

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 385. Vol. XXXIII.

MARCH, 1923.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

DEDICATION.

As one who walking in the twilight gloom,
Hears round about him voices as it darkens,
And seeing not the forms from which they come,
Pauses from time to time, and turns and hearkens:

So walking here in twilight, O my friends!
I hear your voices, softened by the distance,
And pause, and turn to listen, as each sends
His words of friendship, comfort, and assistance.

If any thought of mine, or sung, or told,
Has ever given delight or consolation,
Ye have repaid me back a thousand-fold,
By every friendly sign and salutation.

Thanks for the sympathies that ye have shown,
Thanks for each kindly word, each silent token,
That teaches me, when seeming most alone,
Friends are around us, though no word be spoken.

Kind messages, that pass from land to land:
Kind letters that betray the heart's deep history,
In which we feel the pressure of a hand,—
One touch of fire, and all the rest is mystery!

The pleasant books that silently among
Our household treasures takes familiar places
And are to us as if a living tongue
Spake from the printed leaves or pictured faces!

Perhaps on earth I never shall behold,
With eye of sense your outward form and semblance
Therefore to me you never will grow old,
But live for ever young in my remembrance.

Never grow old, nor change, nor pass away!
Your gentle voices will flow on for ever,
When life grows bare, and tarnished with decay,
As through a leafless landscape flows a river.

Not chance of birth or place has made us friends,
Being oftentimes of different tongues and nations,
But the endeavour for the selfsame ends,
With the same hopes, and fears, and aspirations.

Therefore I hope to join your sea-side walk,
Saddened, and most silent, with emotion;
Nor interrupting with intrusive talk
The grand, majestic symphonies of ocean.

Therefore I hope, as no unwelcome guest,
At your warm fireside, when the lamps are lighted,
To have my place reserved among the rest,
Nor stand as one unsought or uninvited.

H.W.L.

Mediumship and Circles.

THE PASSPORT TO SPIRIT COMMUNION.

By MRS. M. E. PICKLES.

(Continued from page 19).

It is far from my thoughts that these articles will be of interest to many, but experience has taught me over and over again that they will be of service to the uninitiated. Our very motto of "progress" attracts continually new adherents to Spiritualism, and I know they constantly call out for some means of guidance. This month we commence our circle sitting round a table. The old fashioned three-legged table is the best, but of course you have to make the best of what you possess. Place the palms of the hands on its surface, and when you have been sitting a bit, you will feel a cold wind sweeping over, and whenever you feel this, rest assured the spirit people are at work. I think this is

the best course to pursue, because eventually when a code of communication is set up you will be able to receive your instructions, how to still further proceed. Sing lively hymns and songs, never doleful ones, unless specially instructed to do so.

Raps, or table tilting, will come when they are insistent; appoint someone to be spokesman. We must now bear in mind we are dealing with an intelligence, and must not ask frivolous questions.

The spokesman will say, "To establish an intelligible code of communication, I want you to rap once for 'No,' twice for 'Doubtful,' and three times for 'Yes.'"

Three raps come, then the spokesman asks, "If I repeat the alphabet will you rap at the letter you want for your message." Then you proceed on those lines. It is well to have someone to write down, to keep a record of these early days, for you may be compiling knowledge that will eventually be of great service to you.

Do not be alarmed if a feeling comes over you to withdraw your hands from the table, for many sensitives have never been able to sit at a table at all.

It is proving that the adaptation of such a negative is not suitable to your especial power of mediumship. You may be a clairvoyant, a clairaudient, or have some other form which is very little allied to physical phenomena.

There are frequent mistakes made here, which often lead the student into confusion and chaos and nothing tangible is really achieved. One of the mistakes is attempting to develop all the sitters at one and the same time.

If there is more than one sitter showing signs, let all transplant power and sympathy to the one who shows correct symptoms for a certain length of time, then all must be agreed that the same is given to the next, and so on, but by no means attempt to focus on all. For if you do, you divide the force, thus weakening it, until it is of very little service to the student.

I have often thought that this has been one of the greatest mistakes in the past, for we are not producing or developing mediums as quick as the demand. I speak of genuine mediums. A word of caution here. When I found that I was on the proper path, I withdrew from all public circles, I gave up taking part in many functions, to get sure of myself. It was hard at first, and sometimes my denial caused offence to others, and a little personal heartaching, but I have never regretted that one firm step.

Young men have taken the chair for me, who have gone under control, an incident which would never happen if they had had the opportunity of development on scientific lines. "Man know thyself" is very applicable here.

Generally, at the commencement, the medium constantly passes through all kinds of tests. These sometimes are very painful, but as long as the circle is properly organised and established there is no cause for alarm. But there is a plasticity, which many from the other side may avail themselves of, often to the detriment of the medium. It is necessary to instruct yourselves, imbibe all education possible regarding these psychic laws, and it will certainly help in the unfoldment of the faculties. One word more before I close this time. Do not take all for granted that is rapped out on the table, nor on the other hand do not unduly criticise, but sit with open and unbiassed minds. Try the spirits and be sure that sooner or later you will have paved the way for still higher intelligences to manifest. Think of Tennyson's lines:—

How pure in heart and sound in head
With what divine affections bold
Should be the man whose thoughts would hold
An hour's communion with the dead.

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.

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.

QUESTIONS SET AT THE EXAMINATIONS.

This month is given the complete set of questions, for each of the Grades I to V; and for the Oral Grade. Will candidates, tutors, leaders and conductors please take care of this issue, as it will be useful for future reference, and helpful in the studies for next year's examination.

ORAL GRADE QUESTIONS.

- Each child had to recite *either* S.C.R. No 15, or S.C.R. No. 100 (20 marks).
- Each child was required to say the Principles of Spiritualism, as given on page 21 of the Primer (20 marks.)
- Repetition of the answer to Question 1 (P. 11 Primer) (10 marks)
- “ ” ” ” ” ” 5 ” 11 ” 10 ”
- “ ” ” ” ” ” ” 23 ” 18 ” 10 ”
- “ ” ” ” ” ” ” 24 ” 18 ” 10 ”
- “ ” ” ” ” ” ” 32 ” 21 ” 10 ”
- “ ” ” ” ” ” ” 34 ” 22 ” 10 ”

(The questions were asked by the Supervisor, and marks allowed for the answer according to whether it was given correctly, readily, hesitatingly, partly, etc.)

GRADE I. QUESTIONS.

(Answer questions 1 and 2, and only section (a) or (b) of the others. 20 marks for each of the five answers).

- G.C.R. 108—How does the Lyceum training develop us, both in mind and body?
- Name the Principles of Modern Spiritualism, and explain one.
- Explain ONE of the following verses:
 - “Le us love while we live; and our memory will rise
Like a halo of light from the grave,
As the day from the deep lends a glow to the eyes
That are guarding the gloom of the wave.
There's a life of the soul that is better by far
Than the glitter of glory or gold;
It may fade in the noon, but will shine like a star
When the proud world is darkness and cold.”
(M.R. 208.)
 - “Nor change with to-morrow,
Should fortune take wing;
But, the deeper the sorrow,
The closer still cling.
Oh, be kind to each other!
The night's coming on,
When friend and when brother
Perchance may be gone. (M.R. 211.)
- EITHER (a) Give an account of the meetings held at the Corinthian Hall, Rochester, by the Fox Sisters,
OR
(b) Describe A. J. Davis's experiences as a medium. (DO NOT give any other particulars of his life.)
- EITHER (a) Say what you can about Mrs. Tamlin, Rev. S. B. Britain and Judge Edmunds,
OR
(b) Give your idea of the lesson taught by S.C.R. 66.—“The Angel Guest.”

GRADE II. QUESTIONS.

(Answer questions 1 and 2, and only section (a) or (b) of the others. 20 marks for each of the five answers.)

QUESTIONS.

- “The Aim of Spiritualism: a Reform”—How may we apply this aim to our country, with regard to POLITICS and PATRIOTISM?
- M.R. 203. “Along the shores of this river are false lights which will tempt thee to approach their alluring rays.”—Explain this.
- Answer EITHER:
 - G.C.R. 136.—What good has Spiritualism done for humanity, and what is there in it to fear?
OR
 - G.C.R. 148.—Why are Lyceums necessary, and what

is the chief object of their instruction or teaching?

(Answer in your own words, or quote from the MANUAL.)

- (a) Explain—“All spiritual life and manifestations are natural,”

OR

- Name the Principles of Spiritualism, and explain “Personal Responsibility, with Compensation and Retribution hereafter for all good or evil deeds done here.”

- (a) S.C.R. 4, ver. 4.—Explain.
“Do not, then, stand idly waiting
For some greater work to do;
Fortune is a lazy goddess:
She will never come to you.
Go and toil in any vineyard,
Do not fear to do or dare—
If you want a field of labour
You can find it anywhere.”

OR

- S.C.R. 78.—Explain:
 - “‘Tis Heaven's way to teach you”;
 - “The mental with right symbols, and high purpose, it makes strong.”
 - “Black and white, and wrong and right, in wild confusion meet.”

GRADE III. QUESTIONS.

(Answer questions 1 and 2, and only section (a) or (b) of the others. 20 marks for each of the five answers).

QUESTIONS.

- How would you explain to an inquirer
 - Inspiration;
 - Clairvoyance?
- S.C.R. 93, ver. 3.
“Not high-sounding words of praise
Does God want 'neath some grand dome;
But that thou the fallen raise:
Bring the poor from life's highways
To thy home.”
Write a Connective Reading of about 100 words to follow this verse.
- Write a Summary of the teachings of EITHER
 - G.C.R. 138—“Death and the After-Life,”
OR
 - M.R. 223—“Ministering Angels.”
- EITHER
 - Say what you know of Harry A. Kersey and Alfred Kitson
OR
 - Discuss the quotations—“Christianity is based on alleged Divine revelations” and “Spiritualism is based upon the facts of Nature.”
- EITHER
 - S.C.R. 1—“Whatever is, is right.” Do you agree with this—give your opinion for or against, WITH REASONS,
OR
 - S.C.R. 51—Explain
“Better stony truths unfearing
Than a lie with smooth veneering;
Richer honour's empty purse
Than a pilfered universe.”

GRADE IV. QUESTIONS.

(All the questions must be attempted. THE LYCEUM MANUAL may be used.)

- Your Conductor has asked you to conduct the Lyceum next Sunday, and to prepare the Session programme. (a) What hymns and readings, etc., would you select from the MANUAL? (b) State briefly the connective teaching running through the selected pieces. (20 marks.)
- (a) Write out the Invocation you would use; and (b) write out the Benediction (10 marks.)
- You are invited to attend a Lyceum and give a 10 minutes' address on the S.C.R. 66. Write down a copy of your notes for this address. (15 marks.)
- Explain G.C.R. 148 as you would to a Group, ages 12 to 15. (15 marks.)
- If asked to lead a Liberty Group which was considering M.R. 208 what points would bring you to the notice of the Lyceumists? (10 marks.)
- (a) What absolute rule should be held in discussing any subject brought before the Lyceum? (b) Why? (10 marks.)

7. Discuss (a) Lesson difficulties in early days of the Lyceum Movement, and how these were overcome; (b) The LYCEUM MANUAL,—how it came to be published. (20 marks.)

GRADE V. QUESTIONS.

(Answer questions 1 and 2, and only two of the others. 25 marks are allowed for each answer—possible total 100.)

(These questions are based on the text of No. 3. Handbook—but candidates are not confined to the Handbook for their answers.)

1. "In physical phenomena we have an example of a force at work outside the body of the medium . . . The student should bear in mind that it does not follow that the medium provides all this force." Discuss these statements, giving arguments derived from personal study or investigation. (page 6.)
2. How would you explain to a puzzled enquirer the fact that a Control may be able to give information about impersonal matters, but yet "fail to give evidential information as to his personality"? (NOTE.—There are many reasons, and at least three must be given.) (Page 14.)
3. How can the necessity for a Law of Personal Responsibility be logically deduced from a belief in Eternal Progression? (Show the successive steps in your reasoning.) (Page 22.)
4. Discuss the following statement—"The influence of Spiritualism upon Science, upon Philosophy and upon Religion has been of an ennobling, amplifying and uplifting character." (Page 33.)
5. How would you meet the usual arguments against Spiritualism put forward by Agnostics? (Pages 38—41.)

CORRECTED LIST OF ENTRIES.

Since giving the list last month, there have been additions, withdrawals, and transfers. The correct list is now—

Oral.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	Total.	Lyceums
111	779	348	187	41	16	1482	116

NEXT MONTH.

In next month's *Education Page* will be given—

- (i) Lists of numbers per grade having taken the examinations.
- (ii) The marking scheme (classes and their percentages).
- (iii) List of the Examiners per Grade.
- (iv) Answers to enquirers.

THE SINGERS.

God sent his singers upon earth,
With songs of sadness and of mirth
That they might touch the hearts of men
And bring them back to heaven again.

The first, a youth, with soul of fire,
Held in his hand a golden lyre:
Through groves he wandered and by streams,
Playing the music of our dreams.

The second, with a bearded face,
Stood singing in the market place,
And stirred with accents deep and loud
The hearts of all the listening crowd.

A grey old man, the third and last,
Sang in cathedrals dim and vast,
While the majestic organ rolled
Contrition from its mouths of gold.

And those who heard the singers three
Disputed which the best might be:
For still their music seemed to start
Discordant echoes in each heart.

But the great Master said "I see
No best in kind, but in degree:
I gave a various gift to each,
To charm, to strengthen and to teach.

These are the three great chords of might,
And he, whose ear is tuned aright
Will hear no discord in the three,
But the most perfect harmony."

H.W.L.

Conjuring and no Conjuring.

THINGS TO DO AT HOME.

BY THE WONDERMAN.

1. Holding water with air and paper.

Fill a tumbler full of water, place a piece of writing paper over and press lightly on to the brim. Invert, that is, turn the flask upside down. The paper does not drop off. This is because air is pressing upwards.

Turn the flask so that the paper is vertical or straight up. The paper does not drop off. This is because air is pressing sideways against the paper.

2. Filling a tumbler more than full.

Take a dry tumbler and pour water in. You can pour water in so that the surface is higher than the rim of the glass. This is because a sort of surface skin prevents the water overflowing.

Now fill a tumbler with water and carefully drop a few coins in. The water does not overflow.

Float a needle on the surface and manoeuvre it with a magnet.

3. Seeing wrong and seeing right.

Fill a tumbler about a third full of water. You may colour the water with red or blue ink to observe more easily. Hold a ruler behind the tumbler in a horizontal position. Compare the surface of the water with the edge of the ruler and you will see the surface is level.

Hold the tumbler in a slanting position. The surface of the water now seems to be sloping. Hold the ruler behind the tumbler in a horizontal position and you will see the surface is level as before. Water never stands in a heap.

4. Changing without touching.

Notice that water has no smell. Place a saucer of water in a cupboard near some paint. After a time the water smells like paint. The water has soaked up or absorbed the particles of substance which have passed off the paint.

5. Making things disappear and re-appear.

Pour some salt into a tin of water. The salt disappears. It breaks up into tiny particles or dissolves. To get the salt back, boil the water until it all turns into steam or evaporates. The salt is left.

6. Filling up holes in water.

Pour water into a tumbler. Put a piece of stamp paper on the outside to show the height of the water. Put salt in the tumbler. Notice that the water does not rise in the glass. This is because water is full of little holes which absorb the salt. If you continue pouring salt in, there will come a time when no more will dissolve because the little holes are filled.

7. Changing things.

Hold a cold slate against the steam from the kettle. Notice that drops of water roll down the slate. This is because cold condenses steam or changes it into water.

8. Changing the colour of flowers.

Place a narcissus or any other light coloured flower in a glass containing water coloured with red ink. The veins in the flower-leaves or petals become pink or red. This shows there is a small current of water passing up the stem to the flower.

9. Conjuring with paper.

Take a long strip of paper and join the ends together like a hoop with stamp paper or paste. Cut round the circumference with scissors. That makes two hoops and is simple enough. Yes, but this time you can make one big hoop without joining again.

Take the strip of paper and make one twist in it before you join the ends. Cut round as before and you have made one big hoop with two twists in it.

Cut this again, as before, and you have made [two rings, one through the other.

FORGIVENESS.

In the journey of life, all wishing to find,

In your families happiness beam.

Be gentle, forbearing, industrious, and kind,

That forgiveness be ever your theme.

Should you be deceived by a friend you have loved,

As in peace you hereafter would live

Let your heart by a thirst for revenge be unmoved,

Just forget if you can, and forgive.



MY DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

I noticed the Editor said in last month's "Banner," he had been searching for me for three years. I never knew before how well I could play Hide and Seek; and I am sure I should not have been caught yet if another gentleman had not given me away. I think he was a tell-tale, trying to catch a tale-teller, but now I am caught, it's my turn to seek and what I am seeking for is the best in all of you; and I have already found some by your letters. Last month I answered all, but in future I shall only be able to answer those which have a stamped addressed envelope enclosed; and if I get too many, Auntie Ruth will help me, so keep on writing. Now before I go on with my story for this month I must just express my appreciation to the many adult workers for their kind thoughts.

Last month was really a little girl's story, so now for the boys. Lessons from a box of tricks, or the lesson of the three B's.

BUILDERS, BUILDING, BUILDINGS.

In order that we can assist the crying need for more houses, which you hear Mamma and Dadda talk so much about, we must get on with some building. Now every builder has to have a plan, and the first builder I am going to watch is Master Quick. Why! he has got his house finished before anyone else has started, Ah! but I heard him say something to Mamma: there is a secret evidently. "Do not shake the table Mamma please, or my house will fall over." That does not sound very nice, but we must not find fault unless we can do better ourselves.

The next one is Master Too-Sure. He sounds clever by his talk, he starts well, but when he comes to the roof, he finds he has not enough bricks left, he has not followed the plan correctly, but here is Master Well-done, he spends quite a long time studying the plan before he starts, but when he has finished he has built a beautiful house; and has some bricks to spare, and you can shake the table too if you like. Good—top marks.

This is the lesson, your little lives are the buildings: you are the builders building, and the plans are the good instructions received in your home from Mamma and Dadda or from the Lyceum.

Master Quick is one of those little boys who is always getting into trouble, because he will not take any notice of what he is told. Of course I know Master Quick is not you, but you tell him what I say when you see him.

Master Too-sure is a little boy who goes off to school full of good intentions to be good all day, but somehow or the other, the school Master's cane comes to meet his hand in the afternoon; he did not listen to quite all he was told, and therefore he was unable to finish what he started well. What! you never have the cane? Well then, it cannot be you.

Master Well-done started well and finished well because he just followed the plan of being Obedient, kind, thoughtful and loving. What a beautiful building his life will be when he grows up, but he will not be perfect. No, Uncle Bert does not expect to find those sort of boys and girls yet: in fact I would not give you two-pence for a cartload of them, I mean by that, that I want each one of you to be as good as ever you can, but if you did not sometimes climb an apple tree, and tear your knickers you would not be a boy, and if you did not sometimes come home with a torn pinafore you would not be a girl; you would be too good for me, but I think I have said enough or I shall be getting all sorts of warning letters from your Mamas and Daddas this month, and I am frightened. But just remember when you build with your box of bricks, you are also little builders of character in your little lives. Now for the older boys and girls; before you get my next letter Easter will have started and Easter brings us a lesson on Sacrifice, in the death of Jesus, who was one of our greatest teachers and leaders and He was crucified because he was prepared to preach the truth, as revealed to him, at all costs. And he is my great example in love towards little children. I do not expect, boys and girls, that you and I will ever be called upon to pay such a sacrifice for proclaiming our Lyceum teachings. (Read "The Pioneers

of Freedom," 146 LYCEUM MANUAL). BUT we shall be called upon to make many sacrifices as we go through life. Let us look at one or two.

PLEASURE.—It's Saturday afternoon, you have a Special Football or Netball match on, but Mother is called away from home, and you have to stay at home to mind the little ones. What is the colour of the grate: is it the same colour as your face?

TIME.—You are reading an interesting book; only two more chapters to finish. Dad says, "Get the tea ready for your Mother." Do you still keep smiling?

MONEY.—You have saved enough to buy something, you have set your mind upon it on the way to the shop. You pass a blind man and if you give him a penny, you may have to wait a little while for what you want. Do you do it willingly, I wonder?

These are only just small everyday sacrifices you are asked to make, but, as I once heard a Lyceum Conductor make use of the words "You have still got your life," so just think about them as much as you think about eating Hot Cross buns on Good Friday.

COMPETITIONS.

Last month, I said these were up my sleeve. Now, like the conjuror, they have come down, and by a private competition fund I have received £1 6s. 0d.

To start with, prizes will have to be few and small, but we will make a start and I shall give two prizes this month, one boys' and one girls', for the best Essay on

"WHY I LIKE THE LYCEUM."

These will be judged by independent judges whose decision will be final, and the essays will be my property, and it is on this last point that I want to say a word.

Now everyone will not be able to win a prize, but no effort will be lost because I intend to use your essays for the purpose of lecturing to Adults about the need for Lyceum Education, etc. So perhaps some thoughts from your essay may be the means of getting some of our Churches who have not yet got a Lyceum to start one, and in all such lectures you will be given the credit. So do not be discouraged if you are not fortunate to win a prize.

COMPETITION RULES.

1. Name in full, address, Lyceum Conductor's Name and Address. Write replies on one side of paper only, leaving one inch blank margin on the left hand side.
2. Competitors must be regular attendants at Lyceum, not over 14 years of age, and each reply must be your own individual work.
3. Address to Uncle Bert, 2, Villiers Road, Osterley, Middlesex, not later than the 10th inst.
(Prizes will be sent to your Lyceum Conductor.)

One little girl age nine, wrote me and said: "My funny story was very catching, but it did not catch her," so here's another.

Freddie, seeing a gentleman slip on a piece of orange peel, rushed up to him, and said, "Please do that again, it did make Auntie laugh."

I hope you do not do this sort of thing.

The best pearl I have received this month is

"Of my base metal may be forged a key that shall unlock the door."—Francis Sanderson, Leicester.

New Babies in London.

We have to welcome two new babies this month, Princess Mary's dear little boy, and Battersea has a baby Lyceum. I think it's a dear little girl, "Muriel." Good luck to both.

Now I am awaiting the welcome sound of the postman's knock. Do not forget to put the name of your Lyceum on your letters, and your age.

"Keep your peckers up."

With Love, yours,

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middlesex.

UNCLE BERT.

The Lyceumists abroad and in the Colonies are keeping up the interest in many lands. Where no Lyceums can be formed the touch is not lost with the British Isles. Mr. J. J. Goodwin sends along a letter full of Lyceum memories from Tasmania. To fill a gap and in response to a desire, a *Songster* is on its way thereto.

Scottish Notes.

My Dear Fellow Lyceumists,

Have you ever seen a ship, or a picture of one, and thought how wonderful it was. Such a weight, size, and what powerful engines to send them on their way. Also how they can sail from this island of ours to places thousands of miles away. They can do this with safety, because they have a small, but very important part of the ship, called a rudder, and it is this which enables them to steer clear of all dangers, and guide them to where they want to go.

We sometimes read of a ship losing its rudder, and being dashed on the rocks to become a wreck. So you see, though they are large and powerful, they soon come to grief without something to guide them.

Did you ever think how like ships human beings are? How that many boys and girls grow to manhood and womanhood powerful, and perfect, and yet they are often dashed on the rocks of crime and evil living, and soon become broken wrecks, bringing misery to themselves and grief to those who love them. This is because they have no moral or spiritual rudder to guide them.

If we want something that will steer us clear of all dangers and temptation, we have it in our Lyceum teachings, and especially in its grand motto, to do right because it is right and shun evil because it is evil.

Then let us take them to heart and practice them in our lives and they will be the rudder that shall guide us as we sail upon life's sea and will steer us safely into the harbour on the shores of the Summerland.

MR. A. NEWTON.

"Why not cast a gleam of sunshine over Life's rough road to-day?

Why not brighten up the shady spots we find along the way?
Just a little smile will do it; or a kindly word to show,
We appreciate the efforts of our fellow beings so
That we wish to let them know if by a friendly glance or nod,
Which shall surely help them upward on their pilgrimage to God.

"Just a willing hand to strengthen, and a pleasant smile to cheer,

Just a loving word of comfort to the heart o'ercome by fear,
Just a little thoughtful kindness shown to each one we may meet,
Sends the sunshine o'er Life's rugged road and rests the weary feet.

And they're each so easily given that it seems a shame to miss
Such a splendid opportunity to 'help along as this.'"

ABERDEEN.

GLASGOW ASSOCIATION LYCEUM.

On Saturday, 3rd February, our Parent Association took another step towards the fulfilment of their aim by the cutting of the first sod of our new Church, when Augusta Stewart, one of our Lyceumists, handed the spade to Mrs. Lang, who was to perform the ceremony, and repeated a few lines specially written by one of our members for the occasion.

On Sunday, 4th February, we held our Annual Election of Officers, when the following were elected: Conductor, Miss McIntosh; Assistants, Mrs. Fleck, Miss McQuisten, Mr. J. Shaw, Mr. Jas. Stewart; Guardian of Groups, Miss Cleland; Secretary, Miss N. Moore; Treasurer, Mr. H. Anderton; Librarian, Mr. A. Rothead; Capt. of Guards, A. Rennie; Musical Conductor, Mr. Buchan; Social Convener, Miss A. Rainey; Assistants, Mrs. Brown, Misses M. Lardy, G. Fleck, N. Russell; Marching Conductors, Mr. W. Fleck and Miss C. Moore; D.C. Delegates, Miss McIntosh and Mrs. Fleck; Group Leaders, Mr. Shaw, Miss McQuisten. The Guardian was given power to appoint Leaders for the remainder of the Groups. We aim at making our Lyceum a place where trust and friendship abides.

N. MOORE, Sec.

Not long ago a certain titled gentleman in Aberdeenshire was out shooting with a guest. While passing along a country road, the guest saw a beautiful old castle, which had recently been rebuilt. He stood, for a few minutes fascinated at the beauty and simplicity of the building. He then turned to his host and said "What a beautiful building that is, who is the owner of it?" "Oh," replied his host, "he is just a commoner, his father was only a carpenter." "Ah," said the guest, "you must remember that Jesus Christ was only a carpenter."

GEORGE MACDONALD, BON-ACCORD LYCEUM.

Many years ago an old lady lived alone in a small room which was very poorly furnished, but always bright and clean. Everybody who knew "Nancy" (as she was called) loved her because she was always so happy and cheerful and the little children who lived near her home were never so happy as when they were sitting round Nancy's fireside listening to her beautiful stories. Many a little gift did they buy for her, instead of spending their coppers for sweets for themselves. They would buy some little thing for Nancy. And all those little acts of kindness brought joy to her. She was always so thankful for the least little gift they gave her.

One night Nancy had a wonderful dream. She dreamt that she was living in a strange but beautiful country, where everybody seemed to be so happy. And groups of laughing merry children all round her. She had such a lovely little cottage which was full of sunshine and a garden where all sorts of flowers grew. Some of the children, who were dressed in spotless robes of white, came and laid tiny baskets of flowers all round her, as she sat in her garden, while others were singing lovely songs of praise to God. The morning after Nancy had this dream, a neighbour came in with some breakfast for her, and before she would eat anything she told her neighbour about her dream when all at once her eyes fixed on the ceiling, and with a happy smile on her face she said, Suddenly! Suddenly! I was there. And when the neighbour looked at Nancy, she saw at once that she had passed from her humble little room to her home amongst the happy children and flowers in Spiritland.

There were many sad little hearts when the children learned that they had lost their dear old Nancy. The meaning is that Nancy had lived such a Spiritual life, and was always trying to make others happy while on the earth plane, so God has allowed her to get a glimpse of the beautiful home she had built for herself in Spiritland.

JAMES MACDONALD.

DAFFODILS.

I wandered lonely as a cloud,
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretch in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay;
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their hands in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company.
I gazed, but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

R.B.

Notice to contributors of these notes:—

The last day for receiving contributions to the BANNER is always ten days before the first Sunday in each month. Contributors should therefore send their efforts to Mr. Scott at least seven days prior to the last day for reports, as above. A safe guide will be to send to Mr. Scott on or before the 13th of each month.—Ed.

Little Polly Flinders, sitting near the cinders
Reading the BANNER with glee
Her Mother came and caught her
And soon joined her little daughter
So now they're as happy as can be.

Encourage sincerity, for it is the basis of every virtue.
We can pardon infidelity but never forget it.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

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

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MARCH, 1923.

Visions.

We go from our homes full of strange wonderment. An invitation has been given to a few people to attend a circle when we shall see, for the first time, a display of mediumship.

We sing and wait. The lady, who is said to be the medium closes her eyes, the bosom heaves, the shoulders twitch, the head jerks slightly backwards, the face takes a changed expression and finally a voice breaks upon the stillness. We feel an awe as the sound reaches our ears. The lady's voice takes a masculine tone. We remember that it is a "dead" person who is supposed to be using the medium. We believe in immortality, but can this be the means of expression for its proof.

The solemnity and seriousness of what is happening dawns upon us and we listen for some tangible evidence in the spoken words which will convey to us that a spirit is really controlling the body and mind of the medium. Much that is said could be given by any thoughtful person who has not passed the portals of death. Then comes a story of past events which are followed by a prophetic exposition of the future which deals with individuals and also some aspects of general future conditions.

After this opening exposition, a person is dealt with separately. Part of the person's past life, with its varying conditions, associations and friends, is revealed. Then comes the astounding examination of the internal condition of the body of the person under consideration. With closed eyes, the medium, or the spirit controlling the medium, assumes the power of a human X-ray and a growth of ulterior matter is spoken of as forming. The person addressed knows that the organs described are the cause of ill-health. Remedies are suggested to alleviate pain and regain normal health. Finally the description of a "dead" relative is given along with a message. And thus the medium proceeds.

Can life ever be the same? Can religion ever be as bald? And yet the enigma of life and death is more mysterious than ever. Uncanny and awe-inspiring and yet how fascinating. The remedies prescribed are used and normal health ensues.

What moody thoughts of "how" and "why" spring in the mind. Is this faculty called mediumship a development of inner powers, or is it really a "dead" person who uses the medium to convey the message and display these powers?

Founded on these thoughts, Spiritualism brings religion into our lives again, renewed and vitalised by evidential powers.

In the study of the subject and association with its phenomena we finally find the super-intelligence which proceeds through mediumship and definitely proves spirit-communion. And in the search we find latent personal powers coming to the surface to help us in the growth of personality.

Religion, immortality and will become potent forces which are shaping the destiny of man. The first meeting with the medium opens the door to a larger consciousness. Thoughts and things assume a deeper meaning. We live in a world of spirit and desire.

"The spirit-world around this world of sense floats like an atmosphere." Who breathes this air, breaths inspiration from without and feels the truth of its existence. Those who breathe it not, can never feel the same, and thus deride us from their empty minds. They blow upon us like the wind and so we wrap

around us the association of those people who think similar to ourselves. Added to our companions are the spirits from whom the immortal messages are derived.

In the spirit-world we find no caste, class or colour-bar. The only distinction spirits know are degrees of spirituality: larger vision and inspiration being absorbed by those who desire those conditions.

Where human beings open their minds to spiritual verities we find spirit-intercourse is common. The principles taught are Truth, Justice, Fraternal Love, Purity, Beauty, Music, Art, Health, Science, Philosophy and Spirituality (True Religion). These are the objects of the Children's Progressive Lyceums.

Truth may be concrete or abstract. It is often qualified by an adjective. Our concept of Truth depends upon our knowledge of the basic natural and spiritual laws which control the concrete and abstract evidences of things and forces which exist for our control, guidance and operation. Concrete Truth is evidenced by the results of scientific research. Abstract Truth is evidenced by our knowledge of spiritual forces as enumerated above, the highest of which is Love.

We may destroy the creations resulting from the beatitudes of life, but we can never destroy the source from which these things and forces spring. That which we call God is omnipotent and this power belongs to Him. We may thwart the display in our individual lives but we shall eventually vibrate to His law through sin, suffering and the consciousness of the error of our ways by a desire for the conditions of life which are harmonious and peaceful and lead to the rhythm of Love.

That children may grow in these ways of peace and love is the purpose of Lyceums, to prevent error, discord and shame entering their lives. The physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual parts are linked by an intrinsic intuition direct from God to every living being and we must aim to keep children pure and truthful. That is our task.

We obtain evidences of spiritualised individuality from souls who have passed through the transition of death: and also gain the further knowledge that we possess these inherent powers and can express them through living in a material and physical world. As our thoughts are sublimated, reflected changes take place in our lives. Motives cease to have the accumulation of material things as the goal of our ideas. We become artists working on the clay of the mind to foster a love of immortal things. And so we play with the soul of a child, appeal to the divine instinct and find the result in a world of sweetness and joy, moving in a world of sin and misunderstanding, not influenced by its vice, but with an impetus to righteousness and peace. All religious leaders and reformers have toiled amongst the people to bring the dawn of a better world. They had the vision and foresaw the end of their dreams. We must visualise the future and work amongst the unenlightened and never be drawn to their condition or fall as low as those we try to raise. We must put on the armour of God and clothe our thoughts against the vicious tendencies of the domineering pomposity of many people who know and possess the power of leadership. Power is a gift to be used in the interests of those we serve, or our greatness falls away from us like a tattered cloak and leaves us shivering in the thin garments of unpopularity and scorn.

The impulsiveness of children can be drawn into actions of utility. The same hands which have destroyed virtue can build it up again, but the memory remains. It is better to keep virtue and purity than to work for the reform of wrong-doers.

In the virgin soil of new lives we can plant the seeds of love and truth. Many people have found the price of ignorance has been paid by sorrow and regret. In the children's world of imaginations, dreams and visions, life opens out to an ever-unfolding landscape of experiences. A great blessing comes to the parents who can retain the love of their children. Leaders of Groups thrill with joy when they see the sweet smiles of men and women who were once boys and girls under their guidance and care.

What a horrible world we are living in. Starvation, disease and war are rampant. It is all made by mankind. Religions disagree; nations fight each other, and the lords of misrule prevail.

How soon will the rainbow of God's spirit within us all form the bridge from darkness to light, from war to peace, from starvation to plenty, from discord to harmony, from enmity to brotherhood, from ignorance and misery to knowledge and wisdom and from sorrow to joy.

We turn in hope to children. At the least, they shall not suffer as we have suffered. Begone the harlot and the thief and the things that made them so. Begone the things which hitherto could separate mankind. Hail to the time when men shall know and understand; when children in their innocence can ask and

we can answer them. Not "run away and play," but "come into my soul and I'll reveal to you all I know that comes from love and life." The flowers smell sweeter, the sky is more blue and the sweetest things of all are the faces of our friends.

A group of happy children were sat within a woodland grove. The gentle zephyrs blew a sweet cadence o'er the scene. The leader sat upon a little mound. With pensive thoughts she told the story of the world. A man laid on a couch, quiet and still. Expressionless he lay: his soul had wandered far away and then he found the woodland grove. He saw the beams of wonderment that filled the children's smile. They rose, for coming o'er the hill, led by sweet love divine, a band of other children came. They met and talked and marched and played. Their fragrance filled the air.

The man returned to earth and found his body there. He said unto himself: "Why cannot that be everywhere."

The start was made and wafts from shore to shore the joy of life and love. Mortals and immortals join the throng. Filled with His spirit, we slowly move towards God. We started with the medium. There's a poem in that word, full of compassion, tenderness and hope. We finish with the Lyceum. Therein we can behold the dawn of righteousness and joy. That is our vision and our dream.

Letter Box.

Dear Sir,

Will you please allow me to express my hearty approval of the decision of the Scottish District Council of the Lyceum that the Manual's teachings are absolutely opposed to war and that they agreed to this teaching being clearly brought forth in the Lyceum work? There is a note below the report of the meeting in the February number of the BANNER that the B.S.L.U. have never had any doubt as to the interpretation of M.R.215, but it does not give details of the voting when the question was discussed at an Annual Conference.

If the B.S.L.U. do not as a body officially support the teaching that "all war is murder" and that "the brotherhood of man" is incompatible with the sanction to engage in war—that reading has no right to be retained in the Manual and should be struck out. It also applies to this one of the seven principles of Spiritualism. There is enough inconsistent teaching in other communities—do not let us add to it.

War never rights a single wrong without putting worse wrongs in its place. The world has tried thousands of years of war and grows more warlike than ever—notwithstanding that the word peace is so much on the lips of politicians and others.

When angelic messengers heralded the birth of the great Master—called the Prince of Peace—they gave forth the principle—the only principle upon which peace could reign—that is goodwill—"peace amongst men of good pleasure" (R.V.). The Manual inculcates the cultivation of goodwill towards all men. The preparation for war makes the former impossible—or at least contradictory.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD A. BUSH.

NOTE.—The Conference vote was taken during the great war and the thought of having relatives at the front biassed the decision of many Lyceumists. The inferences is now that such a resolution would be carried by an overwhelming majority. Ed.

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.

DEWSBURY.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Joseph Colbeck, late of Hartley Street, Dewsbury, who passed away on 17th February, 1922, aged 57 years. Was interred at Batley Cemetery, February 20th.

Softly I think of the spirit that's gone,

And tenderly think of the past;

Fond memories grow dearer as times travels on,

While love and remembrance last.

From his loving wife.

The Election of Area Representatives

There was a change in the Groupings of the Area adopted at the last B.S.L.U. Conference which will come into operation this year.

In response to a few enquiries the new method of election of Area Representatives is outlined in the following extract from the Bye-Laws and the revised Constitution, which is at present in the course of printing and will be issued in a few weeks.

Lyceums are requested to refer to the Lyceum lists in the January issue or the forthcoming April BANNER. Each Lyceum has an initial letter denoting the Area in which it has been placed.

BYE-LAW 10.

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Sec. 1. For the purpose of electing the Executive Council the Lyceums in the Union shall be divided into the following electoral areas, as defined by the Management Committee:—

- (A) Scotland and Ireland.
- (B) Tyneside and Tees-side.
- (C) Eastern Yorkshire.
- (D) Western Yorkshire.
- (E) Northern Lancashire and Cumberland, &c.
- (F) Southern Lancashire and Cheshire.
- (G) Midlands and Wales.
- (H) Southern England and London.

Each area shall elect one representative to the Executive Council in the following manner:—

Sec. 2. The General Secretary shall, not later than March 7th, send to each Lyceum whose subscription is paid a form for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the Executive Council. No Lyceum may nominate more than one person, and Lyceums nominating must return their forms to the General Secretary, duly completed not later than March 23rd. The General Secretary shall then collate the nominations into their respective areas and, by March 31st, issue to each member within such areas a ballot form, setting forth the names of all properly nominated candidates for their area.

Sec. 3. The names of all the candidates in any area shall be submitted to each Lyceum within the area, at the Lyceum session held on the second Sunday in April in each year, and be voted on by the Lyceumists of voting age then present. The number of votes cast for EACH candidate shall be recorded by the presiding officer and entered on the ballot form, which shall be returned to the General Secretary within seven days duly signed by the Lyceum Secretary and Conductor.

Sec. 4. The votes returned for each candidate shall be counted by the General Secretary and President. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the elected representative and a complete return of votes recorded for representatives shall be published in the official organ for May.

Sec. 5. In the event of the successful candidate for any area being elected to office in the Union at the subsequent Annual Conference, the candidate in the same area receiving the second highest number of votes shall be co-opted to fill the vacancy thus caused in the Management Committee. Should the successful candidate have been returned without opposition, new nomination forms shall be issued in the area concerned and a new election held not later than six weeks after the date of the Conference, or in such time as will allow the new area Representative to take his/her place in the Management Committee for July meeting—whichever may be shortest."

Sec. 6. The election of Officers and Auditor shall be by ballot at the Annual Conference and shall take precedence over all other business at the Sunday morning session.

The Annual Conference will be held at Liverpool. Lyceums can now prepare to consider the attendance of their delegates.

Mrs. Raymond will have charge of the billeting arrangements. Delegates should apply and enclose a stamped addressed envelope if they require accommodation (before May 7th) to Mrs. Raymond, 3, Hick's Road, Seaforth, Liverpool.

UNITED DISTRICTS' COUNCIL.

The United Districts' Council will hold their next meeting on Saturday and Sunday, March 10th and 11th. Business: Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, President's Address, Conference business, Internal Education Schemes, Agendas, time and place of meeting will be circulated by post to the District Council Secretaries.

J. SHUTTLEWORTH, Sec.

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 Road, Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks.)

OUR MEMBERSHIP (on 18th February).

1452 members, representing 133 Lycums.

SUGGESTIONS WANTED.

When the work following the examinations has been completed, we shall announce our annual Guild Competition. This year we should like the Guild members themselves to choose the subjects. Therefore suggestions will be welcome for suitable topics. They should state for what *class* of the Guild (Probationers, Noviates, etc.), and should have relation to (i.) the studies of that class for the next Grade, or (ii.) matters helpful to Lycums or Lyceumists, or (iii.) matters helpful to Our Guild, and (or) its members.

PRIZES OFFERED.

This year we hope to be able to offer prizes to the winners (besides the award of the graded essay badge, worked on the ribbon one). To this end, please send along suggestions for (i.) what form the prizes should take (whether money, books, etc.); (ii.) how to raise the necessary funds to buy the prizes; and, (iii.) rules for the competitors, and conditions of award of prizes.

It will be July's issue before the actual competitions can be announced; so you can have all March, April and May in which to think about them; and until the 16th June to write out your suggestions and post them to the Leader.

OUR SERIES OF ARTICLES.

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

LYCEUM IDEALS.

(Suggestions for Thought and Action).

By J. TINKER.

III.—ENVIRONMENT.

In the first article the second term of the trinity of Spiritualism was "Communism." That was an extension from its economic to a spiritual meaning, signifying the powers of spirit communion *common to humanity*, as part of the divine order, powers by which we "perceive and respond to the cosmic life." Faculties are faculties by virtue of that response. That is the law of development. "We wish to be at one with the Father, and the way to commence is to ascertain and establish true relations with mother Nature." (D.M., p. 7.) Relations are already established in the organisation of the child. We proceed by a continuous adjustment of the self to its best surroundings.

All environment is educational. Our business is to cultivate the best innate powers by the best environment. Unfoldment of faculties is not like unfolding cloth. It is more than the unfolding of petals in response to sunshine. Civilisation (which is social education) is not an automatic adjustment of internal to external relations. It is our progressive control of external and internal for the benefit of society. So the fundamental principle of the religion of Spirit Communion means an increasingly selective response to the Cosmic Life and Consciousness—response by deed as well as thought. That Life is our Life, and Spiritualism is the "Science of LIFE, here and hereafter." Our spirit communions are its kindergarten phases. The characteristic of life is growth. The characteristic of human growth is not increase of girth, but increase of control of means of consciousness. "I must be measured by my soul." (Handbook II., p. 10.)

The Stoics emphasized the main features of Greek thought. They agreed that the divine Reason bestows on matter laws, or "productive causes." If Reason is the great *creative* law, to live conformably with Reason must be the practical moral law. If the universe is subject to Law, every part of that universe must be subordinate to it. There is, then, but one formula for morals, and that is "Live harmoniously with Nature." (Lewes.) But the Greeks did not take the lowest animal view of Nature. The nature of man was the ideal which he was capable of becoming as a "rational" animal. The

Stoics repressed the affections too drastically. Aristotle said "the intellect of itself can do nothing." Modern psychology agrees that the life of love and love of life are the dominant factors—the affective and conative. So Davis contends that "true education is addressed to the Reason through the social affections." (D.M., p. 3.) There we find our intrinsic goodness. The infant beast is to be transmuted to the developed god "through the social affections." (34.)

Fortunately for us, humanity has had ages of Experience and Demonstration, whereby to formulate General Principles. (Aristotle.) We are not limited to Grecian or American, Alexandrian or Summerland formularies. "The whole range of modern as well as ancient literature" is at our disposal. (D.M., p. 29.) *Also ourselves!* We are in 1923, not 1863 A.D., nor 330 B.C. No modern teacher would dream of rigid adherence to either Davis or Aristotle, Plotinus or Paul. We adapt from "all sources" as we require for modern needs in modern environment. We are progressive Lycums.

The law of life is growth: the law of social life is spiritual growth. For that growth "there is no life without love." (D.M., p. 2.) Hence our first social environment is the sanctuary of the Home. (208, 127, 7, 42.) It is there Lyceumists must prove their sincerity and turn their instruction into education. It is there we must give and receive our first lessons in that fundamental law of spiritual life—Chastity. (129, Handbook II., p. 47, O.S. 146.) That is the crucial test of the Lyceumist. Every faculty has its special purpose in the economy of nature, and should be trained for that purpose—for its use by the "productive causes" of the spiritual life—for that permanent life, not the temporary pleasures of life here. No faculty should be exercised merely for the pleasure of its exercise, and therefore no environment selected for mere pleasure. "He that loveth pleasure shall be spiritually poor." (117, 135.) "Not enjoyment and not sorrow is our destined end or way, but to act that each to-morrow finds us further than to-day." (30.) That is the law for the use of environment as the process of at-one-ment. (123.) Is it our law? (220.)

Next: Morals.

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

By WM. WOODALL (South Shields).

MARCH: *Bilberries* or Whortle Berries. There are two kinds, one with black berries and the other red. They grow on commons, heaths and in forests. That with the black berries grows about 18 inches high, the leaves are small and dark green, a little dented about the edges. The flowers are small, pale blue, and hollow, and ending in five points; there is a reddish thread in the middle. The root creeps in the ground and sends up more branches as it creeps. The leaves die away in the winter.

The other, the real whortle-bush, rises like the first, but the leaves do not die in winter. They are hard, green and round pointed and grow at the top of the branches only, and not from the sides. The berries are red and sappy, rather sharp to the taste. This kind begins to flower about the latter part of March; in Northern districts later. The berries are ripe about the latter end of July.

The black kind are very good to cool the stomach and liver, but rather binding. It stops vomiting in hot agues. If the berries are made into a syrup with sugar it is good for an old cough and for diseases of the lungs. The red is stronger, more binding and stops spitting of blood or any other flux. It may be used inwardly or outwardly.

Settewort, or stinking Hellebore. When rambling through chalky districts you may come across this plant. At first sight the flowers appear to be purple. This is caused by the purple-edged sepals being rather longer than the petals, which are of a greenish yellow colour. It is rather a coarse-growing plant, the large radical leaves are divided into about nine leaflets; those on the upper part of the flowering stem are more reduced to the condition of divided bracts. After fertilization the flower loses its globular form when the stamens and petals drop off; and the sepals spread out. The flowers are numerous and in a loose panicle form.

The *Bear's-foot*, or Green Hellebore, is rather smaller, with fewer flowers, and has yellowish-green sepals. These Hellebores are very drastic in their operation. The root made into a powder and sprinkled upon foul ulcers eats away the dead flesh and heals the sore. They are very poisonous. For internal use other and safer remedies may be had.

Yellow Pile-wort, or Lesser Celandine. This is not a Celandine at all, being a member of the Buttercup family. When taking a walk in shady lanes and woods you will come across this plant growing in damp, marshy positions and under hedges. Those who desire a stock of this useful herb should make sure of it when they see it, as it disappears by the end of May, except in Northern districts, where it may be found in June. The leaves are numerous, nearly round, or a little heart shaped, on slender stalks of cylindrical tubers, from which the plant derives its name, as they are so much like the disease for which it is a remedy. The petals vary from 7 to 12, the sepals 3 to 5, stamens numerous, also the carpels or divisions of the fruit. A decoction of leaves and roots is good for the disease it is named after, also for the king's evil and other hard wens and tumours. It is very good made into an ointment.

Coltsfoot. The flower of the Coltsfoot appears early in March, before the leaves. It stands upon a hollow stalk covered with small woolly scales. In the distance they look like small dandelions, but when you examine them they are more the shape of a large daisy. The leaves that follow are of a broad heart shape, with a "cobwebby frieze" on the top and whitish underneath. They grow by the roadside, on embankments and waste places. This is very good for coughs, colds, wheezing and shortness of breath, and distillation of the rheums upon the lungs.

[This year January being exceptionally mild makes the opening paragraph in February article appear out of place. On January 31st I found many herbs in flower:—Cranesbill, Daisies, Chickweed, Groundsel, Jack-by-the-Hedge, Furze, Blackthorn, &c.]

(To be continued).

Diet, Humaneness and the Child.

BY HENRY J. BAYLIS.

"The direction of the mind is more important than its progress"—that will surely follow.

Vegetarianism has a powerful effect for good upon children who are brought up on this humane diet; they learn in a practical way their duty towards the animal-kind.

Their pity goes out to the sheep and lambs as they pass along the highways, bleating, and looking this way and that way as if asking for help. They do not look upon the bullock as a dreadful creature that they should be nery of, but with the same genuine sympathy and compassion.

There is no vegetarian child who would ever be found helping to harass these poor creatures to the odious slaughter-houses—a common and painful sight, seen in some of our streets in London. Every shout, every harass, every prod with the stick, and the yelping of the dogs are pangs to them.

Furthermore, having the most important principle instilled into them not to partake of these poor creatures' dead bodies, makes children kind and thoughtful to all other sentient creatures.

Vegetarian children never throw missiles at, or worry a dog or cat, but instead would protect them from any form of cruelty in their power.

They love to hear the birds sing, and would gladly look into their nests and count their eggs, but would not interfere with them. They quickly recognise the rights of birds and animal kind. Even worms they would scorn to injure and would carefully avoid stepping upon them, nor tease or harm any living thing, however small.

As they grow up, they become strongly attached to Nature's feathered and fur kind, and love to live in harmony with them. Their sympathy in turn goes out to the poor creatures in the Zoos and Menageries, who pace up and down until they become tired or wearied, denied of their natural freedom, waiting for death to release them. Instead of taking pleasure in this kind of show, they are sorrowful and denounce the immorality and injustice of their imprisonment, which is merely kept going to please and interest people who may care at any time to patronise them.

As time wears on, they voice their disapproval and objection against the unnatural and cruel custom of experimenting (vivi-section) upon God's dumb animals, and would rather suffer pain than countenance or inflict it.

They support all that is helpful for a speedy emancipation of the whole animal kind. They abhor exploitation, but exalt pity, freedom, and justice.

The great moral power of vegetarianism—humanism—sown into their tiny hearts when young, helps them through life, ready with a cheery word and a helping hand. They find great joy in embracing any opportunity that may present itself to be of useful, kindly service, and bless their parents for bringing them up flesh-abstainers, or the day that they decided to become so. As a rule, their health is excellent, they are alert, active and happy.

Always with them is a sense of duty, a brotherly feeling to their own kind which they truly carry out; for those who love and pity the lower sentient creatures have a solid basis for human comradeship.

Pause, think, and act; break away from the obsolete trail of custom, the slavery of fashion. Be no longer a tyrant and cruel.

Nature intended all her family to be free, man and animal-kind, and that man should not exploit other kinds, but equally respect their rights. When this is generally done, we may expect to see a happy, contented and consistent humanity, which can be brought about by individual unselfishness, decrying all forms of unkindness and cruelty, and can be especially hastened through the education of little children on absolutely humane lines.

A well-known authority on Diet says: "Many children manifest great repugnance to meat at first, and are coaxed and even scolded by anxious mothers until the habit of eating is acquired . . . the young ones would as a rule thrive better on milk and eggs with the varied produce of the vegetable kingdom." This of course would include the great assortment of fruits, also different kinds of milk puddings. Good unpolished rice is one of our purest foods. It is the meat portion of a Japanese repast.

We cling to man-made habits and customs, formed in the days of his dire ignorance and incompassion—yet God daily reminds us esoterically and through Nature's laws, if we would but take heed that His laws are right—custom never. Truth! the eternal Truth! should be our guide and beacon, and would lead us safely down the paths where humaneness, sympathy and care for His weaker and unprotected sentient creatures are the sign-posts pointing the way that leads to further perfection—and eventually unto Him the All-Merciful, and All-Highest.

Any readers who would like to know more about the Food Reform Diet for children or adults, may write or call upon the Secretary, The Order of the Golden Age (a Philanthropic Society), 153-155, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, S.W., or to The London Vegetarian Society, 8, John Street, Adelphi, W.C. They will be welcomed, and receive some helpful and interesting literature on the subject generally.

Laisterdyke Spiritual Church and Lyceum.

15th ANNUAL

Knife & Fork Tea & Concert

in the

Council School, Killinghall Road,
Laisterdyke, Bradford,

Saturday, March 24th, 1923.

Tea on the tables at 4 o'clock.
Concert at 7 o'clock. Tickets:
Adults, 1/6; Children, 9d. All
are welcome.

ADVENT :

The Beginnings of Modern Spiritualism.

By A. T. CONNOR.

CHAPTER III.

FURTHER EXPERIENCES.

News of the rappings quickly travelled far and wide, and on Saturday, 1st April, the house was filled to overflowing with crowds of curious spectators who had come to see and hear for themselves. But there were no sounds during the day, and they did not commence again till about seven o'clock in the evening. When Mr. Duesler called on Saturday night there were about three hundred people present, and all who could get within hearing distance asked the usual questions about ages, size of families, etc. It is claimed that to the hundreds of questions not a single incorrect answer was given.

On Sunday, 2nd April, knocks were for the first time heard during the day, but they ceased in the evening and were not heard again during the night, when Mrs. Fox's son David, and her son-in-law Stephen Smith, with their wives, slept in the haunted room. Between one and two o'clock on Sunday afternoon, when Mr. Duesler paid his third visit, there were from three to five hundred people present. He went into the cellar with several others, and nobody was allowed to stop in the room overhead. He then asked that, if a man had been buried in the cellar, the fact should be announced by rapping, or some other noise or sign. The moment the question was asked, there was a sound like the falling of a stick about a foot long and half an inch square on the floor of the bedroom above. It did not seem to rebound at all: there was only one sound. Stephen Smith was at once sent up to examine the room and see if he could discover the cause. He returned to say that he could discover nothing; there was nobody in the room or in that part of the house. Two more questions were asked, and answered in the usual way, and the party went back up-stairs and made a thorough search, but could find nothing to explain the noise.

Mr. Duesler then got a knife and fork, and tried if he could make the same noise by dropping them, but found that he couldn't. And as there is only a single thickness of floor between the bedroom and the cellar, he was convinced that nothing capable of making the noise could have been hidden.

On Monday night he paid his last visit; heard the same noises; asked the same questions as before; received the same answers—and went away unable to account in any way for the noises that he and others had heard, and forced to admit that he had stumbled on a mystery which he was unable to solve. Evidently he had not been convinced of Spirit Return.

There was one point in the story of the alleged pedlar that could be put to immediate test, and that was the claim that his body had been buried in the centre of the cellar. At least, so thought these early investigators, and on Monday night, 3rd April, David Fox, with the aid of some friends, started digging. But the house was built on low ground, and near a stream at that time greatly swollen by the winter rains; the ground as a result was waterlogged, and three feet down they found so much water that the digging had to be stopped. In the summer of 1848, however, when the ground was dry, the digging was started again—and on this occasion they found a plank, a vacant place or hole, some bits of crockery which seemed to be parts of a wash-bowl, traces of charcoal, quicklime, some human hair, bones (declared on examination by a surgeon to be human bones) and a portion of a human skull.

The discovery was not conclusive, and could hardly be held to prove the truth of the pedlar's story, but the presence of the human remains *did* prove that some human body had been buried there, and the charcoal and lime argued that an attempt had been made to dispose of the body. As will be described later, a skeleton was discovered in the cellar by some children (CHILDREN AGAIN!) in 1904.

For some weeks the Fox family continued to live at their cottage—and there was no cessation of the phenomena. It was soon observed that the spirits seemed to select, or require the presence of, the two young girls for the production of the sounds; and though these had been made without them, especially on the night of 31st March—when all the members of the family but Mr. Fox were absent from the house—still, as curiosity prompted them to close observation, and conversation with the invisible

power, it became clear that the manifestations were more powerful with Kate, the youngest daughter, than with anyone else.

But answering questions was not the only phase of the manifestations, which now seemed to take a violent turn, and at night became terrifying and nerve-racking. The furniture frequently moved about; the girls were often touched by hard, cold hands; doors were opened and shut with violence; their beds were so violently shaken that they were obliged to "camp out," as they termed it, on the floor; their bedclothes were dragged from them, and the very floor and house made to shake as in an earthquake. Night after night they would be appalled by hearing all the sounds of a death-struggle; the gurgling of the throat, a sudden thud as of something falling, the dragging as of a helpless body across the room and down the cellar stairs, the sound of digging, the nailing of boards, and the filling up as of a new-made grave (See "History of Modern American Spiritualism.")

As the spirits had managed to set up communication, these later manifestations may seem unnecessary and callously inconsiderate, but a satisfactory reason may appear later. Whatever the reason, the result was that the strain became greater than human nature could bear. Also, in addition to their terrible nightly experiences, they were continually being pestered by curious inquirers and sight-seers, who invaded the house at all times and absolutely prevented the family from getting either rest or peace. Even a machine could not have withstood such a constant strain, and the Foxes were not machines, they were just human beings. So at last David Fox prevailed on his parents and sisters to leave the haunted homestead and live with him on his farm—and here for the present we must leave them.

CHAPTER IV.

CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE.

The foregoing chapters have dealt entirely with the knockings, and the story obtained from the invisible Knocker. Had we nothing further to work from, the belief in spirit return and communication would rest (as far as Hydesville is concerned) on very frail foundations. All that Wm. Duesler could conclude from the knockings, after a careful and painstaking investigation, was that they were not produced by trickery—"they were very mysterious and he could not account for them." Even the story of the alleged pedlar did not suggest anything to him. The story itself was obtained by asking leading questions to some of which the Knocker rapped assent—not a very satisfactory method; and when what seemed to be the vital part of the story was put to the test, the expected skeleton was not found. The human bones and hair might have belonged to quite another body, and might have been lying there for fifty instead of between four and five years—they proved nothing, beyond what has already been pointed out. It may be that the rehearsal night after night of the crime episode was an attempt from the spirit side to illustrate the story, and so make up for other deficiencies—or it may only have been an illusion, due to the high nervous tension to which the Foxes had been worked up, what with lack of rest, the terror of their experiences, and the horror of what, it was claimed, had happened in their bedroom. Be that as it may, the whole affair was unsatisfactory.

Corroboration of the story, however, came from unexpected quarters. Wm. Duesler had hunted up various people who had lived in the house before 1843, and they all declared that they had never heard any mysterious noises. But he also found a tenant who had inhabited the house between the departure of the Bells and the arrival of the Foxes, and this tenant and his wife and servant came forward with remarkable stories.

The Weekmans had lived in the house for eighteen months in 1846-47, and were frequently startled by the rappings and other noises, of which they often, and vainly, tried to find the cause. One evening, just as he was preparing for bed, Mr. Weekman heard a rapping on the outside door; but, to his surprise, when he opened the door he found nobody there. He stepped out and looked around, as he thought it must be somebody trying to play a trick on him; but he could not see anyone, so he went back into the house. After a short time he heard the rapping again, and took hold of the door-latch, to find out if anyone was using that method of annoying him. The rapping being repeated, he opened the door instantly, but there was nobody in sight. Dashing out, he went right round the house, but could neither see nor find any trace of an intruder. Yet, as he stated in April, 1848, when the raps came as he held the latch he could distinctly feel the jarring of the door!

(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.

Continued from page 25.

INHABITIVENESS.

How I love my Dear Country, the land of my birth;
Far dearer to me than all places on earth.
Her old institution I love, I confess;
If my name you would know, I'm Inhabiteness.
For a home of your own I'll arouse strong desire,
Deep love for the land of your birth I'll inspire.
For your favourite seat, or an Old Trysting place,
I'll create affection no time can efface.
I'm not fond of changing my place of abode;
All my love on the "Home I have made" is bestowed.
As a patriot, too, in your mind I'll bestir
A pride in your Country no others confer.
But my principal service, will be to keep warm,
Love of home and of Country, through sunshine or storm.

CONTINUITY.

Pay attention, I pray, with continuous thought,
To gifts I bestow, for they cannot be bought.
Continuity I, to my teaching give heed,
Without me, you need not expect to succeed.
The most brilliant talents, all wise men agree,
Accomplish but little unaided by me.
I ability give to "hold fast" your mind,
To one line of thought, your forces can bind.
In patient researches your powers shall not wane
By sheer application your ends you shall gain.
In thought, and in feeling you constant shall be;
With consecutive plan banish difficulty.
Concentrated attention all noise shall defy.
While others may rail, to your task you'll apply.
All your thought, all your purpose shall ever remain
To gather from all things the best they contain.

VITATIVENESS.

What can be more joyous than to feel life's wondrous thrill,
To realise the power of life, and throw off ev'ry ill.
I'm Vitativeness! I'll give you recuperative power;
Or better, keep disease away; and good health on you shower;
Give enjoyment of existence; increase your love of life,
And through my vital forces, guard from Doctor's pill and knife.
I can make you realise that life is worth the living too;
By keeping hold on me you'll find a joy in all you do.
But I sometimes need preserving from abuse, or undue strain,
Although, of course, if I'm run down, I soon pick up again.
I can't make out why some folks always dwell on joys to come;
To me it seems we've plenty here; at any rate we've some.
I think, by far, the better way's to use what we have here;
Enjoy your life, and take what comes with courage and good cheer.

COMBATIVENESS.

I do not agree! I'll defend what I say!
I resist, I contend, that is not the right way!
Just listen to me, now come, I insist!
Your conclusions are wrong; see the points you have missed.—
I am Combativeness, I will help you contend,
To give self-protection, my aid I will lend.
I will render you brave, help accomplish your task;
Nor shall you "give in" because others may ask.
Over difficulty, that your life's work may show,
I will help you to rise, though the progress be slow.
I can render you bold; give aggressiveness too;
And in intellect's realm, I'll contend for my view.
I give power to accomplish, a gift that to-day
Is not much in vogue, so some wise-acres say.
If you need added proof that my statements are true,
You just contradict me, and see what I do—!

EXECUTIVENESS.

I can give you resolution, but some would me employ
Just wilfully, and wantonly, to break up or destroy.
But I'm very much more useful if you ask me to supply
Endurance, force and energy, or give efficiency;

Propensity to subjugate, and pushfulness provide
Destructiveness, I once was called; a word here misapplied:
But when folks have abused me, I've proved destructive, true;
But you cannot have a better friend, if you've much work to do.
Slow folks find me a bother, for my power they do not use,
And when my friends come near them, they complain, "Oh!
you confuse!"

I sometimes slip away from folk; 'tis their fault I'm bound to confess.

To do, or pursue, or carry things through, there's no friend like Executiveness.

ALIMENTIVENESS.

I wonder if there's anything about that I could eat.
I'm really not particular if bread and milk, or meat.
My name is Alimentiveness, and what I've come to show
Is how you may enjoy your food, it's pleasant, don't you know.
To eat, and drink, and relish food; and have good appetite,
While sense of hunger's really fine, if good things are in sight.
I supply the feeding instinct, but not the food, I ween,
Jack Sprat and Wife, you doubtless know, I help make platters clean.

'Tis pleasant too, when thirsty, to take refreshing draught
Of water cool from crystal spring, that drink by wise men quaffed.

'Tis said by some, 'tis wrong, to what we eat, to give much thought.

I cannot say that I agree, for I contend we ought—
Not, perhaps, to live for eating—but by eating well, sustain
The body fit and nourished, and invigorate the brain.

ACQUISITIVENESS.

Acquisitiveness, really is very much belied;
Folks may think meanly of me, but I have another side.
I give love of possession, power to accumulate;
I like to own, possess and keep; extravagance I hate.
I teach carefulness; economy, and give frugality;
You'll ne'er outrun the constable if you'll be ruled by me.
For future time's requirements, I can help you to prepare,
Incite to business enterprise; and see you get your share.
It will very much depend upon the path you wish to tread
As to how my powers will help you to forge your way ahead.
If you're desiring knowledge, I can help you to acquire,—
For 'tis part of my prerogative to stimulate desire.
It may be cash, it may be books, perchance just curios;
You just say what you wish to get, and then my talent shows.
The poor man's scanty earnings, if I'm allowed my say,
Show added power of purchase; and keep the Wolf away.
There's one thing that I ne'er forget (though other people do)
The fact, though Palmy days may reign, "The rainy day"
comes too!

SECRETIVENESS.

I'm little Miss Secretive; what you do not wish revealed,
You call on me, and with my aid it's very soon concealed.
Reserve in thought and feeling, I can help you to acquire;
Self-possession and discretion are my gifts, if you desire.
What your plans are, where you're going, your friends need never know;
And should they try to "Pump you," they'll find the process slow.

If you've powers of writing fiction, and are wishing to retain
Your plot or clue secreted, you'll not call on me in vain.
I can keep it fast secluded from all penetrative eyes,
And reserve for closing chapter, revelation and surprise.
I have pointed out my virtues, I have failings, I allow,
If you're wiser, you'll avoid them, 'twill be better anyhow!

CAUTIOUSNESS.

Cautiousness bids you beware how you go;
Be careful, lest action should lead you to woe.
If danger should threaten, take shelter; and guard
Against rashness and folly, by which life is marred.
Be prudent in all things, use care in your thought;
Much harm by loose thinking may often be wrought.
Don't be impulsive; look well e'er you leap;
"Cautious weasel ne'er shuts 'both' his eyes when asleep."
Don't be too hasty, 'tis well to confer
With those that are wiser; and then to defer
Your final decision, until such an hour
That guidance is certain and all in your power.

(To be continued).

The Britten Memorial.

OBJECTS:

To establish in Manchester the Headquarters of the British Spiritualist Movement and a National Spiritualist Institute and Library to commemorate the lives and labours of our Pioneer Workers.

TRUSTEES:

Mr. J. BURCHELL (MORECAMBE).
Mr. E. W. OATEN (MANCHESTER).
Mr. W. A. HERRING (MANCHESTER).
Mr. J. VENABLES (WALSALL).

E. A. KEELING, HON. TREASURER (LIVERPOOL).
Mr. JOHN JACKSON, HON. SEC., 30, BUXTON ROAD, NEW MILLS, NEAR STOCKPORT..

Contributions to the Memorial Fund are earnestly requested.
THE NEED IS GREAT.

LYCEUMISTS! ATTENTION!

In order to obtain Mr. Hervey Carter's promised gift of £1000 it is necessary to raise £2000. Nearly £500 has already been collected. Books of "Bricks" have been sent out for sale, which it is hoped will produce another £500. It is hoped to raise £1000 by Society, Lyceum and individual contributions. Push those Bricks! If you have not received Books of "Bricks" drop a line to the Secretary of the Memorial. June 1st is the date. Lyceumists! A pull together and it is done!

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

On Saturday, February 10th, we held our yearly meeting and election of officers at Collyhurst Spiritual Church. We had a very fine meeting and a very good gathering of delegates and Associate Members. Officers elected were: President, Miss Elliott; Vice-President, Mrs. Mitton; Secretary, Miss Sharples; Treasurer, Mr. C. Lloyd; D.V., Mr. Hart.

Altogether a meeting of benefit to all.

BRIGHTON, Mighell Street.—Enjoyable session, February 11th. All glad to have room for marching and calisthenics. Only time left for two individual items from Norman and Eileen Robinson. We quite enjoyed our Lyceum examination. February 18th, when 14 candidates entered, including three "oral grade."—Mrs. Robinson, Sec.

SOUTH MANCHESTER, Princess Hall.—We are making further progress. Our Liberty Group on February 4th was kindly taken by Mr. G. Vernon, who gave us a very interesting paper on "Physiology," which was very instructive and we are looking forward to more friends bringing along some thoughts which will be helpful in our education. We give all an invitation.

On Sunday, March 18th, at 2-30 and 6-30, we hold our Open Session and a hearty invitation is extended to all.—Albert Hope.

MANCHESTER, 66, Raby Street.—Sunday, January 28th, we celebrated the Founding of the Lyceum Movement. We had the chosen hymns, M.R. and S.C. for the day. Miss Lilian Moulson recited an ode to A. J. Davis, composed by one of our members, Mr. Griffith. Several other members took part with solos, pearls and recitals. Lyceum still progressing.—H. Moulson, 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.

CALGARY, Canada.—January 28th, Founder's Day, was well attended in spite of the snow storm and blizzard. Mrs. Rushton (assistant conductor) took the session very well. It was the first time she had acted as Conductor. Mrs. Garrad (conductor) took the Pearls (which were mostly quotations of Mr. A. J. Davis) and spoke very fittingly on each pearl. Wm. Garrad read No. 27 "There's Room in the World," which was very appropriate. Arthur Barrington read No. 29 "Think Gently of the Erring," which points out quite a lesson. Mr. Adam gave quite an uplifting reading. Miss Queenie Rushton favoured us with a recitation. The conductor read "The Founding of the Lyceum Movement," and Ada Garrad read "The Life of A. J. Davis," both were well rendered and very interesting to the listeners. Mrs. Thomson gave a lovely inspirational reading on Mr. Davis' good work, and encouraging all to follow as

near as possible in his footsteps. Miss T. Kneeshaw, a talented musician, played a pianoforte solo. Mr. F. Parsons rendered a well selected Violin Solo. Miss A. Rushton sang "Smile Through Your Tears," with a very nicely controlled voice.

Mrs. Rushton, who is our Librarian, gave an interesting talk to the "teen" age, encouraging them to read more Spiritualist Literature, stating that she would help them in choosing books that suited them. Mrs. Rushton has only recently been elected librarian and is in every way showing her interest in educating the Lyceumists.

We closed the Lyceum with an inspiring prayer by our much loved Conductor, Mrs. Garrad.

Best wishes for success to other Lyceums.—Ada M. Garrad, Sec.

LIVERPOOL, Boaler Street.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 18th with newly-elected officials in office. Our Conductor, Mr. Joe Owen, presided. A number of Lyceumists responded with recitations and pearls. Duet by Eva Kirkham and Bessie Phillips; solo by Doris Pape; Creditable papers were read by Mrs. George, Mr. Thory and Mr. Cretney; on different subjects.—M. Preston, Sec.

TOTTENHAM.—On Monday, Feb. 19th, we held our grand Fun Fair; everyone worked in harmony, and all had a happy time. This was something quite new for Tottenham and has resulted up-to-date in a profit of £9 10s. A portion of this money is to be handed over for the B.S.L.U. (M.C.) visit. The remainder is for our famous Banner Fund.

NANTYMOEL.—Our Lyceum is still growing in numbers and am glad to say the adult section are attending more regularly. Eight members sat the Exam. (Grade I). May they be successful in their attempt, and we hope to have six times that number fit for the next Exam.

Mr. E. Pugh, our resident speaker, is giving a series of lectures to Lyceum leaders and those interested. I append the names of the lectures hereunder as I feel they will interest many Lyceumists:—

"Occultism and its meaning"; "Divine Mind and its Manifestations"; "Dual Mind and its Origin"; "The Art of Self Control"; "The Law of Re-Embodiment"; "Colours of Thought Vibrations"; "The Mind's Attainment"; "Meditation, Concentration and Creation"; "Psychic Forces and their dangers"; "Cause and Cure of Diseases"; "Spiritual Forces and their Uses"; "The Law of Opulence."

A silver collection is taken at each lecture, the proceeds to go to the Children's Welfare Fund. We thank Mr. Pugh for the kind consideration he is showing towards the Lyceum. The Lyceum of to-day is the Church of to-morrow.—Wm Redwood, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Darnall.—We held our Open Session on 11th February. Conducted by Miss Maud Jones. A day well spent in the service of the angels. Mr. Jones, President, Mr. Saxelby, Secretary, of the "Sheffield Lyceums District Council" were present at the afternoon session. Both spoke a few words of encouragement to all. Mr. Hadfield, Founder of the Lyceum, distributed prizes during the Evening Session, he also names a baby, "Joan Booth," spirit name, "Light," the child was presented with a badge.—Maggie Jones, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—We held our Open Session on January 28th, conducted by Mr. Jones, assisted by Miss M. Salmon, and Mr. Goodhall. This being Founder's Day, the Session was taken from the January BANNER; thus we feel we were in unison with all Lyceumists both in body and spirit. Also awards gained by attendance for 1922 were distributed by Mrs. Johnson, the grandmother of our Lyceum, assisted by Messrs. Mr. Ballard, Saxelby and Jones. A day well spent and we trust that we may continue to improve.

January 15th. Before a large audience, two Chesterfield Lyceumists, Mr. Francis William Lote and Miss Edith Olive Herrett were joined in Holy Matrimony. Mr. J. K. Jones officiated for the service. Appropriate hymns were rendered, accompanied by Mrs. Robinson at the organ. The wedding march was rendered. We all wish them the best of luck in their new sphere of life.—J. F. Smith, Sec.

WEST MELTON.—We held our Third Anniversary on Feb. 11th, Mr. Lee conducting, Opening Hymn 354 "Children's Day Welcome"; recitations by Maud Elliott, Mrs. Staley, Mary Jackson, Mary A. Speight, Rhoda Rawlinson, Doris Peniluna, Emily Rawson, Joan Kenning, Hilda Kenning, Norah Hallworth, Nellie Rawlinson, Emma Thornton, May Staley, Maggie Walton, Ethel Rawson, Thomas Turner, John Farrar, Bruce Rawlinson, Jack Staley, Thomas Paskell, Horace Saville. Mr.

Joseph Paskell, Musical Conductor, closed with Hymn No. 306 "Our Lyceum Band."

At evening service the children sang special Hymns, Mrs. Hill, of Stainforth, gave an Address on "The Pioneers of Spiritualism." Mrs. Trigger and Lily Staley sang a duet; and on Monday, Feb. 12th, the children had a Tea and Concert, Mr. J. K. Jones of Attercliffe, distributing the prizes to the children. The Lyceumists presented their Conductor, Mr. Lee, with a fine book.—Harry Trigger, Sec.

District Council Reports.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

The meeting of the above Council was held at Bolton, Bradford Street, on Saturday, February 10th. The President, Mr. Hibbert, was in the chair, and gave a hearty welcome to all present. Four E.C.; 14 Delegates and Associates, all Lyceums being represented.

The President in his address gave some helpful suggestions for furthering the work of Councils and Lyceums. Minutes, correspondence, reports, (Secretary's, Treasurer's, D.V. and auditors) were all accepted.

Arising out of Treasurer's report, which was not very good, it was decided to increase Lyceums Affiliations Fees from 3s. to 5s. per year for membership.

Election of officers: President, Mr. Hibbert; Secretary, Mr. Dean; Treasurer, Mrs. Johnson; D.V., Mr. Jones; Auditors, Mr. E. Walsh and Mr. Powers; Adjudicators for Shield Competition, Mr. Johnson and Mr. G. Walsh; Delegate to Conference, Mr. Dean; Delegate to U.D.C., Mrs. Johnson.

On the suggestion from Horwich Lyceum *re* interchange of Lyceumists for Open Session it was resolved that E.C. make arrangements for same. A vote of thanks to local friends for their hospitality brought a pleasant meeting to a close. A Social was arranged, a good number being present. A most enjoyable time was spent. Proceeds are devoted to Council Funds.

E. DEAN, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the Council held on Saturday, February 17th, at Easy Road, Leeds.

Mr. A. Collier, President, occupied the chair. Opening hymn, "Welcome, thrice Welcome." Invocation, Mrs. Hogg, Hull. Minutes of last meeting accepted and confirmed. Correspondence accepted. Reports. Inter-change: four very good reports given. Visiting: five made. D.V. made three visits and reported progress. Treasurer's, Auditors, Financial Statement, Field Day Reports accepted. President, in his report, pointed out the financial position of the Council Education Scheme and some Lyceums Secretary's inefficiency. *Re* special effort: only four Lyceums had responded. Election of officers: President, Mr. Lilly, Normanton; Secretary, Mr. Harding, Wakefield; Treasurer, Mr. Wilson, Dewsbury; D.V.: Mr. Downs, Hull; U.D.C. Delegate: Miss Kitson, Batley Carr; B.S.L.U. Delegate: Secretary; Area Representative: Mr. Kitson; Competition Business: Entries close March 31st, Fees 4s. Adjudicator: Mr. Baines be asked to accept. Associates: Mr. Halstead, Mr. Collier, Miss Hogg, Mr. E. Wilson and Miss Ledger. Open Council. Scarborough accepted as members of Council. Agreed Notice of Motion be sent to the B.S.L.U.: "That assistance be given our General Secretary." Date and place of next meeting left to Secretary to arrange. Our best thanks were given and recorded to Retiring Officers also to local friends who had provided such an excellent tea that day.

Officers Present 3. Lyceums represented: Batley Carr, Birstall, Dewsbury, Liversedge, Heckmondwike, Easy Road, Psycho, Normanton, Wakefield, Holborn Hall, Dairycoates, Cobden Hall, Hull, South Elmsall and Castleford, 1 Leeds District Committee Delegate, D.V., 8 Associates and about 9 Friends from Birstall Lyceum. We were all pleased to see our old friend, Mr. Laycock, of Scarborough, late of Armley, with us again; also Miss A. Hesp, a Past President of the Council, and glad to hear she is improving in health. It was the best meeting this Council has had for some considerable time, especially in regards to numbers. Collection 8s., Proceeds of Tea 15s. 2d.

A. W. HARDING, Sec.

LONDON DISTRICT.

On Sunday, 18th February, the Executive visited Peckham Lyceum. The hall, which now belongs to the Church, has been renovated and repainted, and the fresh colours not only blended harmoniously but gave inspiration to all who took part. It was

Peckham's 14th Anniversary, and the session, in the capable hands of Mr. Borthwick, was bright and interesting. The evening service was conducted by the Executive, with Mr. C. J. Williams in the chair. Short addresses were delivered by Mrs. B. M. Bell and Messrs. Clegg, Borthwick and Connor. It was a splendid time.

The next Conference of the Executive will be with Tottenham Lyceum on Sunday, 25th March.—A. T. Connor, Sec.

NORTH EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

We held our Annual Meeting at Baker St., Heaton Norris, on Saturday, Feb. 17th, 1923. Mr. Dransfield, the President, was in the chair. There were 20 delegates and Associate members from Ashton, Glossop, Hyde, Stockport (Central) Baker St., and Macclesfield. Mrs. Halstead, of Macclesfield, was made an Associate member. The President extended a hearty welcome to all and said there was need for still closer co-operation and asked all delegates to give their best.

The Minutes of last Quarterly and E. C. Meetings and correspondence were passed as read. It was resolved that the Secretary's, Treasurer's and Auditor's reports be accepted as satisfactory. The D. V. having visited Stockport (Central) Lyceum reported an exceedingly good session; (Baker St.) Open Session and prize distribution very successful.

The following officers were elected:—President: Mr. Dransfield (Ashton); Vice-President: Mr. Beech (Ashton); Treasurer: Mr. Bowden (Hyde); Secretary: Miss Maltby (Glossop); Assist-Secretary:—Mrs. Edwards (Stockport); D.V., Delegate to U.D.C. and Delegate to B.S.L.U.:—Mrs. Eannion; Auditor: Mr. F. Springate (Stockport).

Collection realised 7s. 10d. We accepted "Silver Bell" Competition scheme as arranged and adopted plan of Interchange of Conductors as suggested by the E.C. A copy to be sent to each Lyceum. The next meeting will be held at Glossop on May 5th. At the close, votes of thanks were given to the retiring officers for services rendered and also to the Baker St. friends for excellent tea arrangements.

MARY MALTBY, Sec.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.

The above named Council held their Annual General Meeting at Middlesbrough, on Sunday, Feb. 11th, 1923 at 10-45 a.m.

Prompt start with the President (Mr. Neale) presiding over the meeting. Mr. Edwards gave the Invocation. Two Scrutineers elected; Mr. W. Jackson and Mr. Geo. Neale, who reported presence of 55 Associates, 20 Delegates representing every Lyceum, 9 E. C. Members, and 1 representative from Tyneside D.C. (Mrs. Hall). A hearty welcome was extended by Mr. Roeder, on behalf of Middlesbrough Lyceum, towards all members of the Council. He remarked that we were met for the sole benefit of the children, and our object should be to work most earnestly.

President replied by expressing great pleasure in being associated together once again. He thanked Middlesbrough for the reception and hoped the day would live in the memory of all.

Minutes were read, and adopted as a correct record, after the addition of two corrections. Decided that Shield be given to Middlesbrough absolutely. Minutes were now confirmed. Field Day Report, tendered by the Secretary, showed a Debit balance of £1 0s. 2½d. Expenses £20 9s. 8d., Balance in hand being £6 4s. 2½d. Auditor's report given, testifying to correctness of both the Field Day Report and the Treasurer's Report. District Visitor reported visits to each Lyceum in the District. Good all round, and evidence of progress. All reports accepted.

Election of Officers, 1923:—Mr. Jackson (Darlington) elected as President; Mr. Neale (Stockton) as Vice-President; E. W. Buckingham (Middlesbrough) as Secretary; Mr. G. Edwards (Middlesbrough) as Treasurer; D. Visitor, Mr. Geo. Neale (Stockton); Mr. Westbrook (Stockton) and E. W. Buckingham as representatives on B.S.L.U. and U.D.C.; Mr. A. Edwards (Middlesbrough), Mr. C. Wilson (Darlington), as Auditors.

Decided that at all future Conferences each Associate, representative or delegate should pay 1s. 9d. each for both dinner and tea. A welcome was extended to Mr. Hall, who invited any member of Tees-side to visit the Tyneside District at any time. Collection 10s. 2d. Benediction by Mr. Neale.

Lyceum Session in afternoon well appreciated. Good response from Lyceum members in the individual efforts. Unable to have marching, etc., owing to room being packed to overflowing. Thanks due to Middlesbrough friends for reception. An enjoyable day of labour.

E. W. BUCKINGHAM, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The above Council held the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, February 17th, at Blackpool, in the Church at Albert Road. Mrs. Pickles presided, supported by Miss Lawton, Messrs. Wagner and Shuttleworth. Opening song, "Welcome to all." Invocation by Mrs. Nurse. Messrs. Wagner (E.C.) and L. Harwood (Darwen) appointed credential officers. The President of Blackpool Church officially welcomed the Council to Blackpool. Secretary read minutes of last meetings, same were adopted. Correspondence read and adopted. Arising out of correspondence it was resolved that the Lyceum at Barrowford (Lanes.) be accepted and the application be endorsed. *Re* Revision business resolved that same be circulated with agendas for next meeting. President welcomed Brierfield Lyceum back again into the Council. President's address given and adopted. Quarterly Financial Statement and Balance Sheet, Auditors' Report given and adopted. Resolved that we tender our sincere thanks to J. B. Battersby for his services to the Council as Treasurer. D.V. Reports given by Northern and Southern D.V.'s. All Lyceumists in this area have been officially visited. Reports were presented to all Lyceums. Secretary's Report dealt with current matters concerning the movement, which was adopted. The various points in the report were left to E.C. to deal with, with the idea that something definite be done as regards the motions for Conference. Election of Officers, etc.: President, C. T. Batley; Secretary, J. Shuttleworth; Treasurer, W. Rae; D.V., North, Miss M. E. Lawton; D.V., South, G. H. Wagner; Auditors, J. B. Battersby and W. E. Mason; Credential Report, Officers, 4; Delegates, 35; Associates, 16; total, 55. Pooling 14s. 10d. per Lyceum. President and Southern D.V. delegates to Conference. Area Representatives, Mrs. Pickles and Mrs. Nurse. Nominations for B.S.L.U. President, A. Kitson; Vice-President, G. Mack; Treasurer, R. A. Owen; Auditor, Frank F. Ball.

Demonstration: date finally fixed for June 2nd. Mr. Latham to be asked to be Chief Marshall. Mrs. Pickles, Conductor; R. Pearson, Musical Director; W. E. Rae, Calisthenic Leader. Twelve Lyceums bring Banners. Secretary to definitely invite Councils in vicinity to be represented. Lyceums to acquaint Secretary of numbers for travelling and dining. Mr. Tom Richardson, Marching Leader. Motion *re* Shield and Musical Competition, "that old order obtain." *Re* interchange of Conductors, outlined by Reuben Pearson: That Lyceums nominate one from each Lyceum and send name to D.C. Secretary along with the name and date of any worker in the Lyceum movement who may be speaking at or visiting their Lyceum. When returns are in the Secretary shall arrange that each Lyceum shall have; at least once per quarter, an entire change of Conductor for a full Lyceum Session. Such interchange Conductor shall be asked to make a report of such session and shall judge same from his or her own standard and shall forward such report to the Secretary with any comment or suggestion for improvement.

A vote of thanks was accorded to all retiring officers especially to our President, Mrs. M. E. Pickles, for services rendered. Votes of thanks to our friends at Blackpool for their labours on our behalf.

J. SHUTTLEWORTH, Sec

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 Feb. 21st.

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 30 members.

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than March 21st, to ensure insertion in the April 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.—Open Session February 3rd. Opening hymn 334. Invocation by Mr. Sharples. Pearls fine and instructive. Recitations by Misses Smith, Sharples, Baines, and Jack Bradshaw. Solos: Misses Jackson, Bradshaw, Smith,

Robinson and Barker. Closing hymn 383. Benediction by Mr. Silcock. Good session and doing very well.—M. Barnes, Sec.

ACCRINGTON, Pearl Street.—We held our Open Session on February 4th. Opening song 328. Invocation by Mr. Will Edwards. S.C. No. 10, M.R. 240, G.C. 146; also marching and calisthenics. Recitations and songs were rendered by the Lyceumists and visitors, and enjoyed by all. Our Conductor spoke on the various readings.—T. Fazakerley, Sec.

BACUP.—We held our Open Session on February 4th. Opening hymn 341, invocation 408, S.C. 19, M.R. 204, G.C. 142. Pearls: R. Scott, Mrs. Ridehalgh, Mrs. Carter, Mr. Lord, Mr. Ridehalgh; recitations, Kitchner Aymes, Ralph Scott, Hugh McKenna; songs, Miss E. Tempest and Miss Clayburn; duets, Eva and Lottie Taylor, James Ridehalgh and Mrs. Ridehalgh, Lizzie Alexander and Eva Taylor, Mrs. Carter and Hugh McKenna, Gerty Salisbury and Lottie Taylor. A session well spent.—B. Lord, Sec.

BARROW, Dalkeith Street.—We held our first Joint Session with Dalton Lyceum on January 28th. A large number of visitors were present at the Lyceum and Church services. Great interest was taken in calisthenics, pearls, recitations and solos rendered by Lyceumists.—A. A. Worrall, Sec.

BEDWORTH.—Open Session February 3rd. Recitations by P. Alsop, F. Ison, A. Davis, M. Wood, I. West, P. Wood and L. and C. Chapman. Lyceum hymns also were rendered.—Miss C. Rowe, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—Open Session February 4th. Recitations: Letty Simpson, Edna George, Ethel George, Esther Dunn, Freda Whiteley, Charlie Ellis; solos: Elsie Thompson, Percy Woodley; musical items: T. Pennington, P. Northcote.

February 6th, Concert. Fairy play, "Old Susan's Fairies"; humorous sketch, "Coaxed and Hoaxed"; recitations, songs and musical selections, etc, the following taking part:—Dorothy Lindop, Jessie Leighton, Florrie Leighton, Madge Wilkinson, Eva Williams, Evelyn Leighton, Letty Simpson, Marie Leighton, Charles Ellis, Margaret Ellis, Elsie Thompson, Albert Thompson, Albert Simpson, Miss Pinches, Doris Williams, Norah Whiteley, Molly Wilkinson and Fanny Leighton; Messrs. King, McFarlane, Taylor, Reynolds and Thompson; violinist, Tom Pennington; pianist, P. Northcote.—Mrs. Thompson, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On the 28th January we held our Open Session. There was a good attendance of scholars and visitors; about 300 in all. The singing was very good. The marching and calisthenics were done remarkably well. During the open part of the session solos, recitations and piano-forte solos were admirably rendered by some of our Lyceumists. Mr. Will Edwards, who was our speaker for the day, spoke a few well chosen remarks about the celebration of the Founder's Day. Best wishes to all other Lyceums and Lyceumists.—James T. Smith, Sec.

BLACKPOOL.—On February 4th we held an Open Session; 100 present. Opening hymn 305 *Manual*; invocation by Mr. Spencer. He addressed the children for a short time. Solo, B. Luan; silver chain 70 by J. Leadbetter, D. Hodgkinson and T. Copestake; musical reading by Mrs. Hobbs, K. Arnold and R. Singleton. Greetings from Fleetwood, Lancaster and Birkenhead. Fifty took part in the marching and calisthenics. Recitations by J. Leadbetter, B. Swan, Miss Stott, W. Hodgkinson, E. Arnold, B. Calvert and M. Hamlet; pearls by B. Calvert, D. Hodgkinson and a friend. Closing hymn 310 *Manual*, benediction by Mr. Spencer.—F. Carter, Sec.

BOLTON, Henry Street.—On February 4th we held our Lyceum Open Session. Bradford Street, Deane Road, Horwich, Bury, and Radcliffe were well represented. The singing was splendid and the readings were beautifully rendered. Recitations were plentiful; also pearls; a solo by Miss Alice Sheffield. "We are trying to follow the angels," was greatly appreciated by those present. Mrs. Nurse, of Blackpool, was the speaker and made a few remarks on Lyceum work in general, and altogether we had a splendid session. Best wishes to Lyceums at home and abroad.—Wm. C. Bearman, Sec.

BRADFORD, Boynton Street.—On February 4th we held our Open Session. Solos and recitations were rendered by the scholars. We are progressing favourably.—Mrs. Ward, Sec.

BRADFORD, Harker Street.—On January 24th we held our Open Session. Recitations, solos and duets were given by the Lyceumists. All enjoyed the session.—Mrs. Birkett, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—On Sunday, February 4th, we held our Open Session, a good number being present. Our Education Scheme—we are going ahead for Grade I., II. and

III. Splendid items were rendered by the Lyceumists, which were greatly enjoyed by all.—J. Babbs, Sec.

BRADFORD, Whetley Lane.—A successful event was held on our Lyceum Day, February 4th. Mrs. Begg, of Scunthorpe, distributed prizes and Lyceumists responded with recitations.—W. Simpson, Sec.

BURNLEY, Hammerton Street.—On Saturday, January 27th, we held a grand Re-union and Tea, followed by Silver Shield Presentation and Prize Distribution. The fare provided was greatly enjoyed by about 200 people present. There were a large number of old Lyceumists present, including Mr. Mason, of Cambridge. Miss A. Crossley and Mr. T. Richmond received Shield and Mr. Wagner presented it to our Lyceum after tea. Mr. R. Latham distributed the prizes. A concert was given by "The Goodenuffs," young men of our Lyceum, under the direction of Messrs. Richmond. A red letter day. Everyone had an enjoyable time. Best wishes to all Lyceums.—Herbert Brown, Sec.

BURNLEY, Richard Street.—We held our Lyceum Session on February 4th and had a good attendance. Pearls, recitations and songs by Misses D. Morrison, M. Kitchen, D. Halgrave, and Mrs. Braund; duet by Misses M. Linton and M. Crossley; two trios by Misses E. France, B. Crossley and N. Hirst, and Master A. Duckworth, W. Holt and H. Hancock; a quartette by Misses D. and L. Halgrave, D. Morrison, F. Cauverley; a recitation by one of the youngest Lyceumists, R. Hancock.—Miss M. Sutcliffe, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On February 4th we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists obliged:—Recitations by Kenwood Widdowson, Lilian Slater, Edwin Slater, Mr. Whyman, May Wheatley, Edith Slater, Marion Wagstaff, Elsie Gore, Willie Campbell, Linda Heath; solos by Mr. Taylor and Connie Slater; pianoforte solos by Ethel Ware and Gladys Machant. A few words by Mr. Whyman brought an interesting session to a close.—Rene Marriott, Session Sec.

DARLINGTON, Northgate.—On January 28th we held a Special Session in commemoration of Foundation Day, following the programme of the BANNER. Questions were asked and satisfactorily answered by the scholars. The usual string of pearls and recitations were noticeable. A prize was won by Florrie Chapman, for best essay on "The Origin of the Lyceum."—R. P. Christopher.

DARWEN.—On January 28th, Foundation Day, we adopted BANNER programme for morning session. At the evening service our speaker, Mr. Tyrer, spoke on "Foundation."

February 4th, Open Session. Songs, recitations and pearls were given by the children; marching and calisthenics also gone through. Mrs. Furness addressed the Lyceum. A pleasant time was spent.—M. Allen, Reports Sec.

DONCASTER, Wood Street.—On February 4th we held our Open Session. It was conducted by Mrs. Gomersall, assisted by Mr. H. Taylor. We had the pleasure of having Mr. Harding, of Wakefield, with us, and he gave us words of encouragement. Time would not permit pearls and solos.—Violet Batty, Sec.

EARBY.—We held our Open Session on February 11th. Recitations by Lizzie Greenwood, Dolly Nuttall, Agnes Layfield, Elsie Clarke, Marion Nichol, Beatie Hogge, George Robinson, Teddie Ennis, Henry Tillotson, Alan Bannister and Kenneth Dewhirst. No. 386 was sung by Minnie Robinson, Ivy Raine, Hetty Eastwood and May Astley; No. 409 was sung by William and Clifford Haynes, Arthur Foulds, Frank Milward Knowles and Harry Astley. A very pleasant afternoon was spent by everybody present.—Ed. Bannister, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on February 4th. The following assisted in making the session a success:—Alice Taylor, Lizzie Heys, Winnie Chambers, Maggie Nelson, Alice Owen, Maud Hartley, Alice Fletcher, Dorothy Hartley, Annie Owen and Arthur Taylor. We had with us Mr. Will Edwards, of Accrington. He amused the children by telling them a story and also took the Liberty Group which was very interesting. Wishing all Lyceums every success.—Mrs. F. Haworth, Sec.

GRIMSBY.—The services of January 7th, 8th and 9th were taken by the Lyceum. The meetings of Monday and Saturday were taken by Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Nicol. Sunday afternoon an Open Session was held, the children giving solos and recitations. Sunday evening, 6-30, a service of song was rendered, entitled "Netty," which was greatly enjoyed by the audience. At 8 p.m. Mr. Jewitt, our Conductor, gave an enlightening address. This Lyceum's week-end was a great success and our

effort was so highly appreciated that we feel capable of carrying on further with the grand work of educating the "Spiritualists of the future."

HALIFAX (Alma Street).—On January 28th we celebrated Foundation Day, going through the programme as printed in the BANNER. The H. and H.D. Committee were present and a pleasant day was enjoyed by all present.—P. Chapman, Sec.

HANLEY.—We held our Open Session on February 4th, when a very enjoyable afternoon was spent. Gladys Warrilow, Lily Bullock, Thomas Lockett and Albert Barrisford recited. George Goldstraw and Eric Fletcher ably sang "Open the door for the children." A pleasing incident was Gladys Greathead being presented with a miniature Tea Service and Eric Fletcher a Fountain Pen (given by Mrs. A. Shaw) for highest amount collected for anniversary. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Shaw closed the session.—Wm. Pyatt, Sec.

HEATON NORRIS.—On January 28th we held our Open Sessions and were visited by Lyceumists from the Lord Street and Progressive Lyceums. The sessions were well conducted by Miss May Downs. Recitations and pearls were given by the children. Our speaker, Mrs. Roberts, of Oldham, was present and gave the prizes, which were *Lyceum Manuals*, to the children. We spent a pleasant time together.—Mrs. E. Downs, 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. Bogue, of Gateshead, and was very impressive. (*This report is a correction of report in last issue.*)

HORWICH.—On January 28th we had a Lyceum Day, to commemorate Foundation Day. In the afternoon we had a fine Open Session, when we welcomed a few visitors (Lyceumists). The evening service was conducted by our own Lyceumists. Their work was a credit to them. Our Conductor, Mr. Walsh, presided at the service. Miss Doris Ward (Assistant Conductor) spoke on "The Aim of Spiritualism." Mr. Sumer explained the reading, "Deeds not words." Then Miss Annie Purchas gave a few clairvoyant descriptions. Mr. F. Jones brought the good time to a close by speaking on "The Teachings of Spiritualism." Fraternal greetings to all.—Annie Purchas, Sec.

JARROW-ON-TYNE.—On January 28th we held our Lyceum Founder's Day, which was well attended. We carried out instructions given in BANNER.

In the evening we had great pleasure of having Mr. G. Robson, of Tynemouth, to take our meeting, who gave us good insight of Lyceum work; which all appreciated.

On February 11th we held our Annual Meeting, when the reports of the year's work were given by Secretary and Treasurer. The election of officers took place, most of whom were re-elected:—Conductor, Mr. Hardwick; Assistant Conductor, Mr. W. Harrison; Secretary, Mrs. R. Overton; Treasurer, Mr. G. Riches; Organist, Mr. G. Riches; Guardian, Mr. W. Harrison; Captain of Guards, M. Havelock; Guards, Miss Jenny Bigley, W. Lamb; Librarian, Doris Lamb; Group Leaders: Liberty, Mrs. A. Smith; Star, Mrs. Overton; Beacon, Mrs. Lamb; Ocean, Miss Riches; Sea, Miss A. Smith; Fountain, Miss E. Stephenson; Boys, Excelsior, Mr. Harrison; Shore, Mr. G. Riches; Lake Miss Anderson; Stream, Mrs. G. Hardwick; Auditors, Mrs. Lamb and Mrs. French. A vote of thanks was given to those who worked in the past year. Lyceum progressing well. ("May Hardwick," in January issue, should have read "Inos Hardwick").—Mrs. R. Overton, Sec.

LANCASTER.—February 4th was our Prize Distribution Day. The children were to the front all day, as our Church allows the Lyceum to monopolise the services on this day. We held our Open Session in the morning being favoured with a solo from Jenny Jackson, a reading from Thomas Wright, and recitations from Annie Smith, Albert Stephenson, Abraham Kirk, Edward Townson, and Arthur Wright.

In the afternoon we had another enjoyable session, when quite a number of our parents joined us. We had short addresses by Mr. Bleasdale, Junr., and Mr. Thompson, and a recitation given by Mr. Bleasdale, Senr., who, 35 years ago, was Conductor of the Lancaster Lyceum.

In the evening Mr. Ball, Senr., and Mr. Bleasdale, Senr., two of Lancaster's old pioneers, presented prizes to 58 excited children, and altogether it was a real live Lyceum Day. Greetings to all.—Marion Swale, Sec.

LONDON, Clapham.—The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, January 21st. The retiring officers' reports proved that good progress had been maintained throughout the year.—Marjorie Lovegrove, Sec.

LONDON, Hounslow.—February 4th, Open Session, large attendance of adults, excellent programme by children, including pianoforte solos and duets, solos and recitations. Hearty welcome to visitors.—A.E.F.

NORTH LONDON.—We have been again privileged to conduct the Church service on Sunday evening, January 21st. A rendering of the anthem, "The Heavens are Telling" (Haydn's "Creation") added a distinctive achievement to the progression of the Lyceumists—a sufficient reward for the hard work that each and all had put into it. Four short addresses were delivered by as many Lyceumists, which served to demonstrate the good work the Lyceum was accomplishing in developing the speaking abilities of its members. The securing of a few members for both Church and Lyceum pointed to the success of the evening.—C. Drinkwater, Sec.

MANSFIELD.—Open Session, February 11th. Recitations given by J. Holmes, M. Fletcher, H. Dennett, K. Arnold, J. Sadler; pearls from all Lyceumists. G.C.R. 144 very ably explained by Mr. L. Harrison. Good session enjoyed by all. Collections good.—J. W. Wright, Sec.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On February 11th we held the Annual Meeting of the Tees-side District Conference, at which a very large number of delegates and associates attended. In the morning the business took place. In the afternoon our Lyceum Session, in which the following took part:—Mr. Jackson (President) and Mr. Edwards (Treasurer) spoke a few words to the children. Solos and recitations were rendered by the Lyceumists, and a very enjoyable day was spent.—O. Drew, Sec.

NELSON.—On February 4th we held our Open Session, there being a very good attendance of Lyceumists. The session was made pleasant by the following, who rendered items:—W. Tancock, Ivy Greenwood, Hilda Leach, Alice Poutney, Mr. Middlebrook, Mr. Stables, Luther Horsefield, Mr. Leigh, Mr. Booth, Mr. Nutter. Great interest was aroused by one of our young Lyceumists, Winnie Lloyd, age 3, who sang to us on this occasion. We extend to all Lyceums our fraternal greetings, and to our past workers overseas our very best wishes for their future existence.—Mrs. Parkinson, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Benwell.—Open Session, February 4th. Mr. R. Hamilton was the speaker on this occasion, his subject being "The workers win." At the conclusion of his address he was warmly applauded. This is the first time our brother has addressed a gathering and the applause encouraged him to take a step towards progress.—T. Cowe, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Rutherford Street. On Feb. 4th we held our usual Open Session and our Founder's Anniversary. Opening Hymn 339 and BANNER Programme. Mr. Hickman took the Golden Chain and Mrs. Bolton, Mr. R. Tinloy and Mr. Archbold, parts of Musical Readings. Miss J. Bolton and Miss D. Wilkinson, our youngest Lyceumist recited. Miss Willis recited; Master Rone and Jack Heath, pearls; Mrs. Proud and Miss Greenwell solos. The Lyceumists "1923 Examination" of Feb. 18th is passed. The hurdles were stiff but we kept going and look for our Tyneside Team being strong and well up. We are sowers and shall reap.—G. Sample Dawson.

NORMANTON, Queen Street.—Jan. 28th was our Prize Distribution Day. Our President, Mr. Rothery, gave a very interesting address on "Foundation Day," after which he presented the prizes, with a few encouraging remarks to each recipient.—Ernest Calcutt, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM, Parliament St.—We held our Open Session on January 7th. We had a nice gathering, and Mr. Pretnel spoke a few words of encouragement to the children.—L. Murdock, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—On Jan. 6th we held a Children's Rally and Social. Distribution of Prizes by our President, Mr. Standish. S.C. 43, M. Grange; M.C. 224, Mr. Brufton, Mr. Norbury, Mr. Woods; G.C., A. Howarth. Solo, pearls, recitation by the following Lyceumists: Misses A. Chappell, H. Pointon, L. Pointon, M. Norbury, L. Ogden, M. Grange, A. Buxton, Ivy Palmer, H. Palmer, A. Palmer, C. Howarth, J. Brufton, W. Woods, R. Chappell, F. Chappell, Mrs. Chappell, Miss Fielding, two visitors.—Mr. Norbury, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott St.—On Sunday, Feb. 4th, we had for our speaker, Mr. L. Firth, of Halifax, who gave us an interesting lecture on colours.

On Sunday, Feb. 11th, we had Mr. G. F. Berry, of Manchester, and the choir rendered the "Hallelujah Chorus," and the anthem "Sun of My Soul" which was ably sung.—Victor Slater, Sec.

PARKGATE.—On Feb. 17th, we had a visit from the Darnall "Sunshine Troupe." They submitted a splendid humorous and musical programme. Our Lyceum benefited considerably.—F. Cook, Sec.

PRESTON, 68, Lancaster Rd.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 4th, 1923. We had a grand session. The readings were gone through in a nice manner and we had good discussion. The marches and calisthenics were well done, and a good number of Lyceumists contributed with solos, recitations and duets, and made the session very enjoyable.—Rd. Smalley, Sec.

READING.—There has been an all-round improvement in our Lyceum. Before the month is out we shall have with us the Southern Counties' District Council which we know will give us still greater impetus to carry on the good work.—"The Workers Win."—C. R. Churn, Sec.

SALE.—We are now making good progress. During the past month we have had visits from Miss Sharples, Miss Elliott and Mr. Geo. Vernon, who on Feb. 4th gave us an excellent paper on "Physiology."—D. Jones, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Centre.—Feb. 4th we held our Open Session. We had a good response of pearls, recitations solos and duets. We are pleased to report a great improvement in the marching and calisthenics, and trust that we shall continue to improve in all our efforts.—Mrs. H. C. Organ, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Gifford Rd.—On February 4th we held our Open Session and had a good attendance. A good response of solos, recitations and duets, especially adults.—Geo. Porter, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Lord St.—On Saturday, Feb. 3rd, we held our Annual Tea-Party and Prize Distribution, which was well attended by parents and friends. After a good tea, and games had been indulged in, solos were rendered by three Lyceumists. Then our Conductor, Mr. H. J. Marston, presented prizes for attendance and recitations. The children and elders then received presents from the Christmas Tree, which caused a good deal of amusement. Mrs. Greening then presented to our Lyceum a portrait of her daughter Evelyn, who passed away Nov. 6th. She was a leader during the past year, dearly loved by all Lyceumists.—E. Joules, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On Sunday, Feb. 11th, Open Session at 2 p.m. on the occasion of the visit of the Halifax and Huddersfield Lyceum District Council for their Annual Meeting. Mr. Burrows, of Halifax, was conductor for the afternoon. Songs were rendered by Master L. Whiteley and Misses M. Whiteley and N. Rushworth. Recitations by Misses Connie Smith, Muriel Sutcliffe, Ivy Jackson and Kathleen Rushworth; also Willie Whiteley. All readings taken were discussed at length and to judge by some of the answers given to questions the candidates for the examination received some good ideas worth following up.—John Leaf, Sec.

WEST PELTON.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 4th, when the following Lyceumists took part:—Annie Robinson, Olive Taylor, Dolly Meakin, Jessie McLean, Roland Dryden, Mrs. Mackin, Mrs. Cooper, Maggie Tinkler, Mr. Arthur Greenwell, Miss Grey, Mr. Abbott and Eva Dryden. A very pleasant time was spent. Best wishes to all Lyceumists.—Mrs. Meakin.

WOOLWICH & PLUMSTEAD.—Our Annual Tea, Social and Prize Distribution was duly held in January, and a splendid evening was spent, with a good number of parents and friends present; a splendid programme was got together by Mr. Fidler. Refreshments under the care of Miss Eva Davis, and a goodly array of prizes were distributed. All expenses were cleared owing to the kindness of members and friends of the Parent Church.

We are looking forward to another year of success.

The Annual Meeting was held on Feb. 13th, with Mr. McFarlane as Chairman. The following are officers for 1923: Conductor, Mrs. Hayward; Guardian: Mr. Low; Mus. Conductor: Gertrude Holmes; Secretary: Miss Fielder; Treasurer: Mrs. Rose; Capt. of Guards: Amy Higgins; Guards: Norah Badcock and Douglas Darby; Delegates: Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Harry.