a mate
The "One" to be, for you, "a pal for life"
My powers on you are telling, for its just my little plan
To make folk seek a husband or a wife.
I can make them constant lovers, devoted for all time
To the one that they have chosen as a mate;
All charm and all attraction they find centred in the "One"
Their partner in the blissful, wedded state.
Now, with regard to failings, most of you will have heard
That I may grow to be "too fond"; or jealous, in a word;
To envy those who try to gain the love that I desire
It seems to rouse the worst in me and kindle all my ire.
Perhaps I ought to mention that I'm Conjugality,
And you'll ever find, my partner is all in all to me.

PHILOPROGENITIVENESS.

I scarcely know how to tell you my name, and really don't
think you could guess;
But if you will listen, quite slowly I'll speak; I'm Philo-
progenitiveness.
I will give you love for dollies, and things that are quite small;
For little lambs and animals, I love them one and all.
My duty is to foster parental tenderness;
To be kept away from children would cause me much distress.
All objects young and tender are to me a constant joy,
I'm a friend to be relied upon by every girl and boy.
You see me nursing Teddy Bears, and sometimes babies too;
I had a "little" kitten once, and then he went and "grew"
I love dear little puppies, and ponies I adore!
And if I had a Noah's Ark, I'd be content I'm sure.
In schools, if I'm allowed my way, to scholars I am kind;
If teachers are great friends of mine, their heads "stand out
behind"
You may always know they like you, and will gladly help you
through
With any lesson, task or game, if you should want them to.

FRIENDSHIP.

As friend, or as companion, I will gladly lend my aid;
My love of sociability can never be gainsaid.
I'm Friendsip! And can give you the power of making friends:
Give desire to entertain them while my nature ever tends

To give you sociability, love of company as well;
By habit I'm gregarious, and 'gainst loneliness rebel,
I fill this life with pleasure, am not silenced by the grave;
And in loving bonds uniting, cross o'er land and ocean wave.
With some; life's greatest treasure, with most a welcome friend,
A stay whea sorrows menace, and companion to the end.
In history's long record my traces may be found;
And hearts can know no solitude if in my spell they're bound.
No word, no thought, by me called forth, can e'er be mean or
cold,
And Heaven sends no richer joy to man, whilst young, or old.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MONTHLY CIRCULAR.

How to use Indemnities.

The Boxer indemnity, imposed on China as penalty for the losses inflicted on foreigners in 1900, is gradually disappearing, Great Britain having now decided to follow the lead given long ago by America, and have undertaken to devote her share of the reparation payment to purposes that will benefit China primarily.

The money will still be paid, but it will lose its penal form and should constitute in the future rather a bond than a barrier between China and this country.

The purpose to which the future instalments will be devoted has not been fully defined but it will almost certainly be educational, opening the door for some hundreds of Chinese students to a Western training whether here or in their own country.

America used her share of the indemnity this way from the first, thus registering a strong claim on Chinese gratitude and at the same time stimulating trade relations between the two countries.

A World Court.

The Permanent Court of International Justice, set up by the League of Nations at the Hague, has opened its first session and will begin the first case submitted to it by two first-class Powers, namely France and Great Britain.

The subject of litigation is the conscription of British subjects at Tunis by the French authorities, and raises the important question of nationality and its rights.

The Nobel Peace Prize—1922.

The Nobel Peace Prize has been granted to Dr. Nansen for his magnificent international work for the starving war victims of Europe.

Spiritualism.

TITLES FROM THE LYCEUM MANUAL.

The Teachings of Spiritualism are The Word of God.
Love, Precepts, Wisdom, Reform, and Do Good.
Keep your balance in the daily Conduct of Life.
Use your Spiritual Gifts; act the *Philosophy* of Life.

The Pioneers of Freedom have taught us Our Rights
That, by Steps of Progress, we may Walk in the Light.
The Divine Order is Nature's Revelation;
The Workers Win, by Love, and Self-Abnegation.

The World is full of Music, so Brothers, Pass it on.
Think gently of the erring, as days pass One by One.
The Lyceum teaches, We all might do good
Hand in hand with angels, we make one Brotherhood.

The World is full of Music, so brothers, Pass it on.
Think gently of the erring as days pass One by One.
The Lyceum teaches, We all might do good.
Hand in hand with angels, we make one Brotherhood.

Children, Press on, we want Light more Light.
The Veil has been Rent, may God speed the Right
Forward press to conquer, then sing ye, I am Free,
This Life is what we make it for The Homeland soon to be.

To Stand for the Right, we must show we've Backbone.
Obey Spiritual Commandments, make heaven in our Home,
Our Rights, Our Duties, The attainment of Truth
Is The Psalm of Life, for maiden and youth.

E. MOULT.

Scottish Notes.

THE HUMOROUS SIDE OF HILL CLIMBING.

Some years ago we were staying at Inverly near Braemar and close to the Cairngorms. One felt impelled to do some hill-climbing and the view on reaching the top repaid the trouble of climbing many times over. Despite the fact that at times the climbing was stiff and wearisome there were many humorous incidents which livened things up.

I remember one day we were climbing Cairn Toul. I was carrying a bottle of milk in my pocket, but alas, when bending for a drink of water at a brook (the last till we came to the Wells of Dee), the bottle fell and the neck was broken. There the laugh came for I had to carry the bottle in front of me and my friends duly proceeded to make the most of the occasion. However the laugh turned to others when it was discovered one of my friends had been carrying a camera and stand with him all the time and had no films or plates; and another had an oil stove but no oil. We had to do without tea till arriving home.

J. ANDERSON.

ABERDEEN.

A boy who lived in the country had a loft in which he kept pigeons. One day after a storm he found a young wood-pigeon nearly dead with the cold, lying in a field. He took it into his pigeon loft, nursed it until it was well, and then placed it among his other pigeons. This wood-pigeon lived along with the rest, fed and flew with them, until one day in the Spring of the following year, the call of nature was borne to it and away it flew and never returned to the loft.

ALBERT DUNCAN, Aberdeen.

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish District Council of the Lyceum held at Hamilton on the 2nd December, 1922, Mr. Scott, of Rattray Street Lyceum, Dundee, speaking in support of a motion "to get the considered opinion of the D.C. in reference to that passage in the MANUAL, M.R. 215, beginning as above, and continuing, "all war is Murder," etc., said, that since Spiritualism recognised that Conscience was an intellectual attribute and not the voice of God as implied in orthodox religious instruction, such teaching was bound to create conscientious objectors to war; and that as a consequence some of the present Lyceumists might find themselves in conflict with the State law *re* military service and war, without the active support of the parent Church, since no definite attitude toward war was adopted by the parent Church.

He pointed out that the MANUAL made a specific statement regarding war which left no doubt in the mind of any rational being as to what ought to be the attitude of Lyceumists. On the other hand, the parent body seemed to adopt a go-as-you-please attitude towards war as witnessed by the platform of the movement and its press. He quoted from "Light" and "Two Worlds," instancing Stanley de Brath's recent Articles in the former, and an editorial in the latter dated 3rd November, 1922, in which the Editor practically apologised for bearing witness to our seven principles while contesting particular legal enactments.

Mr. Scott pointed out that to continue to teach the children on war as per MANUAL without bringing the parent body into line was betraying the child in as much that he may find a similar hostility to his ideals inside the movement as outside. He set up the Quaker Movement as a collective body of opinion absolutely opposed to war but which received general recognition for its sincerity, etc., and urged upon Spiritualists to get their parent Churches to recognise that the only means of ending war was by prohibiting it and that the first stage in its prohibition was personal abstinence for all who adopted the phenomena and philosophy of Spiritualism.

Considerable discussion followed but eventually the Council gave it as their opinion that the MANUAL teachings were absolutely opposed to war, and the majority agreed that the seven principles implied what the MANUAL made obvious.

The S.D.C. must be congratulated on the substantial progress that is being made by the Lyceum Movement in Scotland in its general aspect. Secretaries please report progress once a month and oblige.

Yours sincerely,

59, Lochee Road, Dundee.

J. M. SCOTT.

NOTE.

The B.S.L.U. through its Management Committee, have never had any doubt as to the interpretation of M.R. 215. (See page 19)

Giants of the Deep.

By THE WONDERMAN.

Fishes are not the only living creatures in the sea. There are animals which differ in almost every respect from fishes. They are called mammals. They feed their babies on milk. Fishes have cold blood but mammals have warm blood. Some of these mammals of the deep are bigger than any animals which live on land to-day.

The Whale.

The whale is the biggest giant in the sea. The baleen whale from which whalebone is obtained is more than ten times the length of a man, and more than ten times wider. The head alone is more than five times as long as the length of a man. On top of the head are two nostrils which are shut fast when the whale is in the water, to prevent water reaching the lungs. The whale has to come to the surface to breathe air. Then it spouts streams of water and vapour into the air. To enable it to remain at great depths a long time, the whale has a special arrangement of cells to store up the blood when it has been freshened with oxygen from the air.

The whale's mouth is the biggest in the world. The jaw is three times the length of a man and when the mouth is open, the distance between the lower jaw and the roof of the mouth is bigger than the height of a room in an ordinary house. A ship's boat could easily go into a whale's mouth. The mouth is not just an open space however. There is a ton and a half of whalebone or baleen in it, worth £2,000 a ton. The baleen is thick solid hairs hardened into horn. It hangs from the roof of the mouth. It is the whale's fishing net, for there are no teeth. This giant of the sea is kinder or at least not such an enemy to big fishes as we should expect. It actually has to live on little jelly fish. Of course, if the whale could only catch one or two little jelly fishes at a time, it would be as bad for it as for us if it could only have one little crumb at a time. The whale finds a shoal of little fishes and swims right through them with mouth open. When hundreds of the little creatures are caught, the big mouth closes, the whalebone folds back, the catch is swallowed and the water which got into the mouth is squirmed out at the sides. The whale has to content itself with these dainty morsels, because its throat is no wider than a man's fist, and the tube to the stomach is only as thick as a walking stick.

The whale is covered with a thick oily skin. Underneath is another skin which makes the whale look the same colour as the water. Underneath this, is a third covering, the blubber oil and fat, which are very valuable. It forms a warm blanket round the whale, two feet thick in places. It weighs as much as fifty men. The blubber makes it possible for the whale to dive nearly a mile below the surface of the water. Water is very heavy and only a few kinds of fish can live far below the surface because the weight is too crushing. The springiness of the blubber allows the whale to bear the weight of over 200,000 tons of water.

Once a man went to view a whale caught in the Thames. He entered its mouth which was propped open and tried to walk along its tongue, which had become soft. He began to sink down into the tongue so that if some more looker-on had not helped him, he would have been suffocated.

These baleen whales do not eat each other, but there is one kind of whale, the grampus, which is a terrible enemy to its own family. Numbers of grampuses will attack the sperm whale (which gives us spermaceti for candles and ointments), kill it, and eat it. Sperm whales sometimes fight fiercely, but do not eat each other. They, unlike the baleen whales, have teeth.

The poor whale, though the king in size, has many terrible enemies, and not the least of these, is man. The whale himself is harmless, unless enraged. Then, he is dangerous. With one blow of his tail, he can throw a boat in the air or bite it into atoms. Once, this huge monster's home was on land. He used to have hands, with four fingers and a thumb. These are now covered over with skin. Not a pleasant enemy to meet on land.

The sword-fish and the saw-fish sometimes help the grampuses to kill a whale. Of the two, the saw-fish is the more terrible. The swordfish has a great spear growing from its snout. It makes a strong, terrible rush on its victim and pierces it with its sword. The saw-fish has a blade of hard bone with saw-like teeth on each side. It does not stab quickly, but saws a horrible wound from which even a whale cannot recover. The sword-fish will rush upon a ship which it mistakes for a whale

and put his sword through a copper plate, a thick oak plank or a heavy beam.

The white whale is valuable to the Eskimos. They will eat its flesh raw, use its blubber for oil and portion out the remains to the dogs.

The porpoise is about five feet in length and belongs to the toothed family of whales and does not have to feed on small shell fish. Porpoises are fond of salmon and herring and can swim very swiftly.

The dolphin which gambols on the waves like a merry child on the shore, likes shell fish as well as herrings. It is often seen near our coasts in shoals.

Whaling to-day is carried on chiefly by the Norwegians, around Iceland, Newfoundland, the Faroe Islands and South Africa. The Antarctic Fisheries are most productive. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Greenland Whale was over-hunted for the sake of the whalebone used to shape and stiffen ladies' dresses and the oil used in street illumination.

BIRTHS, IN MEMORIAM, 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.

GATESHEAD.—In loving memory of Mark, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hall, who passed to the Higher Life, February 6th, 1921. Remembered by all.

NEWCASTLE, Heaton and Byker.—I regret having to report the transition of our brother, Willie Wootton, 17 years, on January 5th, 1923. A good worker and of kindly disposition.

The interment took place on January 9th, the Service was conducted by Mr. R. Hunter, who spoke highly of our brother as a Guard in the Lyceum.—S. J. Hunter, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM, Gladstone Hall.—Departed from mundane to spiritual activity on December 12th, 1922, Florence Pearson, aged 21 years. "Working now from beyond the veil."

WOOLWICH.—Marjorie Osborne. The 8th anniversary of Our Darling passing into spirit.

Thy memory "will weave Beautiful thoughts," our whole Life's journey through.—J.M.P., A Lyceumist.

District Visitors' Reports.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICTS.

In giving my report for the past three months, I have to record my gratification at the increasing interest and more adequate preparations that are taking place for the forthcoming Examinations in February.

I have visited Ramsden Street, Quarmby, West Vale, Brighthouse, Commercial Street, Alma Street, Raven Street and St. Peter's Street Lyceums.

On September 10th, I visited Ramsden Street Lyceum. There were 25 present. Exercises fairly well done. Lesson given in Liberty Group in preparation for Examinations.

September 10th, afternoon, I visited Quarmby Lyceum. Present 35. A very interesting open session. There were a good muster of adults; hearty singing and good expositions of the chain recitations.

West Vale. 31 present. This Lyceum is increasing in numbers and efficiency. The calisthenics were efficiently done. Lesson for the examinations: The Fatherhood of God.

Alma Street, Halifax. In consequence of alterations in the school the Lyceum met in the Church. The conductor said he had been a conductor two years and it was the first visit. I had to explain that the District Council nor myself was not responsible for that, as for three years I was no longer D.V. for the Halifax District. This Lyceum, though greatly diminished in numbers, is doing better and more efficient work than when they were more numerous. The preparations for the examination were proceeding and the Study Group is a source of influence making for greater interest, efficiency and enthusiasm.

Brighthouse, Commercial Street. This Lyceum is increasing in numbers and doing better work. The calisthenics were very well done.

Halifax, Raven Street. This once flourishing Lyceum was a source of disappointment. The 27 scholars present did not compare at all with what this Lyceum once was. I took advantage of the opportunity given me, to encourage them all I could. I told them of the work that has been done at Commercial Street, at West Vale, and at St. Peter's Street Lyceums, and the opportunity that was given of permanently influencing young lives. I have also visited Peter Street Lyceum and was greatly gratified to see an attendance of 65. This Lyceum has a largely attended Liberty Group. I have endeavoured to help this Lyceum, because they need a good Leader for the Liberty Group.

SETH ACKROYD, D.V.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

I paid my second visit to Henry St. (Bolton) Lyceum on November 19th. We had a prompt start with 45 present. Two came late. Opening song, very fair. Silver Chain, Musical reading, and Golden Chain, fairly well explained. Pearls and recitations very good. All Oral questions answered by children. Marching and calisthenics very fair. Singing very fair. General conduct very fair.

On December 10th I paid my second visit to Deane Road (Bolton). We had a prompt start with 18 present. Six came late. Opening song very fair. Silver chain, Musical reading and Golden chain very well explained. Pearls and recitations very good. Majority of oral questions answered by children. Marching and calisthenics very fair. Singing very fair. General conduct fair. Just a wee bit too much whispering by the children.

F. JONES, D.V.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES DISTRICT.

I was invited to conduct Anniversary Services at Cavendish Grove, Southampton, on October 29th, 1922. Afternoon Session well attended. All members being punctual. After hymn, invocation, Lord's Prayer and Principles were recited. Silver Chain, Musical Reading and Golden Chain, which opened up good discussion. The conductor, Mr. Bulford, asked for pearls. Many fine pearls were given voluntarily, this being one of the best parts of the Session. A very fine Social programme was then taken. Items given by Brenda Hart, Elsa Saunders, Lily Bulford, Muriel Baker, and many others, whose names I cannot remember, including a part song by six of the elder members which was well rendered. No drill and marching could be taken, as all three services were held in the church, which is beautifully situated with Lyceum Hall at the back. The morning and evening services were well attended by the Lyceumists. Items were given at both Services. I considered the whole day a credit to the Lyceum Movement. The order was very good. Singing and individual items splendid. Every member gave their very best. A most delightful visit. Distance travelled, 130 miles, week-end fare, 12s.

ERNEST CAGER, D.V.

District Council Reports.

COVENTRY, NUNEATON AND DISTRICT.

The above Council held their first full representative meeting by the kind invitation of the President, at Norman Avenue Church, Nuneaton, on January 13th, 1923, when all Lyceums were fully represented. The meeting opened with the singing of Star of Progress, the Invocation being given by the President. The President in his address extended a hearty welcome and appealed for all to aim for a spirit of unity and True Co-operation if we are to make this effort progressive. The minutes of last meeting were read and accepted. The Secretary reporting donations received from the President and Mr. Grant of 10s. each and also the satisfactory result of the social which he arranged at Broad St. Hall on December 14th 1922, which brought in £1 5s. 8d. After the benediction all were invited by the President to partake of tea and after tea were entertained by several of the Lyceumists, with songs and recitations and dancing. A good demonstration of marching was given, after which the President, Secretary, and District Visitor strongly appealed for support for the Lyceum. I am pleased to report that although the Nuneaton Lyceum has only been in existence about four months they have 82 on the register and are hoping to bring the number well over the hundred mark within the twelve months. Votes of thanks brought an enjoyable day to a close.

E. E. HUTTON, Sec.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

We held our meeting at Ramsden Street Church on December 17th. The following business was accepted. Minutes at last meeting Attendance record showed 13 delegates, representing seven Lyceums; one delegate from Halifax District Committee; four officers; one associate. A total of 26. Financial statement, District Visitors' Report, and Correspondence was accepted. That the District Council arrange for the Management Committee meetings for April 14-15. Statistical Returns and Delegates report of four D.C. Meetings, and Open Council were given. Agreed that the BANNER competition be held next year on general Lyceum Efficiency. The adjudicators will commence after the last Sunday in March; and finish before November. A Lyceum Session was held in the afternoon, Mr. Branch, Slaithwaite, conducted. In the evening an Open Session was held. Mr. T. Ellis, President, conducted. There was a good attendance at both sessions.

Nominations for the Annual Meeting to be held at Sowerby Bridge Church, on February 11th. President, Mr. France, Mr. Aspinall; Vice-President, Mr. W. Burrows, Mr. Bramall, Mr. Ackroyd; Secretary, Mr. R. Blackburn; Treasurer, Mr. Kershaw, Mr. W. Burrows, Mr. W. Greenwood; District Visitor, Mr. Ackroyd, Mr. Burrows; Auditor, Miss E. Manchester.

J. MANNING, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

The General Meeting of the Council will take place on February 17th, Saturday, at 3-30 p.m., at Easy Road, Leeds. Business: President's Address, Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, Competition Business, Election of Officers. Nominated: President, Mr. A. Collier, Dewsbury, and Mr. Lilly, Normanton. Secretary, Mr. A. W. Harding. Treasurer, Miss M. Kitson, Batley Carr; and Mr. Wilson, Dewsbury. D.V., Mr. Downs, Cobden Hall, Hull, and Mrs. Hogg, Holborn Hall, Hull. U.D.C., Delegate, Miss M. Kitson, Batley Carr. Delegate to Conference and Areal Representative. Associate Members. Any other business. Tea provided. All Lyceums please send delegates. All Associates invited.

A. W. HARDING, Sec.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting will be held at Daulby Hall, Daulby St., Liverpool, on Saturday, 10th February, at 3 p.m. Will Delegates and Associates please make a special effort to attend?

GLADYS OWEN, Sec.

LONDON DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Lausanne Hall, Peckham, on Saturday, 24th February, at 6-30 p.m. Will delegates and associates please note?

A. T. CONNOR, Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, February 10th, at 3 p.m., in the Collyhurst Spiritual Church, and to which meeting all Delegates and Associates are requested to attend. Agenda: Minutes, Correspondence, Reports (a) D.V.; (b) Adjudicators, Election of Officers. Invitation for next Demonstration and invitations for next four Quarterly Meetings. After the meeting there will be a social held to which all friends are invited.

G. A. HOOD, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

Notice of Council Meeting.

The above Council will hold the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, February 17th, at Blackpool, Albert Road, to commence at 3-30 p.m. A full attendance of delegates and associates is desired as the business is specially important. Tea will be provided by our friends at Blackpool at a nominal charge. Delegates, associates and visitors should acquaint Mr. R. Singleton, 12, Durham Road, Blackpool, of their intention to be present. Motion *re* Musical Contest and Demonstration at Morecambe will be fully detailed at this meeting. The best wishes for the New Year to all Lyceumists is sent from the E.C. to all Lyceumists.

J. S., Sec.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held on Sunday, February 25th, at the Rotherham Spiritual Church, Percy Street. Business will commence at 10-30 p.m. Usual catering arrangements. The day's services will be taken by Council. Agenda: Usual reports, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet, Election of Officers and Delegations, U.D.C.,

D.C., and Conference. Election of Adjudicator to replace one resigned since last meeting. Lyceums and Associates please note fees for 1923 will be due at this meeting. A Record Council is anticipated. Lyceums please return nomination forms according to the date asked for.

CHAS. H. SAXELBY, Sec.

Special Reports.

Under this heading, Lyceums whose reports exceed the words allowed in the Table as shown in Rule 3 may have them inserted in full by enclosing 6d. for every extra nine words.

BELFAST.—On Christmas morning we had a Toy Service, when the Lyceumists each brought a toy, some brought two or three, which were delivered in the afternoon to a Children's Hospital. The gift was augmented by a Subscription of £3 3s. towards the Christmas Treat to the poor Extern Patients. We received a very nice letter from the Matron thanking the children for their self-sacrifice.—George Donaldson.

BIRMINGHAM, Handsworth. We had an attendance of between 60 and 70 at a Naming Ceremony in our Lyceum on January 21st, of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Smith, both Lyceumists. The children were deeply interested. The ceremony was performed by Miss Butcher, who in giving the earth name Norah Beryl, stated the child would be known by the spirit name of Harmony. After the Naming all present joined hands and sang one verse of "Hand in Hand with Angels." A fine show of flowers, recitations, pearls, duet by Bernard and Fred Vann, accompanied by Dora Vann at the piano, all helped to make the afternoon a complete success.—S. E. Price, Sec.

BRADFORD, Boynton Street.—We held our Annual Tea and Social Evening and Prize Distribution, which was a great success. Prizes given to scholars by our Council Secretary, Mr. Aked. An enjoyable evening was spent.

On January 7th, we held our Open Session Readings: Mr. Ackroyd and George Tempest; duet, Mr. and Mrs. J. Schofield; solos, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Schofield.—Mrs. Ward, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—On January 7th we held our Monthly Open Session, conducted by F. Babbs, and the following Lyceumists took part: Solos by Miss Holt, Mrs. Bilsborough, Miss L. Long, Mr. Hargreaves, Miss Annie Berry, Miss W. Long, Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Babbs. Recitations by Miss Alice Berry, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Belford, Edward Thompson and Mr. Belford. We are progressing and hope to be able to report further progress each month. We must keep on working, gathering new friends and keeping the Banner waving, knowing that the workers win. We have two Sessions each Sunday, 10-30 and 1-45.—J. Babbs, Sec.

HALIFAX, Alma Street.—On Saturday, January 20th we held our Prize Distribution, Tea and Concert; upwards of 150 people sat down to tea, after which a splendid concert was given consisting of: Welcome; The Nursery Rhyme Tea Party; The Valley of Gifts; The Mad Tea Party; The Gipsy Song; Songs, Dances, Recitations; and Pianoforte Duet; all being admirably gone through by the young Lyceumists. Two dialogues: Wanted a Servant and Popping the Question, given by the elder Lyceumists with fine gusto. The dresses were beautifully made and accompaniments well rendered by friends. Prizes were presented by the Conductor. The whole day being a fine success in every way.—P. Chapman, Sec.

LONDON, Brixton.—On Saturday, January 13th, The Lyceum had their usual Xmas Treat. 108 Lyceumists sat down to tea, after which each one received a gift from the Christmas Tree, a bag of sweets and an orange. The conductor thanked all workers and helpers for their united support.—G. Tuttlebee, Sec.

LONDON, Clapham.—On January 18th our Lyceum held its First Bazaar and Fete.

The evening was a very enjoyable one, prominent features being a wireless concert, palmistry, psychometry, phrenology, dancing and a Japanese Masque entitled "The Silver Wings."

A love-gift of flowers was presented by the members to the Conductor in recognition of the hard work involved in organising the Bazaar.

Financially and socially the occasion proved a success worthy of the high standard of achievement on which Clapham prides itself.

The following Saturday Lyceumists devoted an evening to entertaining children of the Lambeth Ragged Mission.—F. K.

NEWPORT, Central.—On Dec. 26th we had our Annual Tea and Prize giving; 130 sat down to tea and all present enjoyed the fare provided. At 7 o'clock there was a Concert, when the children officiated. Songs, solos and Recitations were rendered, which were enjoyed by old and young. Oranges were given to all present. Mr. Crago of Cardiff was in the Chair, then came the most important time of all. The Prize distribution in which our Sister, Mrs. Timms of Cardiff, handed beautiful Prize Books to 58 of our Lyceumists with a kindly word of encouragement for each one. Our Conductor, Mr. Rowe, thanked the Elders of the Lyceum for the attendance they had made and were not getting a prizes which had enabled us to give the younger ones a much better one. A vote of thanks was given to our Sister, Mrs. Timms and Brother Mr. Crago of Cardiff, for being with us.—H. Folkes, Sec.

We held our Open Session on Jan 7th, the following responded to Recitations and Pearls: Doreen Taylor, Godfrey Rowe, Jessie Leighton, Nellie Jones, Ruby Oakley, Hilda Rowe, Ada Read, Maiser Read, Kitty Rowe, Horatio Radnor, Willie Rowe, Leslie Folkes, Ivor Gamlin, Sophie James, Leslie Read, Iris Higgins, Mr. Abraham. Miss Young told a very interesting story entitled "From everlasting to everlasting." We also had our Election of Officers. The following were re-elected: Conductor, Mr. Rowe; Assistant Conductor, Miss Young; Guardian, Mrs. Gamlin; Librarian, Jack Read; Treasurer, Miss Gamlin; Secretary, Mrs. Folkes; Captain of the Guards, Mr. Hodge; Boys' Guard, Mr. Taylor; Girls' Guard, Miss Pugh.—H. Folkes, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott Street.—On Sunday, January 7th, we held our Election of Officers, which resulted as follows: Conductor, Mrs. Platt; Assistants, Miss Whitehead, Miss Renshaw, Mr. Squires, Mr. Platt; Secretary, Mr. V. Slater; Assistant, Mr. Ashworth; Calisthenics Conductors, Miss Ashworth, Miss Rooks, Master J. Slater, Mr. V. Slater; Guardians, Miss Whitehead, Miss Renshaw, Mr. Squires, Mr. Platt; Librarians, Miss Rooks, Mr. V. Slater.—Mr. V. Slater, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Darnall.—We held our Annual Treat on Jan. 1st. Our President raised a collection, and a member gave a ham, for the Treat. All had a good tea, and a most enjoyable evening after tea.

On Jan. 7th, we celebrated our Second Birthday. Mr. Edwards our new Conductor presided; all sessions were educative, and enjoyed by all. Solos, duets, and recitations, were well rendered. Our late Conductor and Founder of the Lyceum spoke in a most educative manner. Mr. Martin of the Hull No. 3. Lyceum, spoke a few words of encouragement. He also spoke of the lack of attention whilst the Session was being carried on. He conveyed to us the fraternal greetings from the Hull Lyceums. Our Session now starts at 10-0 a.m.—Margaret Jones.

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. 24th.

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 Feb. 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.

ACCRINGTON, Argyle Street.—On January 1st we had our "Day" and customary visit from Santa Claus, distributing presents from Christmas Tree. Another successful event of Joy. Open Session, January 7th. Children splendid in pearls, recitations and solos. Our new Conductor spoke a few appropriate words, appreciated by all.—M. Barnes, Sec.

BARROW, Ramsden Street.—We held our Open Sessions on January 7th. Recitations were given by the following Lyceumists:—E. Nock, M. Howbrook, N. Ogg, Jack Howbrook, E. Brown and E. Hankinson. Greetings to all Lyceums.—S. J. Nock, Sec.

BEDWORTH.—Open Session, January 7th. Recitations given by A. Davis, P. Alsop, I. West, F. Ison, H. Kemp, M. and C. Wood, and I. Tebbitt. Lyceum hymns were also rendered.—Miss C. Rowe, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On December 30th we held our Annual Tea Party and Social Evening. Between 70 and 80 Lyceumists sat down to a good tea. Games were indulged in and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Prizes were given for attendance, pearls and recitations. Regrets were expressed that children who had chosen *Manuals* for prizes were disappointed, owing to their non-arrival. On January 7th we held our Open Session conducted by Mr. Taylor. Recitations were given by Doris Dunn, Lettie Simpson, Edna George, Eva Williams, Ethel George, Esther Dunn, Millicent Hempall, Percy Woodley and Charles Ellis; solos by Elsie Thompson and Mr. Woodley. A good session well attended.—Mrs. E. Thompson, Sec.

BLACKPOOL, Albert Road.—Election of Officers for 1923:—Conductor, Mrs. Nurse; Assistant Conductors, Miss D. Critchlow and Miss B. Barnes; Secretary, Mr. F. Carter, 65, Lusie Grove, Blackpool; Guardian, Mr. H. Carter; Captain of Guards, Mr. N. Milby; Guards, Miss V. Copestake and Master N. Hamlet; Marching and Calisthenics Conductors, Miss B. Barnes and Miss K. Arnold; Flower Guild Secretary, Mrs. Hobbs; Teachers, Mrs. Nurse, Mr. Lord, Mr. N. Milby, Mrs. Hobbs, Miss D. Critchlow and Miss M. Halmet; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Nurse Mr. Lord and F. Carter.

Open Session, January 7th. 50 present. Miss D. Critchlow, Conductor. Opening hymn, 386. Invocation by Mrs. Nurse. Recitations by Miss D. Critchlow, James Leadbetter, Irene Kenyon, James Chattington, Dorothy Copestake, Mrs. Nurse and Thora Copestake. Solos rendered by Miss J. Christopher and Miss Bessie Swan; duet by Mabel Carter and Doreen Hodgkinson; pianoforte solo by Master N. Milby; pearls, Miss B. Barnes, Mrs. H. Jordan, Phyllis Chattington, Dorothy Copestake, Mrs. Nurse and Doreen Hodgkinson. Closing hymn, 309. A most splendid session. Wishing all Lyceums every success.—F. Carter, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—On January 14th we held our Quarterly Open Session, having visitors from outlying districts. Pearls were taken, a number of recitations, a solo and a duet. Our speaker for the day was Mr. James Shutleworth, of Darwin, who brought the session to a close with a few pleasing remarks.—John R. Askew, Sec.

BOLTON, Henry Street.—We have held our Annual Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mr. Shorrocks; Assistant, Miss Sixsmith; Guardian, Miss Seal; Group Leaders: Liberty Group, Mr. Shipperbottom; Senior Group, Mr. J. Shipperbottom (Junior); Intermediate Group, Mr. W. Bearman; Junior Group, Miss Entwistle; Captain of Guards, Miss D. Shipperbottom; Guards, Miss A. Sheffield and T. Eckersley; Musical Directors, Mr. Hutchinson and J. Sheffield; Treasurer, Mr. Shipperbottom; Marching Conductors, Mr. L. Turner and Mr. W. Bearman.—Wm. C. Bearman, Sec.

BRIGHTON, Old Barn.—We had a delightful session at Athanaeum Hall on 14th January, when four visitors from Worthing came to see Lyceum work, with object of commencing a Lyceum at Worthing. Charlie Hill read a splendid paper on "Mediumship," and the individual items were well rendered. Visitors said they were much impressed by the attention, interest and intelligence displayed. Shortly removing to better conditions at Mighell Street Spiritualist Church).—Mrs. A. M. Robinson.

BURNLEY, North Street.—We held our Open Session on January 7th. A good number of Lyceumists were present. The following assisted in making the session a success:—Molly Lofthouse, Evelyn Parkinson, Ada Dugdale, Eveline Clegg and Ernest Crabtree. All items were delightfully rendered, much appreciation being shown. We had a surprise visit paid to us by Miss Elliott, of Manchester. A hearty welcome was extended to her, on her first visit to our Lyceum. She spoke a few encouraging remarks to the Lyceumists. A very pleasant session. We extend greetings to all Lyceumists and Lyceums.—May Wagner, Sec.

CALGARY.—On December 31st, 1922, we held our Annual Meeting, with a large attendance and good collection.

The following were elected:—Conductor, Mrs. A. Garrad; Guardian, Miss P. Houston; Musical Director, Miss Agnes Reed; Physical Director, V. Garrad; Captain of Guards, B. Baring; Secretary, Miss A. M. Garrad. We elected Assistants to all offices, to get as many working as possible. We closed

the year feeling satisfied with the work that had been accomplished. Wishing all Lyceums a Prosperous New Year.—Ada M. Garrad.

CARDIFF, Central.—December 23rd we had a lovely Christmas Tree. Father Christmas (represented by Mrs. Groom) gave presents from the Tree to the members of the Lyceum. Tea and games were also provided for the members, and a very happy time was spent.

On Christmas Eve we held our Lyceum Anniversary. The afternoon service was conducted by Miss E. Little, our Lyceum Conductor. Songs, recitations, etc., were rendered by the children. In the evening the chair was occupied by our President, Mrs. Marshall, and conducted by Mrs. Timms. We also made this the occasion to distribute the prizes to the Lyceum.—W. Litman, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On January 7th we held our Annual Election of Officers, when the following Lyceumists were put into office:—Conductor, Mr. Heath; Assistants, Mr. Pleasance and Mr. E. Hobster; Secretary and Treasurer, J. J. Hobster; Guardian, Mrs. Siddall; Captain of Guards, Lily Marriott; Guards, Ena Slater and Gladys Machment; Marching Conductor, Mr. E. Hobster; Librarian, Mr. Pleasance; Musical Conductors, Lilian Gore, Gladys Machment and Mr. Taylor; Delegate, Mr. Geo. Bown; Group Leaders, Mr. Bown, Mr. Heath, Mr. Pleasance, Mr. Campbell, Mr. E. Hobster, Mr. A. Machment, Mr. G. Gill and Lily Marriott. We extend to all Lyceumists throughout the world our most happy and progressive wishes for 1923.—J. J. Hobster.

DAISY HILL.—Pleased to report progress in our Lyceum at Daisy Hill, but plenty of room for further progress. The Workers Win. Our Election of Officers took place on January 21st:—Conductor, Mr. Ernest Woodward; Assistant Conductor, Mr. Joseph Powers; Lyceum Secretary, Mr. James Hope; Leaders for Marching, Louisa Livesey and Norman Derbyshire; Marching Conductor, Mr. Wm. Woodward; Calisthenics Leader, Miss Elsie Hope; Librarians, Miss Maggie Woodward and Betty Livesey; Guardians, Miss May Woodward and Miss Lily Woodward; Organist, Miss Martha Woodward; Delegates to B.L.D.C., Mr. James Hope and Mr. Joseph Powers.—Mr. James Hope, Sec.

DARWEN.—January 7th, Election of Officers. The accounts as presented showed a balance of £3. The following were elected to the principal offices:—Conductor, Mr. T. Harwood; Assistant, Mrs. Sedden; Secretary, J. Nightingale; Treasurer, Mr. G. Kirkham; Guardian, Miss M. Leaver; Calisthenics Leader, Miss E. Almond; Marching Leader, Alan Howarth. A vote of thanks was returned to all retiring officers.—Mary Allen, Reports Sec.

DEWSBURY.—Open Session held December 31, when the Election of Officers took place, resulting as follows:—Conductors, Mr. J. Whittles, Misses E. Shearman and M. Hirst; Secretary, Mr. L. Bland; Treasurer and Musical Director, Mr. J. Whittles; Delegate, Mr. E. Wilson; Visitor, Mr. Peel; Drill Instructor, Mr. E. Whitworth; Guardians, Misses F. Ellis, I. Kaye, A. Bentley and E. Brown; Guards, H. Brook, E. Peel and J. Stoll; Registrars, Misses A. Ellis and R. Sheard; Auditors, Messrs. Peel and Nixon.

On Saturday we held our Annual Young Men's Tea and Concert, when distribution of prizes took place. Thirty Lyceumists received 1st prizes, twelve 2nds and two thirds. The tea and concert were performed entirely by the young men. The event was a real success, realising about £8.—L. Bland, Sec.

DONCASTER, Wood Street.—Open Session, January 7th, conducted by Mrs. Gomersall. We had a pleasant time together. On December 31st was our Annual Meeting, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. K. Taylor; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Gomersall; Treasurer, Mrs. Gosling; Secretary, Miss V. Batty; Assistant Secretary, Miss A. Johnson; Musical Conductor, Mr. King; Delegates, Miss V. Batty and Miss M. Nutter; Guardian, Miss D. Batty; Captain of Guards, Master E. Gomersall; Leader of Girls' Marching, Miss V. Batty; Assistant, Miss V. Crossland; Boys, Mr. H. Taylor; Assistant, Master W. Trout. A vote of thanks was given to the retiring officers.—V. Batty, Sec.

EARBY.—We held our Open Session on January 7th. Recitations were said by Ivy Goode, Queenie Dawson, Queenie Jordan, Mary Wilds, Alice Bannister, Elsie Clarke, Adeline Nuttall, George Robinson, Clifford Smith, Henry Tillotson, Sydney Jordan and Marion Nichol. No. 383 was sung by

Teddie Eunis and Granville Millward; No. 341 by Queenie Dawson and Doris Haynes. Musical reading, No. 209, was sung by May Astley, Annie Robinson, Ettie Eastwood and Ivy Raine. A pleasant afternoon was spent.—Ed. Bannister, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—We have held our Open Session, when a large number of Lyceumists were present. Recitations were given by Isabel Church, Hilda Bentley, Phyllis Jordan, Sabina Church, Leonard Haran and Lily Frith; solos by Nellie Dews and Mrs. Firth; pearls were very good. Members of the Lyceum Guild gave an exhibition of the third series of calisthenics, which was greatly appreciated by all. It was a very enjoyable session.—Mrs. S. Pitcher, Sec.

HEBBURN.—On December 31st we held our Lyceum Session and during the service our late President, Mrs. Brown, performed the ceremony of naming the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coulson, giving the name of Lilian Vera, spirit name of "Hope." Being our first ceremony to be performed in our Lyceum, the children presented the baby with Badge and Manual.—J. Causby, Sec.

HIRST.—On November 25th a most interesting ceremony took place in the above Church. The contracting parties were James S. M. Hudson (Group Leader) and Mary Johnstone (Guardian), daughter of the late Ronald Johnstone. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Boyne, of Gateshead, and was very impressive. Miss L. Shears very ably played the Wedding March as the bridal party entered and left the church, which was tastefully decorated with white flowers. The bride was beautifully attired in white silk and bridal veil. She was given away by her brother, G. W. Johnstone (Conductor). The guests were entertained at the home of the bride, when about 300 spent an enjoyable evening. Amongst the many presents were a dinner service from the Church and a palm pot and inlaid oak stand from the Lyceum. The best wishes of all go with them and hope to retain the good services of both in Lyceum work.—J. Stafford, Sec.

HORWICH.—On January 7th we had a very pleasant evening. The service was taken in the form of a naming ceremony. We welcomed the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ward (née Lizzie Cleworth) into our ranks. May we ever "Open the door for the children." The service was conducted by one of our oldest workers in Horwich, Mrs. Collier, who gave the baby the earthly name of Edna; the spirit name is "Mercy."

On January 13th we had a grand Tea Party, Concert and Prize Distribution. Proceeds were divided between Church and Lyceum. Best wishes to all Lyceumists.—Annie Purchas, Sec.

HUDDERSFIELD, St. Peter Street.—On Friday, December 29th, we held our Annual Meeting, when Mrs. Oliver was re-elected as Conductor, Mr. W. Hirst, Secretary, and Mr. Garside, Treasurer. Mr. G. W. Hirst was elected as Assistant Conductor.

Sunday, January 7th, was our Open Session, when a good number of scholars and friends were there. Marching and calisthenics were carried out with care and precision. Recitations and pearls with good definitions were given by the scholars and solos were rendered by Mr. Wallis and Stanley Kitson.—W. Hirst, Sec.

LANCASTER.—Election of Officers was held on December 31st, the following being appointed for the ensuing year:—Conductor, Mr. Wilkinson; Assistant Conductor, Miss A. Sharples; Guardian, Mr. Ball; Secretary, Miss Swale; Assistant Secretary, Miss Cook; Treasurer, Mr. Bleasdale; Musical Director, Miss Townson; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Ball; Guards, Harry Troughton, Norman Lee, Isabelle Dodd and Violet Such.

On Saturday, January 6th, we held our Annual Treat for the children, who first of all enjoyed a good tea, afterwards a real children's rough and tumble party. Then each Lyceumist up to the age of 14 received a present from the hands of Father Christmas (Mr. Kirk, our retiring Conductor). Altogether we had a splendid time. Best wishes to all.—Marion Swale, Sec.

LEICESTER, Rupert Street.—On January 7th we had our Open Session, when the following gave solos and recitations:—Misses E. Wicks, A. Clarke, D. Jayes, M. Smith, A. Bingley, E. Lines and P. Goldsmith. Pearls were also given, which were very good. The poppies which our brother, Mr. W. Jones, kindly sent us from Montreal, Canada, have been put on heart-shaped plush by one of our Lyceumists.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—Our Annual Election of Officers resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. A. Hurst; Assistants, Miss Jones and Miss Dilks; Treasurer, Mrs. Tuckwood; Leaders, Mrs. Galpin, Mrs. Hurst, Miss Wicks and Mr. J. H. Wicks.

On January 13th we held our Open Session, when Miss E. Smith, Miss D. Wilkinson and Mr. C. Hallam gave solos and Miss Lucas recited. A very enjoyable session, coupled with a good attendance of Lyceumists and visitors.—J. H. Wicks, Sec.

LEEDS, Psycho.—Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mr. Essam; Assistant Conductors, Mr. J. Gascoigne and Mr. Hunter; Treasurer, Mr. Russell; Secretary, Mr. E. Lewis; Musical Directors, Miss E. Hudson and Mr. H. Russell; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Carncross; Guards, Mary Exley, Mary Orman, Olive Gascoigne, Frank Sissons, Harry Smith and Fred Waters; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Essam, Mrs. Land, Mr. Russell and Mr. Gascoigne; Leader of Calisthenics, Mr. Daisley (Sen.) and Mr. Daisley (Jun.); Leaders of Marching, Lillian Daisley and Arthur Daisley; Introductions, Mr. Stan. Hancox and Miss Brooke.

We held our usual Boxing Day Social and everyone spent a glorious time. Prizes were given to Lyceumists by one of our oldest Church members, Mrs. Buckton; also special prizes were given by our Conductor, Mr. Essam and Mrs. Essam, for pearls, recitations and solos, which were appreciated with many thanks by the children. The Lyceum presented Mr. Essam with a prize for his good work in the past year. It was given by one of the youngest Lyceumists and took our Conductor by surprise.—E. Lewis, Sec.

LONDON, Hampton Hill.—We have held a Concert, in which all our Lyceumists took part; it was our first attempt and very successful.—A. Butt, Conductor.

LONDON, Hounslow.—Opened the new year, under joint conductorship of Messrs. White and Fruin, by holding a successful children's party and Christmas Tree on the 20th.—Albert E. Fruin.

LONDON, Fulham.—On Monday, January 1st, we gave a New Year's Party to 30 boys and girls, ages from 6—12, from Wandsworth Guardians' Receiving Home. They arrived and were met by Mr. Drew, dressed as Father Christmas, who introduced them to a large bran-tub, full to the brim with toys. They had tea, after which they played games, etc., until they had to prepare to go home. They were given an orange, apple and a bag of sweets, then one of the boys made a speech, thanking Mr. and Mrs. Drew and others for their kindness in entertaining them, and called for three cheers for the Lyceum. We ended the evening with a Social and Dance for the Lyceum and friends.—W. E. Turner, Sec.

LONDON, Manor Park.—On Saturday, January 13th, we held our Annual Tea and Prize Distribution, and despite the date the affair was a great success. The Lyceum had tea, and then, whilst the officers and helpers had tea, played games. During the evening a number of friends from the Church joined us and the assembly numbered about 80. Then followed a most enjoyable concert, given by the Lyceumists. During the interval, the prizes for attendance were presented by the Church President, Mr. Brooks; also two special prizes to the Misses D. Foy and E. Trinder, for marks awarded for individual efforts on open sessions, and a number of prizes given by Mr. Brooks for the best essays during 1922. After the concert refreshments were handed round, and then, as it was late, we all had to depart, sorry that such a pleasant evening had ended.—W. P. George.

LONDON, Peckham.—Mr. C. J. Williams, named the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Orłowski. The child received the names of Edwin John and the spirit name 'Harmony.' A beautiful ceremony and a most enjoyable session.—B. M. Bell, Sec.

LONDON, Plaistow.—We held our Annual Entertainment and Prize Distribution on January 13th. Everyone enjoyed themselves. This expresses thanks to those who provided all the good things.—R. Manning, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham.—On December 18th we entertained 60 poor children to a Christmas Treat. They sat down to a splendid tea, and each child on leaving was given a suitable present, a mince pie and orange.

On January 8th we had our Annual New Year's Party, including a tea in the afternoon. There were bran tubs, &c. Everyone had a happy time.—Ethel Long.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The Lyceum gave a Service of Song, entitled "An Angel in disguise." The connective readings were ably rendered by Miss Clara Lofthouse. Solos and quartettes by the following scholars:—Madge Abbott, Miss V. Banson, Mrs. Dickinson, Miss Duffield, Miss E. Banson, Miss Drew, Mr. Smith and Mr. A. Edwards. The service was given for the benefit of our Society. Thanks are due to our Musical Conductor, Miss V. Banson.—A. Drew, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Moss Side, Raby Street.—January 5th we held our Annual Party, which proved a huge success. 200 sat down to tea and 100 came in later for games and dancing. Every member received a present. January 7th, at the election of officers, there was very little change. The Lyceum is progressing finely.—H. Moulson, Sec.

MOSTON.—On December 26th we held our Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mr. A. Collinge; Assistant Conductor, Miss B. Walton; Guardian, Mr. A. Pearce; Treasurer, Mr. J. Shearsmith; Secretary, Miss E. Eden; Marching and Calisthenics Conductor, Miss E. Eden; Assistant, Miss A. Eden; Captain of Guards, Mr. W. Bellinger; Guards, Nellie Parkinson and Nellie Daniels; Musical Director, Mrs. Westerman; Assistants, Miss P. Fletcher and Miss A. Waite; Delegates, Miss E. Eden and Mr. Hall. A vote of thanks was returned to retiring officers.—E. Eden, Sec.

SALFORD, Central.—Tuesday, December 26th, was our Annual Party and Prize Distribution. We had a most enjoyable time. Lyceumists and friends contributed admirably to an excellent programme.—Arthur W. Stansfield, Sec.

MOORTHORPE, South Emsall.—On January 7th we held our Annual Prize Day. The prizes were given to the children by Mrs. Ward, of Castleford, who spoke words of encouragement to them. We had a good congregation and the session was enjoyed by all present.

On January 14th we held our Election of Officers:—Conductors, Miss Davies and Miss E. Eyre; Treasurer, Mr. Roberts; Secretary, Miss I. Dakson; Librarians, Leslie Poxton and Eva Kelly; Marching Conductor, Mr. J. Coleman; Calisthenics Leaders, Lucy Radford and Chris. Roberts; Delegate, Miss I. Dawson.—Miss I. Dawson, Sec.

NANTYMOEL.—On December 31st the Annual General Meeting was held and the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. B. Redwood; Assistant, Miss G. Horgan; Secretary, Mr. W. Redwood, assisted by Miss G. Horgan; Group Leaders, Mr. E. Pugh, Mr. T. Evans, Mr. A. Redwood, Miss G. Horgan and Mrs. T. Evans. Auditors' report satisfactory. Many expressed the desire to "open out" the Lyceum movement in Nantymoel and Ogmore Valley; this in itself augurs well for the prosperity of our Lyceum in the ensuing year. It was also decided to commence a Children's Welfare Fund, to provide means for the Annual Outing and anything that is necessary for the children's welfare. During Christmas week we held our Annual Social, with the addition of a Christmas Tree for the children. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. All took part in games and different sideshows, of which special mention must be made to the bran tub, which greatly attracted the children. Thanks to all who assisted the Lyceum last year.—Wm. Redwood, Sec.

NELSON.—On January 7th we held our Open Session, with newly-elected officials in office. Our Conductor, Mrs. Morton, presided. The following rendered items:—Mr. Middlebrook, Mr. S. Stables, Lily Atherton, Annie Calvert, Hilda Sutcliffe, Caroline Parkinson, Gladys Hanson, Ivy Greenwood, Irene Jackson, William Tancock and Luther Horsefield. We have grouped our classes this winter into one massed class, and selected speakers to speak on topics suitable to their natures, and found this to be beneficial indeed; also a primary class, for those under eight years of age. We are hoping yet for greater advancement.—Mrs. Parkinson, Sec.

NEW MANCHESTER.—On Saturday, January 6th, we held our Annual Party. We all had a most enjoyable time and it was quite a pleasure to see so many happy faces. The Lyceum is progressing nicely.—B. Jackson, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Rutherford St.—On Dec. 26th, Boxing Day, we held our Lyceum Treat and Social Evening. After the cloth was cleared a pleasant evening was spent with the children.

On Dec. 31st we distributed 31 prizes to successful scholars. Jan. 7th, Open Session was another successful day with the Lyceum.

We are holding 'Founders' Day' on the 4th Feb., 60 years of Lyceum work. "Scatter seeds and reap."—G. Sample Dawson.

NORMANTON, Queen St.—December 27th we gave the Children a Treat in the form of a Xmas Tree. Father Christmas came and presented each child with a toy, also a bag of sweets and an orange, after which we indulged in games, etc., and everybody had a most enjoyable time.

Sunday, Dec. 31st we held our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Sunday, Jan. 7th, the Lyceum rendered a Service of Song entitled "Ministering Spirits," which was ably read by our President, Mr. J. Rothery.—E. Calcutt, Sec.

READING.—During the last two months we have been real busy. Bazaar held Dec. 13th & 14th, realised £70. Children's Xmas Tree, a great success, over 100 presents given. Scouts and Cubs New Year Parties were a "real scream." Our Lyceum is now busily engaged in preparing for Education Examination.—C. R. Churn, Sec.

ROCHDALE, Penn St.—We held our usual Open Session on Jan. 7th. Good attendance and a full Lyceum. Readings, responses and singing very good. Marching and calisthenics also very good. Our Lyceum progresses favourably. Leaders and Lyceumists all taking keen interest in the lessons and in their duties; all striving for improvement in Church and Lyceum.—E. E. Wright, Sec.

SALE.—We held our Annual Party on Saturday, Jan. 6th. It proved a great success and was thoroughly appreciated by all.

On Sunday, Jan. 7th, we had our election of Officers, and the following officers were elected: Conductor, Mrs. Baker; Assist. Conductor, Mr. J. Donber; Secretary, Mr. D. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. Atkinson; Musical Director, Florence Lunn; Marching Con., Miss Hilda Shaw; Sick Visitor, Mrs. Baker; Absentee Visitors, Mr. Atkinson and Miss Bessie Milner; Guard, Evan Holmes; Guardian, Miss Bessie Milner; Teachers: Mrs. Atkinson, Miss Bessie Milner, Mr. Donber and Mr. Jones; Caterer, Mrs. Atkinson; Delegates, Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Jones; Librarian, Miss F. Fleet; Auditors, Miss B. Milner and Mr. Donber. A vote of thanks was given to all the retiring officers.—D. Jones, Sec.

SOUTH MANCHESTER.—We held our Annual New Year Party and Festival on Jan. 1st, the actual number sitting down to tea being 162. After enjoying a very good repast, thanks to our Caterer, Miss L. Eastwood, the party enjoyed themselves immensely with games, etc., and as the day passed on, the time for Father Christmas drew near. He gave to each child a present from a very heavily laden Xmas Tree, also, a photograph of himself and best wishes.

The part of Father Xmas was taken by our old Pioneer, Mr. J. Knight. The day was brought to a close by the Elders, who, after enjoying themselves with the children, had a few dances. I am sure that none present will forget such a successful time.

On Sunday, Jan. 14th, we had the pleasing ceremony of the naming of the son of two of our Lyceumists, Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Ely. The little one was given the name of John Henry Ely, spirit name Excelsior. Mrs. Hope conducted the ceremony in a very able manner, and presented the child, with the Lyceum Badge at the close.—Albert Hope, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—Jan. 1. We commenced the New Year with Children's Treat and a good time together.

Jan. 9th, Open Session was held. Mr. P. Ballard conducted, Miss M. Salmon and Mr. W. Goodhall assisted. Recitations, pearls and solos including musical items were given. The marching and calisthenics were ably conducted by Miss E. Stanford. We welcome 1923 with confidence and extend best wishes to all fellow Lyceumists.

Jan. 11th, we had our committee when Mr. C. H. Saxelby our retiring secretary gave balance sheet for year 1922, which was very encouraging to hear read. A hearty vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Saxelby for past services.—J. F. Smith, Sec.

SHEFFIELD CENTRE, Trades Hall.—Jan. 14th, we held our Election of Officers: Conductor, Mr. Hopkins, Assistant, Mr. Garforth; Secretary, Mrs. Organ; Assistant, T. Emmerson; Treasurer, Mrs. Gregory; Guardian, Mr. Emmerson; Musical Conductor, Miss E. Whitfield; Marching Conductor, Mr. Foster; Captain of Guards, Caroline Hopkins; Guards: Grace Garfitt, Alfred Hopkins, Eric Organ and Vera Brownhill.; Librarian, Mr. Gregory.—Mrs. H. C. Organ, Sec.

SCARBOROUGH.—List of Officers of the Scarborough Lyceum for 1923: Conductor, Mr. T. Williams; Asst. Con., Miss Annie Firth; Delegate, Mr. J. A. Laycock; Treasurer, Miss

Lawrence; Secretary, Mr. H. Middleton; Musical Con., Miss Stephenson; Asst. Mus. Con., Mrs. Mutch; Marching & Calisthenics Con., Mr. J. A. Laycock; Guardians, Miss Lawrence and Miss Mayne; Capt. of Guards, Mrs. G. Stephenson.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Brunswick St.—Jan. 7th we held our Open Session. Invocation by Mrs. Williams. S.C. and M.R. will read. Questions on G.C. were favourably given by Lyceumists. Marching and Calisthenics were moderate; pearls and recitations by children were plentiful.

Friday, Jan. 5th, we held our Xmas Party for Lyceumists after a good Tea. Mr. R. Brown officiated as Father Christmas giving all the Lyceumists presents from a very nice tree. The lights were turned down and Church illuminated with lanterns. He received a splendid welcome on his arrival. Afterwards we had games and dancing. We thought it the best Xmas Party we have ever had. We give our Lyceumists a social free every 1st Friday in the month.—G. Tuck, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Lord St.—The adult Lyceumists held their annual New Year's party, along with the Church members, on Jan. 6th. A good tea was catered for by the ladies. The evening was spent in a jovial and musical manner.

On Jan. 7th, the Lyceum annual meeting took place. A full complement of officers was elected. In the afternoon, an Open Session was well attended, conducted by the retiring Conductor, Mrs. Edwards. Our Lyceumists have been very busy during the past few months, working to raise funds towards the expenses of the Management Committee's visit to our town, on Jan 13th and 14th, which proved highly successful.—Edith Joules, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—This Lyceum is at present very busy arranging and holding Surprise Suppers, Social Evenings and Entertainments in great variety. The children's concert was held on the 27th January.

On the third Sunday in December another Naming took place. This was the child of Mr. & Mrs. W. Ackroyd and was named Gordon. Mrs. J. Greenwood, J.P., officiated and carried out the ceremony in a notable manner.

On Jan. 14th the distribution of prizes took place. These were presented by Mr. Smithson of Leeds, who gave each child a word or two of encouragement and recorded a few interesting reminiscences of his youth and also his connection with Sowerby Bridge.—John Teal, Sec.

TUNSTALL.—We held our Open Session on January 8th, 1923. Invocation by Mr. A. Whyman, President, Assistant Conductor; Mr. Wedgwood; greetings by Millicent Wright and Lily Ellerton. Recitations by Cecily Dean, Dorothy Ellerton and Jack Kearns, Solos by Elsie Edwards, Hilda Barber, Gladys Wright and Bartholomew Kearns. The whole session was very enjoyable and uplifting.—F. J. Wright, Sec.

WEST MELTON.—Open Session Jan. 6th. We sang "Hearts Flowers," Invocation by T. Paskell. Silver Chain "Things that never Die," recitation by Mrs. Trigger, Miss Staley. Girls: M. Jackson, J. and H. Kennings, N. Hallworth, W. & N. Rawlinsons, E. & C. Rawsons, M. Walton, and May Staley. Boys: T. Paskell, T. Turner. Mr. Lee and Lily Staley conducted marching and calisthenics. Conductor, Mr. Lee.—Harry Trigger, Sec.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—On Sunday, Dec. 24th, The Children took the Church Service giving a Service of Song entitled "Worcester Chimes." The following children took part: A. Williams, S. Pitt, C. Pitt, B. Burnup and V. Ainsley, with a duet from M. Jones and M. Mordaunt. Solos from A. Pitt, A. Mordaunt, N. Elwin, A. Williams and Miss Earl. A quartette from F. Williams, Miss Ackworth, Miss Earl, Mrs. Wilson and J. Robbie, the readers for the night were Miss Pitt and Mrs. Cranson.—J. Robbie, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Canada.—On January 7th, we held our Open Session which was well attended there being about 45 present. The marching and calisthenics were done very well, there being only 4 remaining seated. Mr. Wakeman, the Church Organist, played for both marching and calisthenics in a most efficient manner much to the delight of all present. We had pearls and recitations from the following: Ella Crawley, Edna, Winnie and Harold Brown, Irene Kolb, Sylvia Parkinson, Teresa Purs-glove, Olive Forrest, Leighton Rogers, Walter Chadwick, Charles Forrest and Frank Rogers, Winnie and Edna Brown rendered a duet, "Open the Door for the Children." Winnie has such a strong voice that it is very hard to hear Edna, so Edna will have to sing a little louder next time. Irene Kolb gave a pianoforte solo which was a pleasure to listen to. Mr. Brown, the Conductor, then gave a short talk about the New Year which concluded a very interesting Session.—Louis W. Brown, Sec.