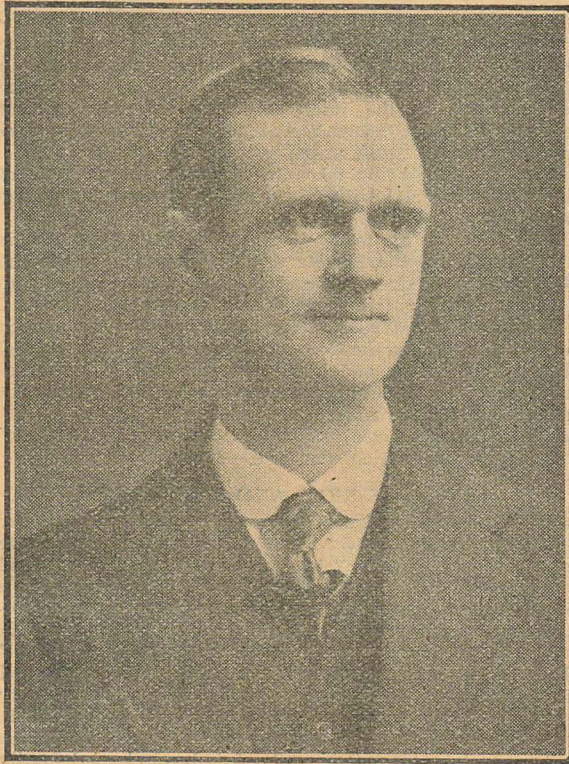


THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 888. Vol. XXXIII.

JUNE, 1923.

PRICE TWOPENCE.



MR. G. A. MACK.
B.S.L.U. President, 1923—4.

Mr. G. A. Mack was the youngest of a family of nine, his birth taking place on the 5th of November, 1883.

His secular education was at the National Church School, followed by the Runcorn Secondary School, where he obtained the science prize, which event decided his future profession.

In October, 1900, he entered the chemical laboratory at the Castner Kellner Alkali Co., Ltd., and still remains in the employment of this firm, where he holds a responsible position on the technical staff.

He is a member of several eminent chemical and engineering societies.

The first twenty years of his religious education was obtained in the Church of England and from a devoted mother.

His introduction to Spiritualism took place in 1904, but no active interest was taken till 1907, when he became the Secretary to the Runcorn Spiritualist Society.

His introduction to Lyceum work was in 1908, when Captain Waring and Mr. T. Barlow invited him to cycle with them to Warrington Lyceum. As a result, a few weeks later—April 6th, 1908—Runcorn Lyceum was opened, with Mr. Bostock as Conductor, and Mr.

Mack as Secretary. The opening ceremony was conducted by several of the S.N.U.E.C., who were visiting Chester, but some of whom have since been promoted to the Higher Life.

Mr. Mack has held the chief positions in the Runcorn Lyceum and every position in the Liverpool District Council.

In the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme, Mr. Mack has acted as Tutor and Examiner, and sat for every one of its examinations, including the preliminary one instituted prior to Grade I. He was the first candidate to link up the Lyceum Education Scheme with that of the S.N.U. Exponent's Diploma, receiving his Intermediate Certificate in 1922.

He attended many of the meetings of the United District Council till his position on the M.C. forced him, constitutionally, to resign.

His promotion as Auditor to the B.S.L.U. was a fitting introduction to his advance to the M.C.

This was followed by his promotion to Vice-President, and thence to his present office of President of the Lyceum Union.

The Lyceum movement generally is deeply indebted to him for his untiring efforts for the furtherance of its cause.

He met Miss Robb at a D.C. meeting at Seacombe in 1909, and they were married on April 7th, 1915, a mutual love and interest in the movement making the work lighter.

His work has been made more successful, due to the influence of his advisers on the other side of life.

I trust that success will attend his position as President of the Lyceum Union.

C. I. COHEN.

A PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL.

Let me first thank all Lyceumists for placing me at the head of the Lyceum Union's affairs for the next twelve months. I realise the honour, as also the confidence conferred upon me. I shall do my best to warrant that trust. Certainly, if sincerity of purpose will make my term of office a successful one, you can rest assured that it will be one of success in every sense of the word.

During the evening service following the Conference, one of the speakers gave a message to the effect that he hoped my year of office would rank as one of the best years in the history of the Movement.

It is with this message running through my mind that I pen my first Presidential Appeal to the Lyceumists in Great Britain and Overseas.

We have a system of education that is second to none. Are we putting our best into that system? Are we fulfilling the ideal set before us by our beloved founder, A. J. Davis, and so ably nourished by our esteemed worker, Alfred Kitson?

Many of the Pioneers of our Movement have passed to the Higher Life, and from there are continuing their watchfulness, and giving their advice and added

wisdom to those responsible for the welfare of the Movement. Their influence and interest is as keen as ever—aye, keener. Is OUR interest as keen? Are we living up to the ideals they fought for? Are we willing to suffer the persecution they faced? Do we value our Lyceumism as much as they did? We perhaps think that we would face all that they did. Let us prove it.

I am only putting one proposition before you this month, and that is one dealing with the numerical strength of our Lyceum Movement.

On January 25th, 1863, the first Lyceum was opened. On January 25th, 1923, the diamond jubilee took place. This is the first year of the new era. Shall we try what we can do before it closes? Let us work with that determination which is so necessary, and prove to the world by our actions and results, that we have really what we say we have—the finest system of education extant.

One way of doing this is to show our numerical strength is increasing under this beneficial system. Our statistics showed 14,012 Lyceumists in the Lyceums affiliated to the Union on December 31st, 1922. Can we double it by the end of 1923? I fancy I hear someone saying, "No; it is impossible." Well, let me say it IS possible. I know that your President is aiming high, but not too high for Lyceumists who are willing to do their share. YOU are one of those 14,012. Have you realised that? Would it be impossible to bring ONE new Lyceumist during the next seven months? That is all that is required from each Lyceumist to double 14,012; but what a result! Honestly, is it not worth the effort? I do not think that I am asking too much when I ask you to bring one new Lyceumist. You elected me to the Presidency, and I know that you look to me to watch your interests. Shall we make the interests mutual and you watch my interests? That is a fair proposition. I cannot do my share without you, and so I appeal to you to assist me in bringing about this numerical ideal I have placed before you. I know I can rely upon you to assist in making the new members into good Lyceumists.

I would like to suggest that when you meet your Lyceum friends that you ask them if they have introduced a new Lyceumist yet.

I want you not to overlook the fact that 28,024 true Lyceumists will command more attention than 14,012.

One would like to say many things in one's first Presidential Appeal, but the space is limited, so I will close, leaving the educational side until another time.

G. A. MACK, President.

Lyceum Demonstration at Harrogate.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1923.

Lyceumists from Halifax, Brighouse, Keighley, West Vale, Batley, Dewsbury, Sowerby Bridge, Bishop Auckland and Middlesborough are assembling at the Spiritualist Church, Beulah Chambers, Beulah Street, Harrogate. The price of tea is 1/6.

The procession starts at 6 p.m. An Open Session will be conducted by Mr. Alfred Kitson, at the Stray, opposite West Park Hotel. Mr. Laverack, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. R. Wright and Mr. B. Carter have promised to support Mr. Kitson and address the session. Everybody welcome.

Any further information can be obtained from:—Mr. J. Smith, 55, Denmark Street, Harrogate, or Mr. B. Carter, 22, Union Street South, Hope Hall, Halifax.

Scottish Notes.

SCOTTISH LYCEUMS DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The above Council Meeting was held on Saturday, 2nd June, 1923, at Foresters' Halls (Society Room), Rattray Street, Dundee, at 3 p.m. The principal item on the Agenda was the resolution of the Glasgow Association of Spiritualists, adopted at the last quarterly meeting of the S.D.C. of the S.N.U. Delegates. Appended is a copy of the resolution:—

NOTICE BY GLASGOW ASSOCIATION.

1. That this Council, while gratefully acknowledging the pioneer work of the B.S.L.U. on behalf of the children of the movement, is of the opinion that as the Lyceums form an integral part of the Churches and are under their control, the time has arrived, in the interest of economy and efficient management within the Scottish Area, for the Council to take over and carry on the work presently performed by the S.D.C. of the B.S.L.U., care being taken to safeguard the interests of those Lyceums connected with Churches not affiliated with the National Union.

2. If the Council approves of the foregoing motion, it is further proposed that the Secretary be instructed to invite the B.S.L.U. Scottish District Council to send three delegates to meet a similar number of the S.N.U. to discuss the matter and form a detailed scheme for carrying the motion into effect. Such a scheme, if approved by the Council Executive, to be circulated in draft to the Churches and Lyceums, who shall be invited to send delegates to a Joint Conference to consider and, if thought fit, to approve of the Scheme.

[The result cannot be given, as the BANNER was in course of printing when the meeting was held.—ED.]

THE BUTS, THE BENS AND THE GLENS.

Scotland is famous for many things, none more so than her "buts," "bens" and glens. Some of her greatest sons have been born and reared in a "but and ben," plus the national diet, porridge and milk. A "but and ben" is the Scotch for a two-roomed house of the cottar type, not the through-going two-roomed houses which are so common now-a-days in Scottish tenements. If you read Burns' "Cottar's Saturday Night" you will get a fine glimpse of the "but and ben" house, and the sincere and good old-fashioned family circle. Christianity having lost much of its original impulse amid sectarian strife and hypocrisy, it is indeed pleasing to all Scots folk to see Modern Spiritualism resuscitating the family circle and family worship. There can be no doubt in the mind of any person acquainted with the history of religion in Scotland regarding the part played by family worship in building up that integrity of character which has made the Scots famous as a race all over the world. That being so, can it be doubted that Spiritualism, with its modern family circle, its phenomena elucidating the primitive miracles of the Bible, and its philosophy pointing the way to sure salvation, will ultimately permeate all sects and creeds and regenerate mankind, by establishing a universal religion. If simple faith carried men like Burns' father thro' years of silent suffering, surely our knowledge and comparative comfort should carry us further. We certainly are the nucleus of a world religion, and the world is sorely in need of our phenomena and philosophy. Comparatively small as we are, we nevertheless could be a great force in the State BUT . . . WE SEEM TO LACK THE ZEAL OF OUR COVENANTING FOREFATHERS.

JOHN M. SCOTT.

GLASGOW ASSOCIATION. On Saturday, 5th May, we held a farewell social in honour of our Conductor, Miss McIntosh, who is leaving for America. In the name of the Lyceum Mr. J. M. Stewart presented a small token of our esteem. We can ill afford to lose such a worker, but though she is leaving us in body we know she will always be with us in spirit, helping to encourage and inspire us to make our Lyceum perfect.

N. MOORE, Sec.

"TAK' CARE O' YOUR FEET."

When first on the journey o' life ye set oot,
An' as yet as a walker were nae very stoot,
Ye maybe then heard a fond mother entreat—

"Noo, steady, my mannie, tak' care o' your feet."

The advice that was gude when the journey was new,
May wi' profit be followed the hale journey through;
It will dae ye nae ill though a rhymester repeat
The mitherly maxim—"Take care o' your feet."

Ay, tak' care o' your feet that ye use them nae wrang,
An' tak' care o' the gates that ye cause them to gang;
Gin the licht be but scant, an' gin danger ye meet,
Gang wary an' slow, an' take care o' your feet

For what else but your feet frae the mire hauds you up?
Wi' what else o' the earth can ye keep a gude grup?
They're a ready resource when there is nae a seat;
They ave gie ye a standin'—tak' care o' your feet.

There are few but hae kept an' can mind o' the chiel
Wi' a heid an' wi' knowledge replenished fu' weel,
Wha gaed a' to the dogs, was a waster complete,
For he hadna the skill to tak' care o' his feet.

The staunchest may stoiter an' e'en get a fa',
An' a modest demeanour is fittin' for a';
But whatever your walk—byway, highway, or street—
Till the last step is trodden, take care o' your feet.

R.H.C.

From the "People's Friend."—J.M.S.

Our Lyceum Guild.

Leader: MARY E. KITSON, B.A.

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

Herbs: When and Where to Find Them and Their Medicinal Value.

BY WM. WOODALL.

MAY (continued).

BLUE. GROUND IVY.—You may find this useful herb under hedges, by waste ground, on ditch banks and by the side of lanes. At first it grows upright, but soon lies and creeps along the ground. It will grow fully a yard long with slender jointed stalks, having a pair of leaves at each point, round, dented and a little hairy and crumpled. It will also throw out small rootlets at the joints. The flowers are hollow, rather long and of a bluish-purple colour. The flowers soon pass away, but the herb itself keeps green until the frosts of winter. Rather sharp and bitter in taste. It is extremely good for all inward wounds, jaundice, griping pains, clears the gall and liver. A decoction is a good wash for ulcers, scabs, itch, &c., also a splendid addition to herb beer. *Bistort*.—This may be found in moist woods and in shadowy places amongst bushes. The root is thick, short and knobbed, blackish outside and reddish within. The leaves growing from the root are on longish foot stalks, they are broad and long, a little pointed at the ends, bluish green on top surface, and ash grey with a little purple underneath, and veined. The slender stalk rises about 2 ft. high almost without leaves bearing a spiky bust of pale coloured flowers. At first they may be mistaken for Docks. This is very good against poison. The root powdered and taken drives out by sweating, small-pox, measles and other infectious diseases. Dissolves congealed blood caused by bruises, &c. Decoction of roots or leaves is very good to wash wounds caused by bites from venomous creatures. A very good wound herb.

GREEN. Faverel.—This may be found in fields and by hedges. The root is very fibrous, long and thick. The deep green leaves grow in tufts, they are long and pointed and very rough. The slender green stalk is upright and bare, the green flowers with yellow threads in the centre are small and star like. The roots and leaves made into an ointment are good against the sciatica, but must not be kept on long.

The berry bearing *Solanum* may be found in moist woods, where the soil is rich, and in some other shady places. The slender brown roots creep along the surface with stalks rising up here and there about a foot high with from 4 to 6 broad and rather rough leaves narrowest near the stalk and ending in a sharp point; from amongst these a slender stalk arises bearing flowers composed of four green petals and under them four narrow ones of the same colour like sepals with several stamens amongst them. A black berry about the size of a grape grows in the middle. This is not poisonous like the Nightshade of the same name, but a good ante-poison, good in pestilential fevers; the roots good in colic, and the leaves applied outwardly good in tumours and inflammations.

PURPLE. Fumitory may be found in cultivated fields and is very common everywhere. It has a tender stalk full of sap with many branches two or three feet long bending down. It suggests the maidenhair fern in its foliage, the leaves are thin and much divided, the flowers grow in a *raceme* consisting of two

sepals and four sepals in unequal pairs, the upper petal spurred at the base the other pair joined at the tip enclosing the stamens and pistil. Flowers May to September. Very good for the liver and spleen, clears the blood of all humour that cause scabs, itch and other skin diseases, also makes a splendid gargle with a little rose water for sores in the mouth and throat.

(May—to be continued).

Lyceum Ideals.

Thoughts and Suggestions.

BY J. TINKER.

VI.—SPIRIT SYSTEMS.

"If a child's earthly mother has preceded it to the world of spirits, she, if worthy, takes charge of it and bestows that care and love which only a *mother* can render: if otherwise, it is placed in charge of a good spirit who is specially noted for love of children . . . In every case the child finds friends, companions, and teachers *adapted to its needs*. . . Its guardian takes it to its spirit HOME." L.M. 139.

"The children reside with their teacher or guardian in pretty white houses, which are large or small, according to their requirements. . . Sometimes the children *have their lessons in their homes*, but more often in the open air."—*Outlines*, Ch. 7.

"Their guardians bring them back to their earthly homes, that they may learn the lesson of earth life." "When sufficiently developed, these young people take their places as teachers, guides, and helpers."—L.M. 139; O.S., ch. 7.

"Mr. Davis saw that the children, when met in session in their Lyceums, were arranged in groups, named to express their nature and unfoldment. They wore certain colours, and each group had that colour which best represented the state and nature of the children."—O.S., ch. 6.

"Mr. Davis further informs us that these children can be so grouped, classified, and arranged as to *illustrate* almost any conception of art, poetry, music, or the principles of the sciences."—O.S., p. 173 (Mr. Kitson's discourse).

"In the Summerland these groups are arranged, classified, and designed in accordance with the immortal laws of music. . . The whole assemblage constitutes a musical instrument of 12 octaves. . . *Music*, therefore, is to be an invariable and prominent element of our terrestrial Lyceums."—D.M., p. 5.

"Under the trees which surround Crystal Lake and in the open spaces between them are to be found all manner of appliances for *exercises* for the children who daily gather there."—O.S., p. 65-6. (See "Happy Valley,") also, for school sessions, picnics, and social gatherings.

The reader is urged to study the writings referred to in this series, as important details are given which cannot be quoted. Most Lyceum leaders have read the outlines of the Davis system. I have never seen it in practice. The attempts I have seen were more pitiable than admirable. It must not be assumed that that system is either the only one or the best in the spirit world. Even if it were, it does not follow that it is the best fitted for our conditions.

School systems are not ideal modes of education. I have had many conversations with youthful visitants from the higher life. They say considerably more about *home* and *individual* modes of education than about group and mass tuition. We must remember that *our main purpose is to develop moral habits and spiritual characters*.—(L.M., 78, 79, 173, questions 6 and 7). For that purpose ideal Home influences, including associated friendships, are better models than any school, which is an auxiliary, not a substitute for Home training. I therefore emphasise the need for imitation of those modes in the spirit world in which the homelike predominates (208). I value the Davis system to its full worth; and I therefore deprecate tawdry "stage settings" of it that exhibit more discords than harmonies. We cannot practise that system in its characteristic features of fitting symbolism of names, numbers, colours, and illustrative evolutions; and we should therefore adopt modes better fitted to local needs, enlightened by the educational principles and variety of methods used in the spirit world. The first principle is the meeting of the *individual need* by a home and its teacher; than in small groups that approximate to Family groups; afterwards, specialisation of subjects under expert teachers, and extension of social relationships. In all education the objective and pictorial and the illustrative action are superior to the oral and conversational; and the building of character by experience is of more importance than routine repetition of copy-book maxims, etc.

(NEXT: OUR MANUAL).

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

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

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

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JUNE, 1923.

The Law of Association.

The First Cause of all things is spirit, and it is this also which is the ultimate in man, matter and motion establish the existence of a First Cause, while the truth that man is a spirit is proved not only by the law of progression and association, but by the science of correspondences, in the light of which all sciences should be understood. It is by the correspondential investigation that we are led to the universal relation between truths. The whole evolution of the cosmos deposes thereto. So also the universal association in animate and inanimate things bears witness to a corresponding law in the unseen and the future. The truths which are seen are evidence of unseen truths. In the process of natural development every substance enters into the composition of vegetable and animal forms and is individualised in man. The spiritual principle designates the affectional and intelligent dynamical influences by which the human organism is animated and governed.

A. J. DAVIS.

The Lyceum student of life, with its forces and emanations, must open his mind and be full of receptivity for the laws of association and correspondence. The ultimate is an understanding of the laws governing substance and spirit in their combinations and fulfilments.

These phases of thought do not generally enter into the training of the average mind. The curriculum of studies do not generally include the inter-relation of one subject with another and yet there is a blending of many phases which merge in cohesion through form and function. Special study of a particular subject may bias the mind and narrow the view, hence we need to keep before us the necessity of a broad view in which we shall be able to understand that everything which occurs is subject to an environment capable of producing definite results. Thus the building of a thought finds expression through material things drawn from the surrounding elements capable of producing such a result. And yet the source of the thought is governed also by a spiritual environment capable of receiving the mental emanations which animate our words and deeds.

Nature opens the book of life for all humanity but we do not all read, or are attracted by the same page. Many people skip the pages and reach results before the explanation of the process is understood. Inference and deduction only play a small part in our spasmodic study of life's problems.

We are too apt to go round a difficulty rather than surmount it. Thus we become weak and are forced to lean upon others, as our lack of knowledge does not allow us to understand what is facing us. We grow in years, but not in wisdom. Intellectually we remain children and have to be dependent on others to think, care for, and advise us.

The value of Lyceums is here displayed to give opportunity to children to become potential and display initiative, finding the peculiarities of each nature is a thing by itself, capable of being overcome or encouraged according to its utility. The reflex condition of the law of association operates and others respond in unison where sympathetic desires prevail. We find ourselves in accord and sing together the songs of a divine

harmony to help us on our way. In these vibrations we are moved by the spirit. Inspiration comes and we feel intuitively the existence of higher forces moving through our being. We must take advantage of these moments when we touch the cosmic schemes of things for we have awakened tangible and intangible forces that can shape for us all an understanding of life's mysteries. The prophet sees with the eyes of a visionary, but an unbelieving people stand before him, and misinterpret the meaning of his message. We place our phenomena to the sordid gaze of a world which sees nothing but the mundane scheme of things. Spiritualism loses its dignity, sacredness and grace. But some possess the interior light that is born within the inner consciousness of man. We must invariably have some connection with the spirit-world which arises from the consciousness that there is someone attached to us and living in the higher realms of spirit, before our minds can be attuned to soar in thought to the possibility of their presence: unless we possess the joy of a clairvoyant or other spirit-faculty to link us with that stage of growth and being.

The general education of people should be to place before them the facts of their existence, with a study of the form and functions of the body through which the intelligent spirit can find expression. Hygiene, diet, exercise (work) and rest, clothing and housing, pets and friends, books and nature study, all form necessary stages of elementary studies, before we reach the complexities of the embryonic beings yet unborn. All these studies are transitory stages which should precede the consideration of a spirit-body, and a study of psychology should also precede the study of supernormal Spiritualism.

There is abundant scope here for even the lay-mind to enter into the ramifications of his being and by the law of association co-relate him self to humanity in the study of the fundamental truths of his existence and power. He will find his interdependence and locate his environment in harmonious relationship and common sympathy with the large or small circle in which his powers can find expression. This is the means of real growth and means progress. The man who wishes to be a mental hermit will leave these truths alone, but stagnation of thought will be his portion. The world never progressed by that method and so we leave him with our sympathy. Others think that a final teaching has been revealed and use this revelation as an eternal guide. The purest things of life can never be found in the printed word, but are felt in the souls of men, gifted with the spiritual insight we call genius; these men lead us in prophesy, music, art, wisdom and love towards those themes and things which give knowledge to mankind of things and forces previously hidden from our sight. Thus we learn from the higher beings in the realms of spirit we can exalt ourselves in peace, concord and love, through the law of spiritual association, to gain at least a glimpse of the glories to be, when we commune with the higher intelligences which prevail in the land of the spirit and influence us now.

Thus we cling to our teachings, principles and truths, find solace and comfort in our work, winning the hearts of mankind to an ever-widening circle under God's harmonial laws of association and understanding in the service of universal truth.

B.S.L.U. £2,000 Effort.

At our Annual Conference at Liverpool the delegates present carried an unanimous vote that the Secretary for the Fund should try and press the effort all he possibly can.

So far 30 Lyceums have raised £197 7s. 4d. When one looks up the number of Lyceums on our B.S.L.U. Register and finds that there are 247 Lyceums, it gives one pause, and one wonders what the others are doing. The Lyceums who have donated are:—Liverpool (Daulby Hall), Leicester (Rupert Street), Runcorn, Halifax (Alma Street), Winnipeg, Blackpool, Armlay, Wellington, N.Z., Coventry (Bull Street), Sowerby Bridge, Nelson, Leeds (Roxburgh Road), Lancaster, Wigan, Stockport (Central), Dewsbury, Batley Carr, Bury (King Street), Sheffield (Heeley), South Manchester, Darwin, Heaton and Byker, Ashington, Bolton (Bradford Street), Burnley (North Street), Huddersfield (Ramsden Street), Moston, Glossop, Brighton. Is your Lyceum's name on the list? If not, why not? Ask yourself, are you doing your share towards helping forward the movement you love? A word to the wise is sufficient. Get busy. All contributions should be sent to the Effort Secretary, 29, Kliffen Place, Coronation Road, Halifax.

W. BURROWS, Hon. Sec., £2,000 Effort.

The Annual Conference.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

held at Liverpool on May 19th and 20th, 1923.

The Conference was opened at Boaler Street Church on Saturday, at 5-15. The President of the Union, Mr. C. J. Williams, was in the Chair. The proceedings commenced with the singing of "God Speed the Right"; after which Mr. Owen gave the invocation.

The following appointments were made:—Messenger, Mrs. Raymond, Daulby, Liverpool; Tellers, Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield), Mr. J. Jackson (Southern Counties); Serutineers, Mr. Bolton (Hyde), Mr. Collinge (Moston), Mr. Bentley (Manchester), Mr. Harding; S.O. Committee member appointed from floor of Conference, Mr. Latham (Trustee).

It was reported that Miss H. Allured (Huddersfield) had been appointed Minute Secretary.

MINUTES.

Taken as printed on motion by Mr. Latham (Trustee), seconded by Mr. O'Neil (Keighley).

A question was raised whether the acceptance of these minutes would ratify Constitution as at present printed. The President replied and the matter remained over until the Constitution Report came before the Conference.

Mr. Cager (Brighton) drew attention to the wording of a Minute in regard to Education Report which gave the impression that he had objected to loss on Education Scheme, whereas his intention had been to praise the way in which the Scheme had been worked. Mr. Ford (Reading) supported Mr. Cager's statement. Agreed that wording of minute be amended accordingly.

Mrs. Mack (Runcorn) drew attention to a slight error in wording of one Minute.

Mr. Watson (Daulby, Liverpool) drew attention to the fact that a motion on Trust Deed Report was stated to be passed unanimously when, in fact, there were six votes against. Agreed that words "carried unanimously" be eliminated.

Mr. Kitson then said that the Sub-Committee for revision of Manual were surprised to find at their first meeting that they had no Mandate from the Conference. He asked this Conference to amplify the instruction to the Committee.

Mr. Ellis (Huddersfield) gave explanation on this point and Mr. Connor (London) said a motion by him on this point had been omitted. It was agreed on a motion by Mr. Connor (London), seconded by Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough) that the following motion which had been proposed at last Conference by Mr. Connor and seconded by Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.) be inserted in the minutes, namely:

"That a Committee be appointed to carry on the revision."

Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lancs.) pointed out omission of motion by Mr. Latham (Trustees), seconded by Mr. Batten (Bolton), in regard to invitations to Conference, "That section (c) be deleted, the voting being: For, 23. Against, overwhelming. Mr. Wagner moved that motion be inserted. Mr. Owen (M.C.) seconded. Agreed.

A discussion arose as to advisability of engaging a professional shorthand-typist for future Conferences. Mr. Connor (London) and Mr. Dobby (Lincoln) made suggestions, and Mr. Keeling (Daulby) and Mr. Owen (M.C.) asked questions. Ultimately Mr. Connor moved and Mr. Keeling seconded the following motion: "That for future Conferences the M.C. be instructed to engage the services of a professional shorthand writer and typist, to take down and present a report of the proceedings. This report shall be published in the LYCEUM BANNER, and from it the Secretary shall prepare the Conference Minutes, such Minutes to be submitted for approval to the M.C. at its meeting in the following July. Carried."

The Minutes as amended were adopted on Motion by Mr. Jones (Attercliffe), seconded by Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Mr. Wright, a former Treasurer regretting his ability to be present owing to ill-health. Mrs. Greenwood (Hebden Bridge) suggested that a message of sympathy be sent from this Conference to Mr. Wright. Agreed.

A telegram was read from Mr. Mason, formerly of Burnley, now of Ely, conveying his greetings to Conference.

Mr. Bentley (Manchester) moved, and Mr. Keeling (Daulby) seconded, that correspondence be accepted and letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Mason. Agreed.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1923.

Fellow Lyceumists,

It must be gratifying to many of you to meet here in this city; one of the most progressive centres in our Movement, and more especially on account of its association with so many well known Lyceum and Church workers,—past and present,—for the cause of Spiritualism.

This is a time when North, South, East and West unite with one set purpose, to review past efforts, to decide as to the future, to discuss ways and means, and to encourage and stimulate all in the search for truth and Justice. I am pleased to be with you, and sincerely trust that this Conference will be yet another step forward.

The year just passed has been a strenuous one, and in spite of many difficulties, though great strides may not have been made, much has been accomplished. It lays with every Lyceumist within the Union's ranks to secure a fruitful harvest to the labours of your various Officers, whether in the Lyceum, District Council, United District Council or Management Committee and to consolidate the whole Movement. "The greatest good of the greatest number" should be your motto. Lyceumists WILL YOU respond? You each have a niche in the great whole; I earnestly ask you to fill it, willingly and well.

I will try not to weary you with a long exhortation, so will briefly touch on points of importance for your consideration and discussion, if you deem them worthy of such.

THE S.N.U.

I extend a hearty welcome to the S.N.U. Representatives present with us to-day. The bond between the two Unions is being gradually strengthened. The New Trust Deed, when completed, will be yet another link in the chain that binds. Both Unions are necessary to each other, even as the Church and Lyceum, and when both work in complete harmony there need be no fear for the future of Spiritualism. The Lyceum must in time become the mainstay of the Church and the bedrock on which the whole Movement will stand. Your representatives on the E.C. have done useful work.

Last year the Standing Orders Committee were asked to define the words "the body of the Conference." The definition given, according to a high authority, was wrong. That the majority agreed, or else they did not know what they wanted when the motion was passed, was apparent in the election that followed. You will have an opportunity to settle that point during this Conference.

EDUCATION SCHEME AND OUR GUILD.

Both these activities seem inseparable, although they are distinct. We can rejoice at the continued support given to the efforts of the Education Committee, and I am sure they all feel amply repaid by the fruitful results of their labours, particularly those who have sacrificed so much, that the standard of Lyceumists might be raised to a higher level. They deserve our hearty thanks for past labours and our wholehearted support in the year that is before them. I congratulate those who took the Examination this year on the intelligence shown and the results that were attained. The Oral Grade for its first year has been successful, if not in numbers, for the percentage and standard of passes.

In spite of this, WE CAN DO BETTER; every Lyceum should enter as many candidates as possible, and I ask you, each one present here to-day, if you have not already entered into the Scheme, START NOW, and set the example.

The Oral Grade Primer has been published; it can be used as a very useful supplement to the Manual. Have you read it?

The Guild is undoubtedly a Guild of Students, past, present and future, linking all together in harmony and seeking to uplift and benefit all. The report tells of progress; Are you a member? If not, join now. Miss Kitson will give you a hearty welcome, a certificate of membership, and a badge. All for one shilling.

FINANCE.

The income of the Union has been insufficient to meet the expenditure; the cash balance has been again seriously depleted, so much so that a call had to be made on the money vested in the Trustees. Let us hope that the turning point has been reached, for with the stocks now available in the Publishing section, we look forward to a brighter Balance Sheet for the next Conference. I would suggest that very serious consideration be given to any proposed increase of expenditure ere you arrive at a decision to increase it. For several years now the balance

has been decreasing; it is high time a halt was made, and efforts made to improve the financial position. Your Lyceum can help by purchasing all the requisites you require, if possible, from the Union and pushing the sale of our publications.

TRADING AND £2,000 EFFORT.

A start with the Trading has been made, though only in a very small way, but the support given has been very meagre. Your support is very necessary. Give that and it will grow.

A really satisfactory start cannot be made until the £2,000 Effort Fund is available. The contributions towards this during the past year have been few, and each of you should know whether you, or the Lyceum you represent, has done anything towards attaining the amount aimed at. Remember! It is your Movement and you are each jointly responsible for its success or its failure.

CONSTITUTION AND AREAS.

The Constitution has been revised according to the decisions of last Conference, and we are now governed by the revised Articles and Bye-laws. While all may not be satisfied with the work of the Committee appointed, I hope it will give satisfaction. The Areas have been rearranged; it was a difficult task to make them anything like equal as to the number of Lyceums in each; some are much larger than others. No District Council has been divided between two Areas, so that the closer co-operation which is essential between Lyceums and Area Representatives should be easily attained, direct from touch kept throughout the whole Movement, and each Lyceum can feel that it has a voice and interest in the Union's affairs.

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

With pleasure I have noticed the increased activities of many District Councils; it augurs well for the future; the reports of the Demonstrations, competitions and various efforts, made to interest Lyceums are encouraging. Lyceums, be loyal to your District Councils, send your best delegates. They depend upon you; do not fail them.

UNITED DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The value of the U.D.C. both as a deliberative assembly and as a means of propaganda becomes more apparent as each year passes, for many matters that would otherwise occupy the time of the Management Committee and even of Conference are dealt with.

BANNER.

The slight increase in the sales of the BANNER is due more to the increase in the number of Lyceums than to increased orders. I am sure that the BANNER is a credit to our Movement, and the surest way to be up to date and conversant with Lyceum activities, is to take it regularly and then persuade others to do the same.

CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP.

These were repeatedly asked for while out of print, and though they have been available since July last, the demand has been very, very small indeed. Why is it? Are Lyceums apathetic, or has the deposit of 3s. 6d. had a deterrent effect? Is your Lyceum a delinquent? If so, wake it up! Every Lyceum should have a Certificate of Membership.

The demand for the "Autobiography of Alfred Kitson" has not been up to expectations. Surely a record of the life and labours of our tried and trusted friend and comrade, the one we all love and revere, should find a place in the home of every Lyceumist and Spiritualist. Order your copy now.

There is one matter I feel I cannot pass over before I close and that is the fact that propaganda is being launched against us. It has started in book form and followed up by the Press review of that book. I am not going to say much about it, but the author of that book recommends strong propaganda work in the shape of public meetings in all centres where Lyceums are held.

The book, unfortunately, is based on half truths, that is it is based on our Manuals, Hand Books and other publications, taking the text and omitting the context. Furthermore, despite that, there are some very fine tributes paid in that book to the Lyceum system of training. While it may do a little harm, it may do more good than harm. We do not want to make a noise about it on the public platforms, but, should the attack come in the town or place where your Lyceum is situate, surely as a Lyceumist, you will know how to deal with it!

In conclusion I tender my hearty thanks to all my co-workers on the M.C. for the loyal support I have received during the past year, to all connected with the Union that have laboured so faithfully and well.

The Lyceums I have visited gave me a warm welcome, I thank them. Your General Secretary, Brother Knott, has ever been a friend, courteous and considerate; I deeply appreciate his friendship.

Lyceumists; the band of Pioneers who watch and assist us from the Spirit World is ever growing larger and I feel it impossible to close my remarks without mentioning one—who, to my knowledge, I have never met in earth life—that has recently joined the faithful band; "Uncle" Harry Kersey. We congratulate him on his promotion. May he enjoy the fruits of earthly labours. Friends, the past is behind us, the present is with us now, the future, full of hope and brightness opens out before us, see to it, then, that you do your duty nobly and well. Be loyal to yourselves, be loyal to your brothers and sisters, be loyal to the Cause we all love and to the Spirit Friends who have done so much for us. The arisen Pioneers are calling for your help, are urging you and strengthening you for the task that lies before you. DO NOT FAIL THEM, for in loving service you will realise the greatest blessing of all—THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

CHAS. J. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.) moved the acceptance of the report. Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough) seconded. Agreed.

Arising out of the report there was much discussion as to the course to be taken in regard to the propaganda launched against the Lyceum Movement.

Mr. Connor moved, Mrs. Pickles (M.C.) seconded: "That Mr. Tinker be invited to write a reply to "Child Mediums" and that this reply be published by Management Committee.

Mr. Latham (Trustees) spoke against the motion and Mr. Ford (M.C.) supported his view. Mr. Lilley (Normanton) gave his views. Miss Hesp (Education Committee) reported what had been done in their district to refute the statements made.

Mr. Keeling opposed the motion, contending that if we took this line it would appear there was something in the Lyceum teaching which needed vindication whereas there was no need to vindicate the truth. Mr. Gabbitas and Mr. Kitson gave their views. Mr. Connor replied.

The motion was put to the Conference. 33 votes for; 74 against. Motion lost.

M.C. REPORT.

(a) M.C. Report: Taken as read on motion by Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.), seconded by Mr. Keeling (Daulby).

Discussion arose on the statement in the report that the M.C. had undertaken the publication of a book by Mr. W. H. Evans "The History of Spiritualism," Mr. Evans having presented the B.S.L.U. with the MSS. and sole copyright. The difficulty appeared to be that many delegates were afraid the title might lead to the book being regarded as an official history of Spiritualism. Questions by Mr. Connor (London), Mr. Bentley (Manchester), Mr. Keeling (Daulby), Mr. Jones (Attercliffe), and Mr. Watson (Daulby). The President, General Secretary and Mr. Owen gave explanations, pointing out that the work was not strictly speaking a "history" of Spiritualism, and that, in any case, the book was actually in process of publication.

Messrs. Watson (Daulby); Ellis (Huddersfield); Nurse (Blackpool); Connor (London), and Keeling (Daulby) raised questions in regard to the publication of illustrated calendar.

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Connor seconded, that this Conference disapprove of the publication of illustrated calendar.

Vote: 47 for; 39 against; Carried.

Mr. Latham (Trustees) moved, Mr. Hope (Manchester) seconded adoption of M.C. Report. Carried.

At this juncture Mr. Connor moved, Mr. Keeling seconded, that this Conference record its hearty appreciation of the work done by the retiring Auditor, Mr. Will Edwards. Mr. Owen (M.C.) and Mr. Mack (M.C.) spoke in support. Mr. Kitson suggested that the appreciation be shown in a practical manner by giving Mr. Edwards one of the best official copies of the Lyceum Manual, duly inscribed, as a memento of his services. This was accepted by the mover and seconder as an addition and the motion was carried with acclamation. Mr. Edwards expressed his thanks.

TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT.

Mr. Cager (Brighton) moved, Mr. Churn (Reading) seconded and agreed that Treasurer's report be taken as read.

Questions and Comments on Report by Messrs. Watson (Daulby), Marston (Stockport), Bentley (Manchester), Jones (Attercliffe), Gabbitas, Connor (London), Ingham (Middlesborough), Dobby (Lincoln), Cretney (Boaler Street, Liverpool), Edwards (Auditor), Rae (Preston).

Mr. Jones (Attercliffe) moved, Mr. Ellis (Huddersfield) seconded, and agreed that the Balance Sheet be accepted.

Mr. Will Edwards gave Auditor's report and stated that everything was satisfactory. Mr. Thistlethwaite (Auditor) supported. Report accepted on motion by Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.), seconded by Mrs. Ennion.

Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield) moved, Mr. Jackson (Southern Countries) seconded, and agreed that Conference adjourn 9-30.

BANNER REPORT.

Taken as read on motion by Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough), seconded by Mr. V. Cooper (York).

Questions by Mr. Mack (M.C.), Mr. Hope (Manchester), Mr. Keeling (Daulby), Mr. Mason (Preston), in regard to advertisements in BANNER; Watson (Daulby) in regard to number of bound volumes of BANNER left on hand and comments by Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield), Shorrocks (Bolton), and Mr. Ellis (Huddersfield).

Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.) moved, Mr. Dobby (Lincoln) seconded, and agreed that report be accepted.

EDUCATION REPORT.

Taken as read on motion by Mr. Connor (London), seconded by Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough).

Miss Kitson was invited to the platform.

Miss Kitson said she wished to make one or two additions to the report. With reference to the enquiries which had been received in regard to an encyclopaedia about the Education Scheme she had discovered that one of the enthusiastic teachers in Manchester (Mr. Hope) had compiled an embryo book which was just what was wanted. He and Mr. Connor are collaborating in developing the idea in readiness for the time when it will be possible to publish the book. She then asked that Lyceumists who had taken the Examinations would take a copy of the printed list of results as a number were left in hand.

Mr. Watson (Daulby) asked whether papers had yet been received from New Zealand. Miss Kitson replied they had not.

There was then a great deal of discussion in reference to the examinations. Questions were asked by Messrs. Dobby (Lincoln), Hope (Manchester), Wagner (N.E. Lanes.) in regard to appointment of Examiners, &c. Mr. Cager (Brighton) drew attention to the splendid results achieved by Devonport, a new Lyceum.

Mr. Dickinson (Burnley) then asked whether grammar is taken into consideration in awarding marks and he was informed it was not. This gave rise to a long discussion.

The report was accepted on a motion by Mr. Bentley (Manchester), seconded by Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield).

Credential Report: Officers, 4; M.C., 7; Trustees, 2; Auditors, 2; S.N.U. representatives, 2; U.D.C. representatives, 1; D.C., 20; Education Committee representatives, 2; Lyceum Delegates, 105; total, 145. No. of Lyceums represented, 69.

Credential Report accepted on motion by Mr. Owen (M.C.), seconded by Mr. Jones (Attercliffe).

Mr. Bentley (Manchester) moved, Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough) seconded, that Conference adjourn at 1-20 on Sunday morning. Agreed.

Moved Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.), seconded Mr. G. H. Yates (Huddersfield) that Conference re-assemble at 2-30.

(f) TRUSTEES REPORT.

Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lanes.) moved, Mr. O'Neil (Keighley) seconded that report be taken as read. Agreed.

Mr. Watson (Daulby) asked question as to the amount in hand. Messrs. Keeling (Daulby), Connor (London) and Bentley (Manchester) asked questions as to the appointment of one or two new trustees who were getting on in years and it was suggested it would have been better to appoint younger men. Mr. Knott replied that when the Trust Deed comes into operation the Trustees will transfer their full powers to B.S.L.U.

(g) U.D.C. REPORT.

Taken as read on motion by Mr. Hart (Moss Side), seconded by Mr. Rae (Preston).

There was much discussion in regard to question of teaching being given in Lyceums on sex questions, the following taking part; Messrs. Watson (Daulby), Marston (Stockport), Owen (M.C.), Mrs. Greenwood (Hebden Bridge) and Mr. Connor (London).

At this point Mr. Edwards asked that addition of one delegate be made to Credential Report, making total 146.

The Conference was then adjourned until Sunday at 10 a.m.

The Sunday Meetings were held at Daulby Hall. The Conference commenced at 10-20. Mr. Keeling welcomed the Conference, the President and members of the M.C. being assembled at the entrance to the Hall. A number of Lyceumists carrying flowers, then filed into the Hall, and lined up on each side of the gangway. A small Lyceumist, James Thornhill, then addressed the Conference as follows:—

“Mr. President and Fellow Lyceumists:

“I am the chosen one whose pleasant duty it is to give you ‘hearty welcome to our City. Gathered here within our ‘walls, from places scattered far and wide o'er our Island ‘home, upon you lays the solemn task of piloting our good ‘ship through stormy seas. It is our earnest wish that the ‘work you undertake shall accomplish nought but the well-‘being of our Union. Advance, Sir President, to this seat of ‘high honour and with you bring those who stand about you, ‘leaving without the portals such thoughts as shall be an ‘hindrance to our vital harmony. As you advance step by ‘step between the guardian throngs may you gather strength ‘and inspiration for the work before you and crown your year ‘of office with safe anchorage in the haven of resplendent ‘peace.”

The Lyceumists lining the gangway then lifted their flowers to form an arch, under which the President, followed by members of the M.C. walked to the Platform, each receiving a spray of flowers. When they had seated themselves, a little girl, Doreen Thornhill, ascended the platform and addressed the President in the following words:—

“Most honoured Sir, permit to me a word or two for I would add a further welcome to that already spoken. However hard ye strive and with what good intent, the richest fruits shall not be harvested unless it be God's will. Therefore, do I give greeting warm and cordial to that great host of pioneers who are His ministers. Though they be unseen by many may their influence be felt and responded to by all.

With clean hearts and minds clear as crystal may you each have courage and strength to do the right. May the inspiration of holy angels be yours, so that with quickened spirit you shall be humble and submissive, yet bear yourselves with noble dignity, May you prosper in God's wisdom and by his grace be blest.”

The President expressed the hearty thanks of himself and his colleagues. He said they knew the Conference was meeting in stressful times and realised what it must have cost the Liverpool friends to entertain them.

The hymn “Children's Day Welcome” was then sung, after which Miss Elliott (M.C.) gave the invocation.

Mr. Williams then extended a hearty welcome to all delegates and to the representatives of the S.N.U.

Mr. Skelton replied on behalf of himself and Mr. Berry and said he would like to feel the bond of union between the S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. drawn even closer. This could only be done by the various Lyceums and Societies being drawn together.

The General Secretary then read the roll of arisen Lyceumists.

The Conference then stood while Mrs. Pickles asked the members to send out thoughts to these arisen ones. The members of the Conference complied.

Mr. Kitson asked for special reference to be made to Mr. Kersey and called attention to the splendid work he had done. The Conference rose in tribute to Mr. Kersey.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President: Nominations: Mr. C. J. Williams, 35 votes; Elected, Mr. G. A. Mack (Runcorn), 101.

Vice-President, Nominations: Mr. E. Keeling (Daulby), 1st vote, 28; 2nd vote, 27; Mrs. Nurse (Blackpool), 18; Mr. Alfred Kitson, 66, 96. Mr. C. J. Williams, 24, 14. Mr. Kitson elected.

Treasurer: Mr. R. Owen, unopposed.

Auditors: Mr. F. F. Ball (Lancaster), 96; Mr. F. Watson (Liverpool), 28; Mr. Nurse (Rochdale), 38. Mr. Lloyd, Pendleton (not present—ruled not eligible). Mr. Ball elected.

The Result of the Area elections was declared as follows:—

- Area A. Mr. J. Stewart, Glasgow;
 „ B. Mr. R. Hunter, Newcastle-on-Tyne;
 „ C. Mr. J. K. Jones, Sheffield; (Mr. Kitson having been elected Vice-President).
 „ D. Mr. W. Burrows, Halifax.
 „ E. Mrs. M. E. Pickles, Blackpool;
 „ F. Miss Elliott, Moston;
 „ G. No nominations;
 „ H. Mr. W. Ford, Reading.

The discussion on the U.D.C. report in regard to sex question was then resumed.

Mr. Ford (M.C.) moved, Mr. Churn (Reading) seconded that we go on to next business.

Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield) moved; Mr. Marston (Stockport) seconded, that the report be adopted and that the U.D.C. carry on the discussion.

Mr. Keeling (Liverpool) moved, Mr. Jackson (Southern Counties) seconded that the report be accepted and the discussion on sex teaching be referred back to U.D.C.—Agreed.

CONSTITUTION REPORT.

Taken as read on motion of Mr. Shackleton (), seconded by Mr. Jones (Attercliffe). Mr. Connor said report could not be "taken as read."

The General Secretary said that Resolution of last Conference instructed the M.C. to carry out the wishes of that Conference which were to produce from resolutions passed and remainder of Agenda an amended Constitution. A Committee had been appointed to compile new Constitution. The new Constitution had been compiled and issued and a copy sent to every Lyceum and every D.C.

Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lanes.) called attention to the fact that a motion from N.E. Lanes. had been totally omitted from the new Constitution. Mr. Mason (Preston Progressive) suggested that in the circumstances it would have been better for M.C. to hold their hands instead of having Constitution printed as they had not full instructions. The President stated the M.C. had full instructions. Mr. Connor (London) contended that this Conference should have been consulted before the Constitution was printed. Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.), Mr. Latham (Trustee) also made comments.

Mr. Williams, Mr. Knott and Mr. Owen spoke on the points raised.

Mr. Churn (Reading) moved, Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield) seconded, that Constitution Report be accepted. Vote: 35 for; 59 against. Motion Lost.

Mr. Shuttleworth (U.D.C.) called attention to a motion of his at last conference, seconded by Miss Elliott, and carried by 94 votes as against 15 that the Conference discuss the vital principles and relegate the remainder to a sub-committee to be elected before the Conference goes out of Session. He asked why, if general principles in last year's Agenda could not be included, why should matters of which no notice was given be put in? He said an addition had been made to the Bye-Laws at the top of page 28 as follows "This section shall be binding upon District Councils."

Further long discussion took place in which Messrs. Connor (London), Keeling (Daulby), Mr. Ellis (Huddersfield), and Dobby (Lincoln), took part. Mr. Williams, Mr. Knott and Mr. Owen answered questions put.

Ultimately Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lanes.) moved, Mr. Mason (Preston) seconded that a Committee be set up from the floor of the house to compile the constitution as per the findings of last Conference and as a result of their findings printed slips shall be inserted into the Constitution as at present printed.

A motion for adoption of Report and the above as an amendment to the Constitution was put to the meeting.

For the amendment, 38. Against 77.

For the motion, 69. Against 44.

Motion for adoption carried.

MANUAL REVISION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Taken as read on motion by Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield) seconded by Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough).

Discussion of Report left over.

S.N.U. REPORT.

Mr. Knott outlined the advantages of S.N.U. E.C. representation. The International Conference and inter-relations with the S.N.U.

Mr. Berry said he would like to add to the report he

had noticed in the "BANNER" it was stated a Report of the S.N.U. Conference had been printed in the BANNER for August 1922. He thought it might be useful if an account of the proceedings could be printed in BANNER with other reports, so that, if desired, questions could be asked at this Conference. He also called attention to an idea which was on foot in Scotland and which conveyed the idea that the Scottish Societies D.C. is anxious to take over and control the Lyceum. The idea is only in embryo and he only mentioned it because it touches an integral part of Lyceum Constitution.

Acceptance of report moved by Mr. Connor (London) and seconded by Mr. Jones (Attercliffe) with recommendation that future reports be printed in BANNER.—Agreed.

CREDENTIAL REPORT.

Officers 4, Management Committee 7, Trustees 2, Auditors 2, S.N.U. Representatives 2, U.D.C. Representatives 1, D.C. Representatives 20, Education Committee Representatives 2, Lyceum Delegates 107, Total 147.

Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield) moved acceptance of report. Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough) seconded. Agreed.

Election of representative to E.C. of S.N.U.

Mr. Keeling asked if this election is governed by resolution passed last year and whether M.C. were prepared to accept ruling of Speaker of House of Commons.

Mr. Connor moved, Mr. Owen seconded, and agreed that before we proceed we ask for the Case presented to Speaker of House of Commons and his decision. Mr. Keeling said he had not the Case with him but gave it as near as possible from memory. The ruling of the Speaker was that "the floor of the conference did not include officials who continue to serve after the conference had terminated." There was some discussion between the President and Mr. Keeling.

It was decided that item number (6) on second page of Agenda be taken at this point so that the point might be settled before election was made.

Discussion by Connor (London), Ellis (Huddersfield), President, General Secretary, Miss Hesp (Education Committee). Mr. Berry explaining the standing of the B.S.L.U. in relation to S.N.U., said B.S.L.U. are entitled to two delegates but are not regarded as a D.C. by the S.N.U. but are a national body affiliated to S.N.U.

The resolution on the Agenda as follows:—

"There shall be two representatives to the Executive Council of the Spiritualists' National Union Ltd. They shall be (a) the General Secretary, who shall serve during his term of office and (b) one other nominated from the Management Committee, who shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election if the necessary conditions are fulfilled."

was then put to the Conference. It was carried with four dissentients.

There were the following nominations for S.N.U. E.C. representatives: Mrs. Pickles, Miss Elliott, Mr. Mack, Mr. Ford, Mr. Kitson. Mrs. Pickles, Mr. Mack & Mr. Ford with drew. Mr. Kitson was elected.

GUILD REPORT.

Taken as read on motion by Mr. Jones (Attercliffe) seconded by Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough).

Mr. Owen moved emergency motion that Standing Orders Committee in adjournment interval arrange time table for the business of this afternoon's agenda. Mr. Sharrocks seconded. Mr. Connor objected. Motion put to the meeting and lost.

OVERSEAS REPORT.

The General Secretary said he had received a letter from First Spiritualist Church, Winnipeg, conveying good wishes for Conference. The pastor of the Church is Mrs. Forrest, formerly of Burnley. He said Australia was very quiet now, there being only one Lyceum in the Union—Adelaide. The only active place in South Africa was Johannesburg. New Zealand have formulated a Lyceum Executive.

Mr. Ingham (Middlesborough) moved, Mr. Marston (Stockport) seconded acceptance of report.

At this point Mrs. Nurse explained that the Sunday School procession which should have taken place in Blackpool in Carnival week had been postponed to the 24th June.

Mr. Owen then informed the Conference that there was a delegate from Clitheroe aged only 13. The boy was invited into the centre of the room so that he might be seen by all the Conference. He did so and was received with great applause.

£2,000 EFFORT.

Mr. Burrows gave the report of this Fund. Thirty Lyceums have contributed £197 7s. 4d. M.C. and U.D.C. £20; Individual efforts £83 9s. 11d. He had received 10s. from Miss

Timms, Cardiff, a young Lyceumist, who had saved it in farthings out of her pocket money.

There was a great deal of discussion as to whether the money received in this fund could be expended before the £2,000 was collected; and the Secretary read the original Minute. Mr. Latham (Trustee), Mr. Owen (M.C.), Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield), took part in discussion. Mrs. Raymond (Daulby) said it was the idea of Daulby (where the idea originated) that £2,000 should be obtained and then it should be decided how it should be expended. Mr. Burrows moved the report. Mr. Latham seconded.

Adjourned until Sunday afternoon.

The Sunday afternoon session commenced with the singing of "Forward Press to Conquer" after which Mr. Hibbert of Bolton gave the invocation.

The new members of the M.C., Messrs. Stewart and Jones, were then invited to the platform.

The discussion on the £2,000 effort was then resumed, Mr. Keeling, Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield), Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lanes.), Mr. Bentley (Manchester), Mr. Watson (Daulby), and Mrs. Pickles (M.C.) taking part.

The following motion was proposed by Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lanes.) seconded by Mr. Mason (Preston Progressive).

That the moneys subscribed under the £2,000 Effort be handed to the Trustees for investment: £250 forthwith; and in accruing sums of £50. The Trustees to hold the moneys until such time as the fund shall be completed by the total sum being raised. Carried unanimously.

Miss Hesp moved, Mr. Ingham (Middlesbrough) seconded adoption of Report. Carried.

The Interim Report was read by the General Secretary.

Mr. Owen said he had not anticipated the secretary referring to financial position. He had taken special care to get the financial position up to date for presentation to the Conference.

The current cash of the Union was reported very low.

Particulars of financial position; four months ending April 30th, 1923. Balance Sheet January 1st, £135 5s. 11d.; receipts, £730 8s. 3d.; total £865 14s. 2d. Expenses, £771 19s. 8d.; Balance 30th April £93 14s. 6d.

The receipts include subscriptions for 1923; namely, £173 8s. January M.C. meeting at Stockport, profit of £10 16s. 10d., a record. Special thanks accorded to Stockport for same, with hope that other towns will follow example.

He pointed out that if the financial position is not altered the B.S.L.U. are heading for financial disaster.

Adoption of report moved by Mr. Ellis (Huddersfield) seconded by Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield).

Representatives for S.N.U. Conference at Newcastle 7th and 8th July. There were the following nominations:—Mr. C. J. Williams, Mr. Mack, Mr. Hunter (M.C.), Miss Hesp, Mr. Kitson. Mr. Mack withdrew. On a vote being taken Mr. Hunter and Mr. Kitson were elected.

Mr. Connor asked whether anyone had been appointed to National Peace Conference. Mr. Williams replied that at last meeting of M.C. Miss Hesp and Mr. Burrows (Halifax) had been appointed.

Education Committee. Mr. Cager (Brighton) moved, Mr. Drinkwater (London) seconded that E.C. be re-elected en-bloc. Mrs. Pickles intimated her desire to retire.

Mr. Knott then raised a question as to his position on this Committee and there was a long discussion on the point.

Mr. Marston (Stockport) moved, Mr. Dobby (Lincoln) seconded, that all officers of the Union have some position as regards voting as other members whether from the floor or from the M.C.

Mr. Connor moved an amendment that the General Secretary and President be *ex-officio* members of the Committee with same rights as the members elected on the Committee.

Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield) seconded.

On amendment being put to the vote the amendment was carried. The amendment was then put as a substantive motion and carried.

Place and date of next year's Conference.

Mr. Owen (M.C.) moved that the date of the Conference next year be the second Saturday and Sunday in May. Mr. Wagner (N.E. Lanes.) seconded. Mr. Keeling (Daulby) supported.

Mr. Kitson objected on account of better facilities for delegates at Whitsuntide.

Mr. Clegg (London) moved amendment that it be Whitsuntide. Mr. Bentley (Manchester) seconded.

Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield), Mr. Dobby (Lincoln), and Mr. Cager (Brighton) took part in discussion.

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried. It was then put as substantive motion and carried.

Invitations were received from Hull and from the N.E. Lanes. D.C. Mrs. Brown (Hull) stipulating that the Hull invitation was subject to confirmation by the Societies who had not yet been approached.

A vote was taken the result being:—Hull 79; N.E. Lanes. 28. Subject to confirmation next year's conference will be held at Hull.

Mr. Connor moved, Mr. Keeling seconded, and agreed that Motion No. (8) on the agenda be now taken, namely: That the Question of Assistance to the General Secretary of the Union be considered for the carrying on more efficiently of the work of the Union.

Mr. Saxelby (Sheffield D.C.) said at last meeting of the Sheffield D.C. the question of delays in replying to correspondence &c., came up and the result of the discussion was the motion now before the Conference. Mr. Jones (Attercliffe) also spoke in reference to the motion.

It was stated the Management Committee had a report to make in regard to question of assistance to the Secretary. After a great deal of discussion as to mode of procedure Mr. Keeling moved and it was agreed that the method of procedure be that the M.C. present their report and the General Secretary make his statement, after which the Conference discussion shall ensue.

Mr. Williams then read the report of the M.C. which was to the effect that the M.C. are of opinion that the work at present does not call for assistance, and that if Mr. Knott wishes for assistance he should pay salary out of his own pocket.

Mr. Knott made a long statement in reply.

A long discussion then followed in which following took part: Messrs. Edwards (Auditor), Bentley (Manchester), Latham (Trustee), Mason (Preston).

Mr. Owen (M.C.) and Mr. Kitson made a statement.

Mr. Connor proposed, Mr. Marston seconded that vote be taken.

Mr. Owen proposed, Mr. Shuttleworth seconded that time be extended to 5.15. Agreed.

More discussion followed in which Messrs. Dobby (Lincoln), Bentley (Manchester), Owen (M.C.) the President and others took part.

Ultimately the following motion was put to the Conference: "This Conference is of opinion that assistance should be provided the General Secretary, the amount of remuneration to be fixed by the Trustees, providing that he devotes all his working time in the Union Office. Moved W. E. Mason (Preston), seconded Mr. Drinkwater (Brighton). Vote: for 43; against 34. Motion carried.

The Credential report of the afternoon session was not given, but the attendance was as follows:—

Officers 4, M.C. 7, Trustees 1, Auditors 2, S.N.U. 2, U.D.C. 1, D.C. Reprs. 19, Education Committee 2, Lyceum Delegates 100, Total 138.

THE LOOM OF LIFE.

Light on the hills, gleam on the sea,
Blue is the sky that bends over me;
Tenderly blows the wind o'er the wheat,
Bearing delights my spirit to greet.

Soft falls the spray where the cataracts roar,
Soft falls the spray from the surf on the shore,
Soft falls the song from the lark in the sky,
Soft fall the shadows as lovers pass by.

Gently the moonbeams fall on the earth,
Gently sweet flowers in spring come to birth,
Gently the sunshine ripens the grain,
Gently the short days come once again.

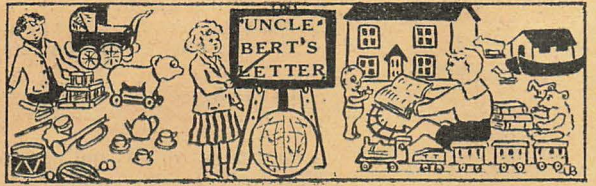
Ever time's shuttle moves to and fro,
Threading the dawn to the sunset glow,
Weaving a pattern all wondrous and fine,
Showing the essence of life is divine.

Over and under Time's shuttle glides,
Moved by the pulsing of life's crimson tides;
Thus in the loom of life do we ply,
Content that the pattern will show by and by.

W. H. EVANS.

Six copies of the LYCEUM BANNER are wanted by the Education Committee for each of the following months:—October, November, December, 1922; January, February, March, 1923. Copies should be sent to the General Secretary and cash to the value of BANNERS will be sent in return.

Lyceum Secretaries are requested to note the postal changes when ordering books, etc.



My dear Boys and Girls,

Although we had a lot of wet weather last month your letters brought plenty of sunshine with them, and your Pearls emphasised the value of both material and spiritual sunshine, Auntie Ruth and I feel quite sunburnt with them.

During the last few weeks, we have been seeing what some of our London boys and girls can do, first I must tell you about a play we went to. Of course we had to dress up very smartly, and of course we had a car, it belonged to the Tramway Company, but we had a car, and we arrived at North London Lyceum just as the lights in their hall were turned down, excepting those on the stage, where the members of the Lyceum were dressed in beautiful costumes, acting a fairy play. It was a grand effort, all deserve top marks, including their Conductor, who wrote the play.

Then we had a grand Anniversary day at Hampton, where I met several Lyceumists from other Lyceums and there were such a lot of nice people there, including another Uncle who does not write letters, but tells funny stories, as well as instructive ones, I think all our boys and girls in London love him, I am not going to tell you his real name, but I call him Uncle Smiles, and then the other day I met another gentleman, and I had to be on my very best behaviour, because he was writing things down in a note-book, he was the Silver Bell reporter. I wonder how many marks I got, I had tea with him, and talked to him very nicely so I hope I am alright, don't you? To finish up all these nice events I was photographed with one of the Lyceum. I wonder if I broke the camera.

SMILE AND LOOK PLEASANT PLEASE.

I was delighted last month to receive a beautiful photograph of a well known Lyceum which has over forty members, including dear old Father Xmas. I notice there are at least thirty nine of my nieces and nephews, and I love to receive photographs of you, because it helps me to see those I am writing to, so any such photographs will act as an aid to inspiration. So now, Tiny Tots, I want to say a few words to you this month about having your photograph, or as some of you call it, your likeness taken. What a business it is to be sure, Mamma has to start the preparations over night by putting a few extra curly rags in, or if a boy, he has to have an extra turn at the bath. And after you have been to bed and dreamed all about the wonderful picture you will make, the time arrives for you to start off to the shop, and my word, you do look nice, and you walk along as proud as a fairy Prince or Princess, and now you reach the shop. And a gentleman with a funny looking box with a nose and three legs tells you how and where to sit, then he says "Smile and look pleasant please and see the little dicky bird pop out," and before you have time to see this so much talked of bird, your photograph is taken, and after a few days your photograph arrives, and then everybody inspects it and say they think it is good or bad. Of course it is usually good, because you have put on your sweet smile, but I wonder if I came and caught you with my camera, just when Mamma was doing those tiresome curly rags, or combing the tangles out of your hair, you know those tangles which get made by your sticky fingers after you have been eating dates: Or when you are told it is bedtime. Do you really think I should get a good photograph of you: all beams of smiles? Just you think I am there, and ask Mamma and Dadda to tell you what sort of a picture you'll make.

BE A SPORT, PLAY THE GAME.

We are all fond of sport I am sure, Cricket Tennis, Racing, Skipping and Rounders, are amongst the games we love to play in the open parks or fields, and I wonder how many of you have heard someone call out "Play the game there" which means, one of the players are not keeping to the strict rules. I have watched a band of girls skipping, and one of them gets her feet mixed up with the rope and at once turns round to the one who is turning, and says in such a sweet gentle voice: "I shan't play, you are not turning properly," and I have watched boys playing

rounders, and one of them miss one of the outposts in order to get a rounder. These are the sort of things which makes mischief in our games, but I want you boys and girls to become true sports in all your games. It is a grand title, to be called a sport. I was watching some school boys playing football a few weeks ago, and I was greatly impressed, when at the end of the match, the losing side gave, three rousing cheers for the victors: to my mind it was a noble action, and worth copying.

To be a sport, means you must always play fair; you all know that old saying, "Cheats never prosper," it is a very true one, for cheating is just a bad habit of selfishness, and if we do not check it while we are young, it may grow into a nasty Police Court weed in later years, and we would all like to be able to do without such places as these. If you play the game, and play it fair you will always be looked upon as a true sport, and further you must always remember a true sport knows how to take defeat with a smile, because in all our games we have to have winners and losers, this is what puts the real grit into our play, isn't it. So I want each one of you to put your very best effort in whatever game you play, and always play for victory. Should you be defeated, be a sport and take it bravely, for there is another day, when it will be your turn to win. "Practice makes perfect," so always BE A SPORT, PLAY THE GAME.

COMPETITIONS.

Nearly all the competitors last month, are from Lyceums which have received prizes or special mention, in previous competitions. This month I want to see several more Lyceums represented.

Prizes awarded to:

Gladys Clements. Age 12, Battersea.

Elizabeth Coe. Age 12, South Shields.

Special mention, and awards of merit, are divided amongst those who entered from Wolverhampton, Hebburn, and South Shields.

THE BEST PEARL.

God sends His bright spring Sun, to melt the ice and snow,
To start the green leaf bud, and make the sweet flowers grow.
—DORIS FRUIN, Hounslow.

This month I shall give two prizes for letters on:

"WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO BE WHEN I GROW UP, AND WHY?"

Competitors over 14 years "Liberty Section," may write essays on any subject which appeals to them.

RULES.

1. Name in full, age, address, 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 for Prizes must be regular attendants at Lyceum not over 14 years of age, and each reply must be your own individual effort.
3. Competitors over 14 years of age mark papers "Liberty Section." Address to Uncle Bert, 2, Villiers Road, Osterley, Middlesex, not later than JUNE 16TH. Prizes will be sent to your Conductor and a receipt for same is requested.

Mamma to Jackie: There were three slices of cake in the cupboard, and now there are only two, how is that?

Jackie: It was so dark in there, Mamma, that I didn't see the other two.

I am much obliged to the Adult workers in various Lyceums who are assisting to make my page of service to the little ones, by helping them to write their letters, and collecting same and sending them in one batch. I would like others to help in this way. Postage and stationery are items to the child, and I do not wish to rob the little ones, of the Saturday pennies, and if such helpers will enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply, I will reply to each child in a general letter to your Lyceum. It is up to each one of us to make our Lyceum the most attractive Sunday School in the world. To this end please help me by helping your little ones.

With Love,

UNCLE BERT.

From the soul of a man who was homeless
Came the deathless song of home.

ADVENT:

THE BEGINNINGS OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM.

By A. T. CONNOR.

CHAPTER VI.

THE EVIDENCE EXAMINED.

It may reasonably be pointed out that the large array of certified facts now in the possession of the Spiritualist Movement makes it immaterial whether the early phenomena were fraudulent or not, as the truth of Spirit return and Spirit communication has been proved by thousands of investigators. But while this is so, we must bear in mind that these phenomena were the beginnings of our Modern Movements; and as charges of fraud have been levelled against the mediums concerned, it is only right that, in a history of the Knockings, these charges should be met and either admitted or disproved.

We shall first consider the Knockings, which could only have been caused in one of two ways—(A) by physical agency or (B) by super-physical agency. The physical agents could have been (1) the Fox sisters, (2) other members of the Fox family, or (3) some of the neighbours. *Re* (1), it is on record that Margaretta Fox, on more than one occasion, confessed that she and her sister had produced the rappings—but it is also on record that after each "confession" she fervently protested that they had not! It was also argued that the knocks were produced by dislocations of the knee-joints—but this would only produce one unvarying sound, and would not account for the sounds of footsteps, of a struggle, or of digging. Besides, the knocks were heard in the cellar on the night of 31st March, when Mrs. Fox and the girls were not in the house; nor could the sisters have been responsible for the noises heard by the Weekmans and Lucretia Pulver, or complained of by Mrs. Bell. *Re* (2) the cellar incident narrows the search down to Mr. Fox. (It is worthy of note here that no noises were heard on the night when David Fox and three others slept in the haunted room.) But in the cellar, everyone was looking for the cause of the noises, and it is questionable whether Mr. Fox could have produced them without being instantly detected. Further, when Wm. Duesler was investigating, the precautions he took were all against successful fraud. Finally, with regard to the possibility (3) of the noises being produced by neighbours with a peculiar sense of humour—the fact that until Sunday, 2nd April, the noises were only heard at night would seem to lend some degree of credibility to such a suggestion; but on 31st March and 1st April the house was surrounded by large crowds, and on 2nd April about three hundred were present when the noises were heard in broad daylight. And in all three sections we must remember that searching questions were asked and correct answers received—and no description of bone-dislocation could account for this fact, as the questions were all mainly personal, and the Foxes or a "joker" couldn't very well have learned the ages and family history of all the inhabitants of Hydesville and its neighbourhood for miles around—and been able to produce each as required on the spur of the moment. Considering the crudeness of the code of communication, the exact knowledge manifested was very impressive.

In an investigation such as this, the character of the Fox family should be taken into consideration. We find that the Foxes were highly respected members of the Methodist Church—so much so that at first the clergymen of Rochester combined with them in praying for the removal of "the curse" which oppressed them. Our first consideration, then, is—was it worth while for them to lose the respect of the Christian community in order to make claims to a "faked" communication in which nobody believed? The fact that Mrs. Fox's hair turned grey in a single week, as the result of the persecution in Rochester would seem to suggest that she at least was not enjoying the situation; and Mrs. Fish's loss of music pupils could hardly be put down to a successful career of fraud. To this we must add the earnest prayers of the Foxes that the "obsessing" spirits might be driven away—and their delight in November, 1848, when the spirits had left them. Also we must remember the terror of the girls on March 31st, which impressed not only their mother but Mrs. Redfield. Finally, the public character of Mr. and Mrs. Fox makes it hard to imagine them as conniving at the carrying out of such a heartless fraud.

When considering records of investigations, and trying to find their evidential value, we must take into account the precautions against fraud adopted by the investigators. Leaving aside what may be called the first public presentation of the early knockings—when large crowds assembled, and their members were well satisfied with the evidential information given,

we may confine ourselves to the investigation undertaken by Wm. Duesler. His record of his experiences has already been given very fully, so it is only necessary to concentrate on one or two points. It was he who improved the code of communication, by reversing his questions when he received no answer. By this means he obtained the first complete account from the invisible knocker—and this confirmed the partial account already obtained by Mrs. Fox. On the Sunday his investigations were marked by great thoroughness, and he noted the fact that there was only one thickness of flooring between the bedroom and the cellar, so that an instrument capable of making the noises could not have been concealed. Although his declared decision was somewhat negative, he was at least convinced that, whatever the cause of the knocks, they had not been produced by any physical means that could be detected.

The statements of the Pulvers and the Weekmans are important as corroboration of the stories told by the Foxes and the unseen knocker. Lucretia Pulver's description of the pedlar agrees with Mrs. Lape's clairvoyant vision; but the weakness in Mrs. Lape's story is that she left the kitchen to look for Mrs. Weekman, and therefore could not swear that what she saw was not a physical intruder who made his escape during her absence. However, the coincidence in description is worthy of note. And the accounts of the knockings heard discount any suspicion of fraud on the part of the Foxes. Further, Mr. Fox's experiences with the door coincide with those of Mr. Weekman, with the important addition that when Mr. and Mrs. Fox stood on opposite sides of the door, they heard the knocks on the door between them. The dog incident recorded by Lucretia is also important, as dogs have been known to howl when a death occurred in the house to which they were attached—and animals are clairvoyant.

The pedlar's story is the weakest part of the entire account. He declared that he had been murdered about five years previous—but the dates given (the winter of 1843-44 and March, 1848) don't allow much more than four years. Again, there is no account of his orphan children ever having been brought forward, and it could easily be claimed that, had they existed, the publicity given to the story would have led to their being produced. Further, the story was contradicted in person by John C. Bell, the alleged murderer, who came from Lyon, N.Y. (where he had been living since 1846), armed with a certificate of good character signed by forty-four inhabitants of Lyon, who "believed him to be a man of upright and honest life, and incapable of committing the crime of which he was suspected." Lucretia Pulver also certified that "Mr. and Mrs. Bell appeared to be very good folks." Bell's supporters were also able to point to cases where other missing persons—said to have been murdered—had reappeared afterwards. But the apparently weakest point of all was the attempt to locate the position of the grave. When digging took place at the spot indicated, human remains were certainly found, but no evidence whatever to connect them with the alleged pedlar.

The reproduction of the murder episode has already been considered, and it is noteworthy that the episode was reproduced to a circle in Rochester (See "Modern American Spiritualism"), and has been reproduced since to circles sitting in the old cottage of Hydesville (See "Hydesville in History.")

The final phase of the early demonstration was at Rochester, when the Fox sisters, and the phenomena produced through their mediumship, were put to the test of public and private examination. The details have already been described, so it is only necessary here to point out that, under the most rigid test conditions, raps on walls, etc., were heard all over Corinthian Hall, whilst the mediums were on the platform; that, in private, mental questions were correctly answered, the use of insulators did not in any way interfere with the production of phenomena, and it was certified by Dr. Langworthy that the various sounds were not produced by ventriloquism. In the words of the Committee, "they had heard the sounds, and failed utterly to discover their origin; they had proved that neither machinery nor imposture had been used, and their questions, many of them being mental, were correctly answered."

It is for us to see if we can do what the Committees failed to do, and discover the origin of the phenomena.

(To be continued.)

Mediumship and Circles.

THE PASSPORT TO SPIRIT COMMUNION.

By Mrs. M. E. PICKLES.

Our article this month must of necessity be brief, for space is wanted for Conference reports.

We often affirm that Modern Spiritualism came into the world for the special purposes of combating materialism, and to spiritualize the people.

There is the Phenomena as the bed-rock on which all else is built and when the student has become conversant with its many aspects, he must inevitably cling to its twin sister, Philosophy.

This truly teaches us how to live, how to bear life's adversities, and also all the while to *feel* the joy and beauty of living. It is like the outer demonstration, and the inner illumination.

A real pearl and gem of thought is conveyed by the words "Creation is the externalized thought of God, and this God-like attribute, we, as part of the universal mind, share in a partial degree."

Little by little in our unfoldment, we begin to see the wisdom of the hitherto hidden things, and become more conscious that as soon as we have grown ready to receive, the curtains are parted, and we can peer within. In the past we saw only the vaneer, the outer, or the exoteric, side of things, but now as earnest students we know there is the hidden, or the esoteric, which contains so much joy.

We shall see in the Conference an outer phase of our being as a Movement, probably a little rough sometimes, and may be a few misunderstandings, but thank God there is soundness and truth right at the core. It is because of the progressive spirit in this great science of life, the constant teaching and pointing the way to real life, that though we differ in our methods our aim is one and the same; the great principle the same, and we shall have made another step for our children to ascend to a still higher path. We ought to grow as a movement spiritually, but we can only do this by *individual* effort, and as we keep moving on we must not lose sight of the fact why Modern Spiritualism came into being.

Let us establish more home circles. Let us train our children to understand this sweetest of all songs:

'Tis sweet to think the pure ethereal being,
Whose mortal form reposes with the dead,
Still hover's round unseen, yet not unseeing,
Benignly smiling on the mourner's bed.
She comes in dreams a thing of light and lightness,
I hear her voice in still small accents tell
Of realms of bliss, and neverfading brightness,
Where those who loved on earth, together dwell.

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. or additional 9 words. Poetry 6d. per line.

CARDIFF, Queen Street.—The mortal remains of our sister, Mrs. Gray, were interred on April 19th, 1923, in the presence of a large gathering of Spiritualists and friends.

CRABTREE.—On April 27th, 1917, at Sydney, Australia, aged 31, Bessie, beloved and only daughter of James and A. E. Tinker, 29, King Street, Hr. Broughton, Manchester. [The Editor regrets this memoriam was overlooked last month.]

In loving remembrance of Archie Bailey, Heywood, a link of golden memories which help to gild the future. From his friend and co-worker, Mrs. Wilfrid Brooks (*nee* Gertrude Hulme, Heywood), Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, and Ada.—Oamaru, New Zealand.

NELSON.—I regret to record the passing to the Higher Life of Nellie Higgins, on May 10th, 1923, aged 8 years.—Mrs. A. Parkinson, Sec.

District Visitors' Reports.

COVENTRY AND NUNEATON DISTRICT.

I attended Broad Street, Foleshill, on March 25th. There were 29 scholars present. Prompt start. This being Pioneers' Sunday, special mention was made. Readings and recitations very nicely rendered. Would like to see more questions and comments. Total at the close, 35. Marching and calisthenics fairly good.

March 25th I attended Broadgate Lyceum. There were 40 scholars present. A late start was made. Readings and recitations were rendered very well, but would like to hear comments

and questions, if time would permit. The attention was very good. Marching and calisthenics were rendered very well indeed. Trust they will keep up this standard. No late scholars.

On April 15th I paid a visit to Nuneaton. Unfortunately, I found them without their regular Musical Conductor, as I did on a previous occasion. A late start was made here. There were 83 scholars present at the commencement of the session. Comments on the readings and recitations were very well rendered by the Conductor. Questions also were asked and answers given. Marching and calisthenics are still in the embryo state, therefore it would not be just to make any comment. Pleased to see many young men and young ladies in the Lyceum, which speaks well for the future.

April 15th I visited Bull Street Lyceum. 39 scholars were present. A start on time was made. Recitations and readings were rendered fairly well. Comments were given by the Conductor. Questions were asked for. The boys were a little restive. Marching and calisthenics were rendered very nicely, but there is room for improvement. Total at the close, 42.

I must again thank Mr. Gounan for his kindness in taking me over to Nuneaton in his motor car.—H. Burrows, Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

Newton Heath. Prompt start; 62 present; late 9; Guild members 7. Exam. none. Recitations: girls 3, boys 2, adults 1. Conductor very efficient, although only young. The session is rather hurried. Questions should be asked more freely. Marching and calisthenics very fair.

HOLLINWOOD (not affiliated). Prompt start. 40 present; late 18. Recitations: girls 2, boys 1, adults none. There is a good deal of work to be done here.

New Manchester, Oxford Road. Prompt start, though few in numbers. Present 15; late 4. Guild and Exam. none. Group Sunday. Pearl on opening. This is a good idea. This Lyceum deserves credit for the way they stick and try for progress, as they can only meet on Sunday morning.

Princess Road. Prompt start. 29 present; late 15. Response from adults very fair. The children need help. Marching and calisthenics fair. Recitations: girls 14, boys 1, adults none. The children here should do well if looked after.

Ardwick, Maskell Street. Present 32; late 9. Guild and Exam. none. Group Sunday. Attention very fair. With co-operation of children and elders this Lyceum should do well.

Stretford. A new Lyceum. I had the pleasure of conducting the session on my visit. Attendance 32. There seems to be a good spirit and an eagerness to get on which I hope will continue. The various officers were elected after the session, and I hope they will do the work which is required in a whole-hearted way, and so bring the Lyceum up to a good standard. The workers win.

Longsight, Shepley Street. Present 48; late 17. Prompt start. Recitations: girls 8, boys 4, adults 3. Group Sunday. Guards very attentive. Response good. Altogether a very bright session. The Lyceum promises to be well to the fore.

Collyhurst. Present 38; late 4. Guild and Exam. none. Group Sunday. Recitations: girls 3, boys none, adults none. Session well conducted. Good interest shown in children by Conductor.

I would impress on all Lyceums the necessity of being Guild members, studying the grade books and the articles in the BANNER. The girls beat the boys in individual efforts. Why is this? I hope in future none will be late and all Lyceumists will be ready to start next year's exams. You will learn quite a lot from the BANNER. My heartiest good wishes go to all Lyceums in the Manchester and Salford District.—J. Ernest Hart, D.V.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.

My first visit to a Lyceum in the capacity of District Visitor was to Stockton (Brunswick Street) on February 25th. Attendance of 60. The Golden Chain No. 119 was well read and the few questions asked were well answered. A good display was given by the marching and calisthenics, after which groups were formed. Altogether a very enjoyable session was spent, under the able Conductorship of Mrs. Williams.

I visited Middlesboro' on March 4th. The singing and reading very good. The Conductor explained the G.C.R. at length. The marching and calisthenics were splendid. A few pearls were given. The definition of the Golden Rule brought out many different ideas. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

My next visit was Stockton (Cecil Street). 92 present. The children read the connective readings. The G.C.R. was full of

difficult words. The marching and calisthenics were good. Groups were formed.

On March 18th I paid a visit to Hartlepool. The Silver Chain was well read; Musical Reading was well rendered; Golden Chain was well read, but no questions were asked. The Conductor, however, explained it. The marching and calisthenics were very smartly done. The session was closed before groups could be formed, as the time had run short. 50 present.

I visited Darlington (Northgate) on March 25th. Silver Chain was well read and the rendering of Musical Reading and Golden Chain were also very good. The Conductor asked the Lyceum questions on the Golden Chain, which were well answered. The marching and calisthenics were given in a good style, after which groups were formed. The session was enjoyed by all. 31 present.

I went to Darlington Psychological on April 18th. 53 present. The marching and calisthenics made a good display, everyone being in perfect time. I had the honour of presenting a number of diplomas to the Lyceumists who had been successful in passing the Education Scheme Examination. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent.—Geo. Neale, Junr., D.V.

District Council Reports.

COVENTRY AND NUNEATON DISTRICT.

The above Council held their bi-monthly meeting at the Broad Street Spiritualist Church, Foleshill, on Saturday, May 12th, when Delegates were present from all the Lyceums in the district.

The chair was occupied by our President, Captain J. Maddocks, of Nuneaton. The meeting opened with hymn 360, followed by invocation and a short address by the President.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Annual Garden Party came up for discussion. The Secretary reported an interview with Alderman W. H. Grant. Date for Garden Party is July 21st. It was decided to engage a band for the day and also give a demonstration of marching and calisthenics. A friend has also offered to come and give the children an entertainment with his talking dolls, etc., which was gratefully accepted. It was decided to issue 600 tickets at 1/- each for the occasion, and any friends or Lyceumists who may be visiting the district will be made welcome.

After the close of the meeting all were invited to partake of tea, which was provided by the Broadgate friends, and was appreciated, thus bringing another happy day to a close.

E. E. HUTTON, Sec.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above was held on Saturday, 12th May, in the Hamilton Spiritualists' Church, Birkenhead. Mr. Keeling, the President, presided over representatives from Birkenhead, Daulby Hall, Liverpool, Runcorn and Wigan. Minutes, Correspondence and Reports adopted. Conference business discussed and instructions to delegates given.

It was decided that all Lyceums not having paid fees before 30th June will not be eligible to enter Shield Competition. LYCEUM SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

GLADYS OWEN, Sec.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Fulham on Saturday, 16th June, commencing at 6 p.m. Agenda:—Conference Report, U.D.C. matters, Entertainment Committee Report, and usual business.

Nearest station, Parson's Green—go out side entrance, turn to the left, and two minutes' walk to Lettice Road.

Will Delegates and Associates please make a note and do their utmost to attend.

A. T. CONNOR, Sec.

NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Council took place at Glossop Spiritual Church on Saturday, May 5th, when Mr. Dransfield presided over an attendance of 17 Delegates and Associates. Members present from Glossop, Stockport (Lord Street) and Baker Street, Macclesfield, Hyde and Ashton. Minutes of last Quarterly and E.C. Meetings confirmed. Good reports were given *re* Interchange of Conductors. The Correspondence was passed as read. The President, in a few well-chosen remarks, said the object of the Council was to bring Lyceums together for the mutual advantage of all.

The report of delegate to U.D.C. was accepted as satisfactory. D.V. reported visit to Hyde Lyceum on April 15th. 45 present.

Marching good; calisthenics poor; conduct good; on the whole a good session. Report accepted. Resolved that the recommendations of E.C. *re* Annual Outing on July 14th, be accepted. Also Lyceums are asked to write to the Sec. of Council stating the amount of donation to Sports fund. Final arrangements to be left to E.C.

Instructions to delegate *re* Conference Agenda:—

(1) Bye-law 4, Sec. 6.—substitute "should" for "shall" and delete "full."—to support this.

(2) Bye-law 7, Sec. 2.—To voice the opinion of Council that it is the work of the B.S.L.U. to see to the matters and not to place the burden on the Councils.

(3) To support resolutions 1 and 2 from M.C.

(4) Allowed a free hand *re* Manual revision

(5) To support resolution 5 of London D.C. and resolution 6 be left to her own discretion.

(6) To have a free hand in resolutions 7 and 8.

Next meeting to be held at Macclesfield, on August 4th. The collection realised 6/2. Best thanks were tendered to Lord St. (Stockport) Lyceum for donation of £2 2s. od. to Council Funds. A hearty vote of thanks to Glossop friends for excellent tea terminated the meeting.

MARY MALTYB, Hon. Sec.

TEE-SIDE DISTRICT.

The Council held their Quarterly Conference at Shildon in the Psychological Hall, on Sunday, May 13th.

The President, Mr. W. Jackson (Darlington) opened the Conference with hymn "The March of Life." Invocation given by Mr. G. Neale (Stockton). Mr. Hunter was invited as Area B. representative to take a seat on the platform. Mr. Riley, as Conductor of the local Lyceum, extended an exceedingly enthusiastic welcome to Council members and friends. He felt that the work of the day would have its effect in the future, for the further harmony of all. He stated that the Adult Section of the Church desired him to give their heartiest greetings and welcome. The Vice-President, Mr. G. Neale (Stockton), suitably responded and, on behalf of the D.C., accepted the welcome, thanking our Brother for same, and hoped there would be unity amongst all present.

Appointments were made as follows:—*Tellers*: Mr. Neale (Stockton) and Mr. Sawley (Spennymoor). *Scrutineers*: Miss Bell (Stockton) and Mr. C. Moore (Darlington).

A hearty welcome was extended to Mr. Hunter by Mr. Roeder (Middlesboro). Our worthy Brother replied by saying he had been amply rewarded for this journey by kindness given to him since he arrived. He regretted his inability to visit previously, but felt it was only that by closely associating together we could create a greater unity of feeling.

Scrutineers reported presence of 11 E.C. Members; 24 Delegates; 19 Associates; 19 Visitors.

Two new members were accepted from Stockton.

The Chairman in his remarks said, "he hoped he was able to do some good for the Council. Referred to the scarcity of entries in the Education Scheme in comparison with other districts. Urged its advancement throughout all Lyceums.

Minute:—Correction made by Mr. G. Edwards (Middlesboro) that minute *re* Shield should read: "So far as competition be concerned it be scrapped." Accepted and adopted with addition of correction as a true record.

E. C. Minutes:—Explained that 13/- to Band Fund not compulsory to be paid in lump sum. Great applause shown at E.C.'s action in electing Mr. Roeder (Middlesboro) permanently as Honorary Member of E.C. Mr. Neale (Stockton) outlined Railway Scheme for Field Day in absence of Mr. Atkins, the originator. Minutes adopted as true record.

Correspondence. (a) Gurney Valley reported success in finding a field for the Demonstration; (b) notification by West Hartlepool *re* co-operation of Lyceum and Church; (c) desire by N.D.C. for us to affiliate with them. Decided to leave in abeyance for further consideration. (d) B.S.L.U. notification *re* D.V. not being eligible to be delegate; (e) notices of motions from Darlington.

Report of District Visitor. Mr. G. Neale (Stockton) showed visits paid to Stockton (Brunswick Street and Cecil Street); Middlesbrough; Hartlepool; Darlington (Northgate and Psychological); Gurney Valley. Mr. Foster (Gurney Valley) had visited Witton Park; Spennymoor. Good all round report. Accepted both reports with thanks.

Invitation extended to D.C. to hold next Conference at Cecil Street, Stockton, on August 12th. Benediction by E. W. Buckingham.

E. W. BUCKINGHAM, 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.

HACKNEY.—Opening of a Lyceum. Sunday, 27th May, was a Gala Day for Hackney Society, for on this date a Lyceum was opened at their Hall in Amburst Road.

There were 112 friends present, including about 50 members from Tottenham Lyceum, and the Tottenham Lyceum Choir.

The session was conducted by Mr. Barrington. Calisthenics were led by Rose Coffin and Elsie Carmen, of Tottenham.

Short addresses were given by Mr. and Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. Carmen, Mr. Mosberg, and Mr. Rist, President of Hackney Society. The register showed a total of 38 members, an excellent start for a new Lyceum.

Visitors from any Lyceum will be assured of a hearty welcome. Greetings to all.—Ethel Long, Sec., Tottenham.

EAST HAMILTON.—On Easter Sunday, April 1st, we held the second Anniversary of the opening of our Church, which was well attended. Occupying the platform were the Conductor, Mr. J. Harrison, and Assistant Conductor, Mr. Evans. The President of the Church, Mr. Duxbury, President of the Willing Workers, Mrs. Warburton, also Mrs. Birks, a well-known medium from Toronto. Invocation by Mrs. Dillon.

Our Guardian, Mr. Dillon, in a few well chosen words, welcomed the visitors; there being many present. The President of the Church and the President of the Willing Workers spoke encouragingly of the splendid progress that is being made. The Assistant Conductor had charge of the Pearls and Recitations. The children responded well. Mrs. Speakman, an old worker for the cause, gave a beautiful recitation. A special physical display was given by several children under the leadership of Mr. Dillon. Mr. Woodstock and Ruth Beards conducted Marching and Calisthenics. At the close Mrs. Birks spoke a few words which were appreciated by all present. Altogether we spent a very pleasant afternoon.—M. Harrison, Sec.

CAERAU.—On Monday, May 21st, our Church and Lyceum members, assisted by the Aberavon Lyceum, turned out to demonstrate its strength and conviction in the glorious Cause of Spiritualism. 700 members and friends attended. Hymns were sung from our Songster. Many thanks must be given to Messrs. Edward Jones and Daniel Jones, for the patience exercised in training the little ones to sing so nobly. Tea was provided for all. Every one thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks can be given to the ladies for their catering. Speeches were given on the Progress of Spiritualism in the Maesteg District by Messrs. E. Anthony and Marsden, Aberavon, also by Mr. Connolly and our President, Mr. Edward Evans, who spoke highly of the Cause and the work that was being done by the sincere members of both churches.

LONDON, Hampton Hill.—May 13th we celebrated our third anniversary in the presence of the Kingston Lyceumists and friends. Tea was provided. Our Lyceumists took part in the Evening Service, when Mr. H. Boddington presented the successful candidates with their Certificates for the B.S.L.U. Examinations. May 20th, Mrs. Brown, of Kingston, performed the beautiful ceremony of naming the twin grandchildren of our secretary. One received the name of Margaret Madeline, spirit name, "Lily." The other the name of Eric William, spirit name, "John." Our Lyceumists formed a circle around Mrs. Brown and babies, each wearing white flowers corresponding with the babies' posies. Each baby also received a Lyceum Badge.—Mrs. A. Baker, Sec.

SOUTH ELMSALL.—We regret to report the passing to the higher life of George Harold Allerton Davies, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Davies (née M. Allerton), which took place on May 18th at South Kirkby at the age of one year and ten months.

The interment took place at Moorthorpe (South Elmsall) cemetery, on May 22nd, in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. The service was very impressive, and conducted by Mr. A. W. Harding, of Wakefield, and was the first full spiritualist funeral in South Elmsall. It touched the hearts of all present.—Miss M. Isabel Dawson, Sec.

HULL, Dairycoates.—On April 8th we held our Lyceum Sunday and Annual Prize Distribution. The prizes were given by Mr. Jowett, the Secretary of the parent society, in a very efficient manner. There were Solos, Recitations, Marching and

Calisthenics. The evening services were taken by the Adult Lyceumists. Miss Elsie Barker read from a paper and explained it in a very able manner, and was very much appreciated by the congregation. We had a very pleasant afternoon and evening.—A. E. Cork, Sec.

NANTYMOEL.—On Easter Sunday we held a Flower Service and Dedication Service combined in the afternoon, conducted by Mr. E. Pugh. The child was named Teresa Rogers, "Spirit name Lily." A very impressive address was given by Mr. Pugh on the purity of the child, and many adults took advantage of the fine afternoon to attend, and were uplifted by so doing. The children of the Lyceum are looking forward to the forthcoming Sunday morning Nature Studies which were commenced last summer, and I hope all Leaders will do their best to attend the rambles and instruct the children in the wonders of Nature. I am glad to state that all who sat for the Exam., "Grade I," have passed creditably, one with honours.—Wm. Redwood, Sec.

READING.—Since our last report we have entertained our District Council and had a glorious time together.

On February 25th our Scouts and Cubs held their first church parade. The unbiased opinion of an outside Scout worker:—"The smartest parade for many years."

March 6th. Our Girl Guide and Brownie Company commenced. With the aid of these organisations we know our Lyceumists learn more clearly the lesson contained in our second Principle: *Brotherhood*.

Coming events: June 24th, Lyceum Anniversary Sunday. Visitors please note:—All Sunday services will be conducted by Lyceumists. A combined Scout, Cub, Guide, and Brownie Parade will be held. Moral: Keep alive and *Work*.—C. R. Churn, Sec.

WIGAN.—May 6th, Lyceum Day. In the afternoon we held an open session, conducted by Mr. Watkins, assisted by Mrs. E. Clitheroe and Mr. Belshaw. The evening service was conducted by Mr. R. J. Rossiter, senior, who took for his subject "An Appeal for the Children." The speaker displayed an excellent knowledge of child life, both here and hereafter, presenting facts entirely new to many. Lyceum work will progress if more such stimulating subjects are dealt with among the Churches.—W. T. Rossiter, 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 June 27th.

RULE 3.—Lyceums taking 1 dozen copies are allowed free insertion of 25 words; 2 dozen 50 words; 3 dozen, 75 words; 4 dozen copies or over, 100 words.

Additional words to be paid for at the rate of 6d. for every nine words. This Rule does not apply to Lyceums numbering fewer than 80 members.

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than June 23rd, to ensure insertion in the July 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.

BACUP.—Open Session April 6th. Opening hymn 315. Invocation C.C. 78, M.R. 212, G.C. 102. Pearls, a good response, and songs by Kitchener Amyes, Hugh McKenna, Miss Scott, Gertie Salisbury, Eva Taylor, Miss Clayburn, Tottie Taylor. Altogether it was a good Lyceum day.—B. Lord, Sec.

BARNESLEY.—Lyceum progressing step by step spiritually. Not forgetful of the Material, we have recently given to our parent Church the acceptable sum of £10 to reduce the debt of the Church. The Church has given a free Tea and Social to the younger Lyceumists this Whitsuntide, to which full justice was done.—G. H. Totty, Sec.

BARROW, Dalkeith Street.—On 13th May we held our Anniversary. Mr. Mack, of Runcorn, distributed prizes and certificates to successful Lyceumists. Mr. Mack delivered an address in the evening on "The Effects of a Lyceum Training." Adults rendered solos.—A. A. Worrall Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On April 20th we held our Open Session. There was a remarkably good attendance of scholars and visitors. The marching and calisthenics were up to their usual standard which is very good. During the open

part of the session we welcomed into our midst another future Lyceumist in Iris Entwistle, the youngest daughter of one of our late conductors. The naming of the baby was allotted to one of our own Lyceumists, Mrs. Sutton. The service was very impressive. Recitations and solos rendered by some of the younger Lyceumists brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close. Best wishes to all other Lyceums and Lyceumists.—Jas. F. Smith, Sec.

BRADFORD, Otley Road.—May 6th was our Open Session, when Duets, Solos and Recitations were nicely rendered by Lyceumists. Our Conductor, Mr. Hale, kindly explained M.R. 221.—Harry Brunskill, Sec.

BURNLEY, Hammerton Street.—On May 13th we held our Lyceum Anniversary. In the afternoon we held an Open Session. The following helped to make the session a success:—Misses D. Dean, Mona Dean, Emily Nadin, Annie Baraclough, and Harold Smithies. Mrs. Rawlinson was speaker for the day and gave a short address on "Lyceum and its meaning," followed by solos by the following Lyceumists:—E. Smith, Sharp, Barraclough, Frank Slater and Miss G. Blackmore. Best wishes to all Lyceums. A Red Letter Day.—Herbert Brown, Sec.

BURNLEY, North Street.—We have held our Lyceum Day, the speaker being our old and esteemed friend, Mr. Squire Spencer, of Blackpool. We held our usual session in the morning, afternoon, open session marching and calisthenics, a good assembly of Lyceumists, parents and friends being present. The following contributed to an excellent programme: Ada Dugdale, Evelyn Clegg, Emily Poppleton, Ethel Birtwistle, Cissie Bell, John Pratt, Ernest Crabtree, Arthur and Robert Bell. Evening's service, Mr. Spencer addressed a large congregation. A pleasant day, enjoyed by all present. We extend our greetings to all Lyceums and Lyceumists.—M. Wagner, Sec.

BURNLEY, Richard Street.—We held our Open Session on May 6th. We had a good attendance and a good response of Pearls and Duets. We are pleased to say our Lyceum is progressing.—M. Sutcliffe, Sec.

CALGARY, Canada.—We held our Open Session on May 13th, which is recognised as 'Mothers' Day' in Canada. We had a very fine programme. Pearls were given by all in the room. Tributes to mothers. Readings were given by Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Rushton. Recitation by Miss Queenie Rushton. Solo by Miss Ada Garrad. Inspirational readings by Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Rushton and Miss Ada Garrad. Our Conductor, Mrs. Garrad, gave a very inspiring prayer for all mothers, also asked the Lyceumists to be sympathetic to the aged mothers and the unfortunate mothers, saying that they needed our love and sympathy every hour. Next Sunday we are to have 'Fathers' Day,' so we can get the two view points. Mr. Adam is to act as Conductor. We are to have two babies named also on Fathers' Day. Best wishes to all Lyceums.—A. M. Garrad.

CARDIFF, Queen Street.—On April 26th a Memorial Service for Mrs. Gray was held at 82, Queen's Street. Mr. Woodland and Mr. Jones were the speakers. The Choir rendered a chorus entitled "Home all beautiful." Beatrice Davies recited "Mother," and Mr. Jones said a short poem called "He and She." We have missed a good and faithful worker in our Lyceum.

An Open Session held on May 6th was conducted in the usual way. Recitations were given by the children and adults. Solos were rendered by Miss Hannam, Mrs. Davies, Miss Davies and Mrs. Dawson. We spent a pleasant afternoon.—F. J. Davies, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On May 13th we held our Open Session and the following obliged:—Recitations by May Wheatley, John Slater, Connie Slater, Lilian Slater, Eno Slater, Edith Slater, Lizzie Siddall, Marian Wagstaff, Olive Winter, Mr. Pleasance, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Roberts, Alice Alknow, Elsie Yore. Songs by Avis Brown and Kenneth Brown. We had a very good session and hope to have many more like it.—Irene Marriott, Sec.

COLNE, Cloth Hall.—Lyceum Anniversary, Sunday, March 4th. Opening hymn, 395. Invocation by Mrs. Rawlinson, of Burnley. Silver chain No. 27. Musical reading 224.

The Open Session was well conducted, and Mrs. Rawlinson spoke on the method the Conductor and Officers had adopted in the training of the young children for the oral grade, and said that she had learned a lesson and was pleased to be attending another Lyceum for their Anniversary. Mrs. Rawlinson gave

the fraternal greetings to Colne Lyceum from North Street Lyceum, Burnley. Mr. G. Shaw gave to Mrs. Rawlinson the fraternal greetings from Colne and wished her to convey same to her own Lyceum.—J. R. Wigglesworth, Sec.

DONCASTER, Wood Street.—We held our Open Session on May 6th. It was conducted by Mrs. Gomersall, assisted by Mr. H. Taylor. Invocation by Mr. Drury. Recitations, Solos, etc., were given by the following:—Miss V. Batty, A. Trout, M. Nutter, V. Crossland, Mr. H. Taylor, W. Trout, L. Gomersall, E. Gomersall. It was brought to a close by Mrs. Gomersall. We spent an enjoyable afternoon.—V. Batty, Sec.

EDINBURGH.—On May 13th we held our Open Session. The following contributed to an excellent programme:—Recitations: Martha Harley, Flora Brownlee, Lily Morrison and Bertie Wilson. Songs: Jessie Woolford, Peggy Lawrence, Helen Lister, and Quartette by Lottie and Jessie Woolford, Peggy Lawrence and Helen Lister. Reading: Mr. Lindsay. Pianoforte Solos: Peggy Woolford and Tom Wilson. Wishing all Lyceums every success.—Peggy Woolford, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—On Sunday, April 22nd, we held our Open Session, a large number present. An interesting feature was the christening of our Conductor's baby girl. Miss Dent, of Rishton, performed the ceremony, endowing upon her the earthly name of Doris, and the Spirit name of Sunlight. Recitations were rendered by Janey Gerrard, James Taylor, Alice Calvert, and Sydney Hudson, bringing a pleasant session to a close.—Mrs. F. Haworth, Sec.

HIGH SHIELDS.—Our election of Officers took place on April 20th, which resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. Fairbairn; Guardian, Mr. Cook; Treasurer, Mrs. Parker; Secretary, J. Parker; Organist, Mr. Harris; Librarian, Mr. Sleight; Captain of Guards, Mr. White. On May 6th and 13th we held our Anniversary Services, the latter taking the form of a flower service; the hall had full floral decorations. The children on both occasions displayed their parts in an excellent manner.—J. Parker, Sec.

HIRST.—April 1st was a red-letter day, when the Tyneside D.C. Shield was presented by Mr. N. Ainley, of Shields. Mr. Dawson and Mr. Woodall also spoke. A vote of thanks was given to the D.C. visitors by Mrs. Harrison, our oldest Lyceumist, which was seconded by Mrs. Hudson, Guardian. Mrs. Harrison gave each child an orange.—B. Stafford, Sec.

JARROW.—On Thursday, April 19th, we held our Lyceum Choir Musical Evening, which was well attended. Choir sang special songs. Solos were well rendered by Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Hardwick, Miss Havelock, Miss Riches, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Burnett and Mr. Harrison. Also our Conductor presented every child in the Lyceum with prizes, which they all appreciated. We closed an enjoyable evening by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."—Mrs. R. Overton, Sec.

LANCASTER.—We held a very enjoyable Open Session on May 6th, being favoured with two recitations from Ralph Parkinson, two from Stanley Jackson and one each from Alma Coupland and Annie Smith. A reading from Norah Crossley and 383 from the *Lyceum Manual* rendered by Lyceum Choir. I am very pleased to report steady progression in our Lyceum. Our numbers are increasing and we have formed a Kindergarten Class for youngsters up to six years of age, which is proving a success. Greetings to all Lyceumists. May all go onward and upward in the Children's Cause.—Marion Swale, Sec.

LEICESTER, Rupert Street.—May 6th we had our 25th Anniversary Services. Speaker, Alderman J. Chaplin. Evening address, "Where are the nine." Solos and recitations were ably given by the Lyceumists. Messrs. Hayes and Wicks conducted.

May 7th, we had a grand Concert, arranged by Miss P. Goldsmith.

May 13th, Nurse Welbourne gave the successful students their certificates and hoped there would be more students for the Lyceum examinations.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LONDON, Peckham.—On April 29th we held a Special Open Session, when the certificates were presented by Mr. C. J. Williams to our successful candidates. All our students had passed. Recitations were given by Edgar Watts, Trissie Bell, John Borthwick, Jack Plumb, Mary Borthwick and Gordon Turner. Norah Clarkson gave a pianoforte solo and Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Barnett gave a duet.—B. Bell, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham.—On May 6th we held a "Brighter London Fair," in aid of Children's Summer Outing, resulting in a profit of £5 6s.

We have formed a Lyceum Choir, which meets each Monday for practice and renders service each Sunday during the session. Greetings to all Lyceums.—Ethel A. Long, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Benwell.—Sunday, May 6th, our Open Session was taken by Mr. Burr (Sen.), who told the story, "Jessica's First Prayer." Attention was at once received and held to the finish. The children look forward eagerly to these sessions, as they know they always hear a good story, with something worth learning. Greetings to all Lyceums.—T. Cowe, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Rutherford Street.—On the 1st we held our Open Session and a good array of young talent recited, sang and gave pearls. We have named the child of Mr. White with flowers (from the *Officers' Manual*), Charles Norman White; spirit name *Peace*. The children marched round and placed flowers on the child, and we sang "Flowers of the garden." The reapers are coming. The Education Scheme is A1. All safe and ready for 1924 with fresh students.—G. Sample Dawson.

NEWPORT, Central, held their Anniversary and Flower Service on Whit-Sunday. The afternoon and evening services were conducted by Miss Young and Messrs. L. Silverthorn, Taylor and Reade, all officers of the Lyceum. Mr. H. Miller, Musical Conductor, and Mrs. K. Armstrong, as Organist. The children sang well in the hymns and solos were rendered by Misses Vida Pitman, Gladys Pugh, Hilda Rowe and Willie Rowe. Recitations by Ada and Maisie Reade and Kitty Rowe. Pearls by Jack and Leslie Reade, Nina and May Oakley. The Church was crowded. On Whit-Monday the children had their Tea in the Church, and then by tram to Beechwood Park for games, etc., when all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The flowers, eggs and fruit were given to the sick of the Church and the rest taken to the Woolston House Infirmary.—(Mrs.) Kate Armstrong, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM, Gladstone Hall.—Our new Banner was unveiled on May 13th by Councillor S. G. Ward, followed by very appropriate remarks and much useful information. Mr. T. W. Marsters presided and interesting remarks were given during the afternoon. The Banner bears an oil painting of A. J. Davis, beautifully executed by Mr. A. R. Gibson; also the date of our commencement in Robin Hood's Chase in 1866. Votes of thanks suitably concluded a pleasant and much anticipated ceremony.—A. W. Shipley, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—S.C.R., A. Howarth; M.C.R., C. Howarth, L. Ogden, Mrs. Chappell; G.C.R., F. Chappell. Service rendered by the following:—Misses Ivy Palmer, A. Buxton, R. Chappell, W. Woods, V. Harrop, L. Pointon, M. Grange, M. Norbury, H. Palmer, Miss Fielding.—Ed. Norbury, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott Street.—On May 6th we had with us Mr. Dickinson, of Halifax, the Yorkshire Clairvoyant, and we held two happy meetings.

May 13th we had Mr. Gush, of Huddersfield, who chose for his lecture, "Some vital points of comparison between orthodox Christianity and Modern Spiritualism."—Victor Slater, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—May 5th and 6th, visited by District Council. After Saturday's business and tea, local Lyceumists and visiting Delegates provided an enjoyable concert.

At Sunday's session, Mr. Street, President, took the Church services and presented certificates to successful candidates at B.S.L.U. Examination. The local Conductor received the Council's congratulations.—E. M. Fielder, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Centre, Norfolk Bridge.—On May 6th we held our Open Session, several recitations and solos being rendered. The attendance was poor, but an enjoyable afternoon was spent. We send fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—W. Spooner, Sec.

SOUTHAMPTON, Cavendish Grove.—April 1st, Mrs. Harris kindly presented the prizes to 25 Lyceumists for attendance last year. Muriel Baker rendered a beautiful song just before a very interesting naming ceremony. After that many Lyceumists gave recitations and songs, which were enjoyed by nearly 100 people present in the Church.—D. Hart, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—On the 8th April we held our Children's Day. There was a large attendance at the Open Session, when our children responded with recitations and pearls in an excellent manner. Our Conductor, Mr. J. H. Marston, brought a successful service to a close by extending our hearty greetings to all friends present. At 6-30 the Lyceumists

rendered the Service of Song, entitled "Into the Light," which was enjoyed by all present.

On April 20th a very pleasing ceremony took place in the naming of a baby, ably performed by our esteemed worker, Mr. Kitson, who was our Speaker for the day.—E. Joules, Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Brunswick Street.—May 6th we held our Open Session. Opening hymn 360; invocation by Mrs. Williams; S.C. 85, M.R. 202, G.C. 142. Several questions were asked by Lyceumists on G.C. Pearls and recitations were given by children. Marching and calisthenics were good. Altogether a most pleasant session.—G. Tuck, Sec.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—Sunday, 22nd April, Distribution of Certificates to all entrants of Education Examination. 1st Grade: Mr. J. Spencer, Lucy Graves, J. Stafford, Ivy Clarkson, Gladys Truman, Irene Stafford; 2nd Grade, Miss E. Carr. Presentation by Mr. G. F. Berry, Sec., S.N.U. A most enjoyable and impressive service.—E. Carr, Sec.

WALSALL.—The parents who attended the Walsall Lyceum May Services on Whit-Sunday were delighted with the happy and pleasant appearance of over 70 little ones, and the old gold and floral decorations added a charm to the gathering. There were large congregations. Mrs. Annie Johnson, of London, and Miss M. Boyd, one of our local Clairvoyants, conducted the services. Mr. W. Hodson (Vice-President) occupied the chair, as Mr. J. Venables, J.P. (our President), was out of town. Mrs. Johnson spoke of the work among children in spirit life and also of the Christian aspect of Spiritualism; as shown by the gifts and powers revealed in the Scriptures. A pretty ceremony was the giving of baskets of flowers to Mrs. Johnson and Miss Boyd by two of the little scholars, Miss Thurla Hollingshead and Master Rathbone. These arrangements were in the hands of Mrs. Keay, and the ceremony was very much appreciated. There were about 100 voices, the musical selections given under the direction of Mr. Keay being again a feature of the service. There were many admirable workers, and among those helping in the success of the services were:—Mr. J. H. Lawton (Supt.), Mr. N. Hughes (Hon. Sec.), Mr. J. Venables, Junr., Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Keay, Miss A. G. Keay, Mrs. Aldridge, Miss Kirby, Mr. Parkes, the Misses Whittaker, Miss Ware, Miss Fisher, Miss Fieldhouse, Miss Jones and others. Mr. Kirby's services at the organ were also much appreciated.

WEST MELTON.—Open Session, Sunday, May 6th. Mr. Lee opened with hymn 337; Maud Elliott gave invocation; Silver Chain 32. Mrs. Tripper took Reading 226. Recitations after by Messdames J. Kenning, N. Hallsworth, H. Kenning, M. Elliott, M. Walton, P. Hutchinson, D. Peniluna, N. Rawlinson, K. Sykes, R. Rawlinson, M. Jackson, M. Staley, M. A. Speight; boys: T. Turner, J. Farrar. Marching conducted by Mr. Lee. Closing hymn 306. N. Rawlinson gave benediction. Mr. Lee, Conductor.—Harry Trigger, Sec.

WEST PELTON.—We held our Open Session on May 6th, when a very enjoyable time was spent. We had a visit from Mr. Woodall of High Shields, who gave us some good advice. We take this opportunity of thanking him for his services. We send our greetings to all Lyceums and Lyceumists.—Mrs. Meakin, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Canada.—We held the Open Session on May 6th, which was well attended. The marching and calisthenics were very well done and great credit is due Mr. H. Forrest for his services in this part of the work. We had pearls and recitations from Edna Brown, Ella Crowley, Sylvia Parkinson, Winnie Brown, Tressa Purglove, Harold Brown, Jim Livingstone, May Wakeman, Wm. T. Brown, Mr. A. W. Wakeman and Mrs. Crowley; also a solo from Olive Forrest and a duet from Misses Winnie and Edna Brown. Mr. Wm. T. Brown gave a short explanation on a portion of Silver Chain Recitation 30.—Louis W. Brown, Sec.

YORK.—On April 22nd we were favoured with a visit by Mr. Downs, D.V., of the L.L.D.C. I am pleased to say we had a nice assembly of Lyceumists present. At the conclusion of a most interesting and instructive session, Mr. Downs kindly presented Certificates to the successful candidates, awarded by the B.S.L.U. Education Committee:—Mrs. A. E. Abley, Miss Florrie Marshall, Miss Lillian Grace Morrill, Miss Alice Bradley, Miss Hilda Shaw, Mr. Harry Cooper, Mr. Thomas Morrill, Mr. Willie Morrill. This being the Lyceum's first attempt, it was considered a splendid effort. Thanks were tendered to Mrs. Abley for her tutorship and Mr. Franks for supervising. All signified their willingness to go forward with the higher grades.—Harry Cooper, Sec.