

THE LYCEUM BANNER

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AUGUST, 1923.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

An Idea culled from London.

By THE PRESIDENT.

At the invitation of the London Lyceums' District Council, the Management Committee visited London, on July 14th and 15th, for the purpose of holding its Quarterly Meeting.

A resumé of business transacted is shown elsewhere. There is, however, one outstanding feature that I feel ought to be more widely known. I do not think London will be offended by my mentioning the matter, for it is such a good point that I feel I ought, as President of the Union, to encourage the idea, with the hope that more may benefit.

At times throughout the Movement, varying opinions are given on the question of competition. I do not desire to enter into this controversial question at the present moment, except to refer to the following particular feature.

The London District Council Silver Bell Competition follows, in the main, the usual routine of Lyceum Session Competitions, but only 75 per cent. marks are awarded for Session Work. It is not my intention to deal further with that question, as it is the allocation of the remaining 25 per cent. marks which I wish to emphasise. The latter marks are obtained for work outside the session.

How many Lyceumists believe in a "one-day Lyceum" which we attend for a maximum of 3 hours? This time is far too short. We wish to go further. We want the Lyceum training to have such an effect on the Lyceumists that its influence will be seen in every action. This idea has been behind the minds of those promoting the 25 per cent. marks for work done outside the usual Session Routine.

I am given to understand that to adjudicate for these marks, a monthly report of the work done by each Lyceum is forwarded to the Secretary of the Competition. These reports are examined by the adjudicators at the close of the Competition and marks allocated accordingly.

What an opportunity for individuality to be shown; for originality; for doing noble deeds and so putting into practice the teachings of the Lyceum! Can anyone doubt the efficacy of the practical side of the Lyceum system? If anyone doubts, let him try the scheme. The possibilities contained in the plan are infinite.

I am given to understand that one Lyceum is running its own Magazine, while others have entertained those not so fortunately placed as themselves, and so brought an additional comfort into these lives. One has only to reflect for a time to see the "infinite possibilities."

It may be argued that these things should be done without the aid of competition. Be that as it may, if a Lyceum goes into friendly competition to do more noble deeds than any other Lyceum, I think that this competitive method will be justified. One must always keep in mind the ideal of doing good, without regarding the reward, then all will be well.

This method of bringing the desirability of doing noble actions into Lyceums is, I think, one which may safely be recommended to District Councils. I feel that they could well copy this principle, to win their children to develop the habit of doing good, when not present in Session.

It is with the idea of Lyceumists developing this habit, and so helping to make it universal, also by bringing a little nearer one of our ideals—the seven days' Lyceum—that I have referred to London's Competition through the columns of the BANNER.

Let us unite in trying to materialise these ideals.

GEO. A. MACK.

Mr. Alfred Kitson is attending the International Congress at Liège, Belgium, on behalf of the B.S.L.U.

A man is the result of his surroundings plus his individuality.

PRETEND.

By W. H. EVANS.

"Let's pretend." How often may one hear children at play utter these words. The power to make believe is universal among children, and affords the child of the most squalid slum the means of escape from the drab and the drear. Imagination is the fairy godmother of child life. It is perhaps the most valuable power of the child—or for that matter—the adult mind. It can shroud in a halo of romance the most sordid surroundings. An upturned chair becomes a coach of gold, a piece of kindling wood a wand, a little bundle of rags a beautiful doll, and an upturned barrel a magic cave, a rib from a broken umbrella makes a magnificent bow to shoot arrows with when playing at Indians, and so, whole dreary, drab surroundings of some slum court become transformed by the power of the fairy God-mother. "Imagination," saying, "Let's pretend."

And what a fine thing it is to be able to do so. Like Tytyl's diamond in Maeterlinck's "Blue Bird," which, on turning, transformed the old flint stones of which the cottage was built into walls of glowing jasper and crystal; which revealed Time not as a man with a scythe, but as dancing hours of gladness; imagination can transform the ugly into the beautiful. It is the hand-maiden of the only trinity worth worshipping, the True, the Good and the Beautiful. It shows that every child is at heart a poet, and the poet, as we all know, exercises the creative art. Does not Browning call God "the perfect Poet who in creation acts His own conceptions"? Is not this power to create at the root of the remark "Let's pretend"? Out of the substance of the mind come trooping forth in fine array, heroes and villains, fairies and nymphs, and all the hosts of gods and goddesses which the mind of man has ever conceived. The so-called superior mind may call them fancies. Of course they are, that is their chief glory. If one has not the magic diamond (imagination) then the world loses most of its beauty. It is given over to the Bounderby and Gradgrinds, who wish to confine the mind to what they call facts, unmindful that there are facts of the mind as well as facts of matter. Moreover, what are called facts must exist first as ideas in the mind, either of man or of God. Your world of facts is a fluid thing, and your matter is ductile and malleable to the will of him who knows how to mould and direct it. The child who pretends is using and developing a power which in after life will be of great service to it.

There is great power in the scientifically directed imagination. There is a world of difference between the one who just idly dreams, and he who pretends with purpose and projects his mind forward, using the facts gathered by patient research, marshals them and ultimately presents us with some brilliant generalisation, the most wonderful product of the trained imagination. Here the scientist and the poet meet. The man of action and the dreamer unite in one and give to the world a new vision.

A new vision! How much the world needs it. Let's pretend that the world of men can live together in peace and concord; let's build up in our minds a new world reflecting the glory of the kingdom of heaven; the kingdom of happy laughter. If we do that in the right manner we shall find that our dream has come true. Peace with all its positiveness will have come, and

"The war drum throbs no longer, and the battle flags are furled,

In the Parliament of Man; the Federation of the World."

Does this notice apply to your Lyceum? There are Lyceumists who visit other towns. The Lists in the "Banner" and the "Two Worlds" are referred to for the nearest Lyceum or Church. The time and place is stated, but Lyceumists are disappointed to find that the particulars given in the Lists sometimes prove incorrect and disappointing. Lyceum Secretaries are requested to visit these Lists and send corrections where necessary.

Our Education Page.

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

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

ORAL GRADE SECRETARY—(MISS) A. HESP, 17, Burlington Place, Tempest Road, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.

THE SIX GRADES OF THE SCHEME.

The B.S.L.U. National Education Scheme now consists of six Grades, beginning with the oral and memory work, suitable for children under ten (and preparing the way for the later work) and ending with the advanced studies for those who wish to have a good working knowledge of Lyceumism and Spiritualism.

These grades are:—

- Oral Grade (for Lyceumists under 10);
- Grade I (for Lyceumists of 10 years or over);
- Grade II (for Lyceumists of 12 years or over);
- Grade III (for Lyceumists of 14 years or over);
- Grade IV (for Lyceumists of 16 years or over), (Group Leaders' Grade); and
- Grade V (for Lyceumists of 18 years or over), (Speakers' Preliminary Grade).

(N.B.—(i) Young candidates, who obtain 70 per cent. or more of the total marks in any Grade, may take the next Grade, even if under the minimum age for that Grade.)

(ii) All students, whatever their age, must start at Grade I.

(iii) All candidates must be members of Lyceums in affiliation and good financial standing with the B.S.L.U.

THE AIMS, WORK, AND PURPOSES OF THE SCHEME.

The Education Scheme has been planned and arranged to meet the growing need and demand for systematic training, open to all Lyceumists, in the essentials of Lyceum knowledge. Our aim as a Movement is to **earn** the right to be called **progressive**, and to equip our Lyceumists for dealing intelligently, and with the confidence of knowledge, with all inquirers, investigators, opponents and critics. This aim can be attained by working carefully through each of the six Grades of the Scheme.

During the past three years, the number of Lyceums interested in the Scheme has increased from 42 to 118—and the number of students from 570 to over 1,500. It is earnestly hoped that all who have not yet started to study will make a start at once, and thus prove to all critics that Lyceumists realise that their Movement is an educational one. The desire of the Education Committee is that each Lyceum, as a body, should take up the Scheme, and make it an integral part of the Lyceum's work by taking the selections from the Lyceum Manual for study and discussion in the Sessions, and by using the articles in the Handbooks for Group Lessons. (More detailed study, and the answering of questions, could be done in a week-night Study or Guild Class, where there are facilities for holding these—either at the Lyceum Hall or at someone's home).

To explain the Scheme briefly.—The Oral Grade, which lays a foundation of Spiritualist knowledge, is laid down in the Oral Grade Primer (5d. post free). Grade I is an introduction to Lyceumism, wherein the student will learn the reasons which make Lyceums necessary and also become acquainted with the great ideals underlying the Lyceum Movement. In Grades II and III, great stress is laid on the value of discussion in drawing out the mental powers of the students. So in Grade II, the Philosophy, and in Grade III, the Phenomena, of Spiritualism should be thoroughly studied and discussed. It is hoped that all who can spare the time will not confine themselves to the necessarily narrow limits laid down in order to make our Scheme coherent and progressive but will study other and more advanced works than those selected. If this is done, the student who has passed through the first three Grades should be eminently fitted for the post of Group Leader.

The Group Leader is really the most important member of a Lyceum; and, unless he (she) possesses a wide knowledge and a high conception of duty, he (she) will not be worthy of the great responsibility often too lightly assumed. The Syllabus for Grade IV is calculated to prepare efficient Group Leaders who should soon graduate into very capable Conductors.

The small proportion of Spiritualists to the total population shows what a great field of labour lies before competent workers. So Grade V has been planned as a preliminary course to the Speakers' Diploma Scheme of the Spiritualists' National Union. The Committee hope, therefore, that all Lyceumists will take up the full course of study here laid down, and so fit themselves for

whatever duties may confront them in the future. To serve man is an effective way of worshipping God.

It may be objected that the variety of Grades makes the working of the Scheme very difficult, if not quite impossible. But the apparent difficulties can easily be overcome by proper organisation.

The Chain Recitations and Readings for Grades I, II, and III, could be used frequently in the Lyceum Session, while the formation of an Excelsior Group (for Grade II) and a Liberty Group (Grade III)—both to meet, under competent leaders, either for an hour after the Session, or, if preferred, on a week-night—would meet all the requirements of the latter two Grades. In these Groups the discussions, summaries, and composition of Connective Readings could be practised—or the Readings could be prepared at home and brought to the Liberty Group for discussion.

Students under the Group Leaders' scheme could be provided with facilities for explaining Readings and delivering addresses, and might even be invited occasionally to draw up the Session programme.

Candidates in Grade V should be prepared in a special class, and encouraged to write essays on the subjects set in the Syllabus.

It has been recognised that a number of Lyceums have been unable to take up the Scheme, because of the difficulty of finding Tutors, or of making arrangements for mid-week classes, etc. To overcome these difficulties, articles helpful to Conductors, Tutors, and Students appeared in the Lyceum Banner from September, 1922, to February, 1923. Also, an eight page leaflet on 'How to prepare for the Examinations' has been drawn up, and may be obtained from the Education Secretary by any Conductor or Tutor who forwards a stamped addressed envelope.

It should be impressed on all Students that plenty of practice is the best form of preparation for examination in all Grades.

Copies of the full Syllabuses of work can be obtained from the Secretary.

FOR STUDENTS OF EACH GRADE.

As promised last month, we give the Summary of G.C.R. 148, as it has been asked for by many students.

THE ORIGIN OF THE LYCEUM.

(Summary of G.C.R. 148).

Andrew Jackson Davis was a remarkable spirit seer—he could see spirit people, and things connected with the spirit-world. He was even able at times to go in spirit to the spirit regions, and on other occasions saw visions of scenes in the Summerland. Because of this power, he was able to describe how children are taught and trained in spirit-life.

He saw large bands of children arranged in groups in beautiful halls. The leader of each group first gave a lesson, and then asked the children for their opinions and ideas. He also saw the children going through marches by which they were taught how the planets go round the sun, or some other lesson in geography, etc. Each marching group was headed with a banner whose colour showed the spiritual development of the group, and each child wore a badge or sash of the same colour as the banner. These marches were performed in the large and beautiful gardens which surround all the Spirit Lyceums; but sometimes the members of one Lyceum paid a visit to another Lyceum, and the Lyceumists, with banners flying, went marching and singing on their way.

At a meeting held in Dodsworth's Hall, Broadway, New York, on 25th January, 1863, Mr. Davis described these scenes, and as a result the first earthly Lyceum was started as a Spiritualist Sunday School. These Lyceums were badly needed, as the teachings of the Orthodox Sunday Schools are not in agreement with what our Spirit friends have told us about the hereafter—and we want our children to be taught according to what we ourselves believe.

Our earthly Lyceums are (or should be) copies of the Summerland Lyceums—at least in aim—and we should all resolve to do our utmost to realise the Summerland ideal here on earth.

OUR ENGLISH LESSON.

We here give the correct form of the faulty sentences given in last month's issue.

I have written to you before.

My sister and I have forgotten to send the money for our new badges sooner.

Our tutor soon taught us the work for Grade I.

This kind of question is very puzzling.

Grade V. is the hardest Grade of the lot.

Each Lyceumist should send in his (or her) name to the Guild.

It is time that I sent on to you the money for the BANNERS, which come safely each month. I am pleased to enclose it. (Or, I have pleasure in enclosing it).

Am I not careless!

There is to be a meeting of the Committee on the 18th. Will members please bring their own copies of the Constitution with them? With those new books to help us, we ought not to fail this time. This recitation was specially written for my brother and me. We were encored when we said it at the Open Session last Sunday,

(For the reasons for the corrections, we must refer students to a book on the English language, such as we recommended last month).

LITERATURE FOR THE STUDY OF THE EDUCATION SCHEME.

(i) *Syllabuses of Work*, for all the Grades—1½d. per copy (for quantities less than 12); or 9d. per dozen, post free.

(ii) *How to prepare for the Examinations*—sent free, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

(iii) *Helps to the Study of the Lyceum Manual*—2d. per copy, or 1s. 9d. per dozen.

(iv) *Oral Grade Primer*—5d. per copy, or 3s. 6d. per dozen, post free.

(v) *No. 1 Handbook*—for Grade I.: 4d. per copy, or 3s. 6d. per dozen, post free.

(vi) *No. 2 Handbook*—for Grades II., III. and IV.: 6d. per copy, or 5s. 6d. per dozen, post free.

(vii) *No. 3 Handbook*—for Grade V.: 1s. per copy, or 10s. per dozen, post free.

(viii) *Examination Lists, Summaries, and Marking Scheme*—6d. per copy.

(Will customers please *not* send stamps, if the amount is more than elevenpence; also *do not* cross postal orders, but make them payable at Batley).

THE TEACHINGS OF SPIRITUALISM.

(being an amplification of the article in No. 2 Handbook—for Grade II. students).

By JAMES TINKER.

INTRODUCTORY.

I have been asked to expand the notes on certain sections in Handbook II., and I do so with due regard to the fact that "the plan of Lyceum teaching includes the conscientious exercise of the reasoning faculties." (J.M., p. 4). I resolutely decline to do *your* thinking for you. Reasoning requires that students should find out facts, and reason with them to find out other truths, and *act in accord with their lessons*, and not expect full particulars from either amusing or "austere textbooks and solemn teachers." Our Handbooks are suggestive outlines—indicators—to start you on research and to define lines of study. Your own research and study are the true education. Therefore, your first important step is to get personal experience of phenomena and study proofs of human survival; next is the study of how phenomena agree with other natural processes (136 M., Question 10; 137, Qu. 2 & 3).

Our personal experiences and thought should be supplemented by reasoning on the accounts of experiences given by others; therefore, by the study of the current news and hypotheses in our literature (136, q. 8 & 9). Truth being eternal, it is better learned by its present operations experimentally than by tradition, though tradition is good for corroboration and comparison.

Every Study Group should discuss the text-books by the light of Experience: and should, therefore, add to their own that of others. They should have access to the *Two Worlds*, *Light*, *Psychic Gazette*, and the *Psychic Science Quarterly*—at the very least take *Light*. I also include in my regular purchases (and reading) the *Hibbert Journal*, and study other literature as occasion requires. I shall have more to say on this question when dealing with "Spiritualism: a Reform." Meanwhile, grasp the fact that you *must* observe facts and study them and not ask to be bottle-fed, for you cannot understand the necessarily brief outlines in text-books (or, indeed, any books) without some degree of personal experience and study (L.M. 3).

HANDBOOK II., p. 4.

The most prominent teaching of modern Spiritualism is summarised in the phrase:—1.—**Human Immortality, proved by spirit communion.** We will first take the current meanings. Human immortality means that man *cannot* die.

Now, that is disputed, even by some of us who agree that man does not die when he leaves the fleshly body. I refer to that point not merely to point out the exact meaning of "immortality," but to warn you to attend to "first things first." Let us leave unprovable assertions about *cannot* and get on with the provable, which is that man does not die—"we only change our state of life," &c. That we continue to live is proved by "spirit communion." We must get a fuller understanding of "spirit communion" later. Its usual meaning is that we get into communication with people discarnate, or who have left the flesh body. Thus we learn that those people once lived in flesh bodies on earth, but the most important thing, scientifically and theologically, is that their powers to live out of the flesh body do not depend on their creeds or religious faiths, or even on a personal virtuous life, for all kinds of people survive and communicate as spirits.

They live because of the powers they possess as human beings.

Get that fact firmly fixed and look out for its bearing on our other teachings (136). For further details of "spirit communion" see H.B., sec. 4, p. 11, also p. 20.

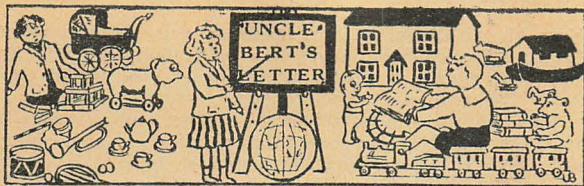
* 2.—**A Spiritual Universe.**—The first question in 136 M. gives "the existence of a spiritual universe" as proven by Spiritualism. It is an essential part of our fundamental truths, and therefore of our teachings. We will not go into arguments about evil and spirit and spiritual. Let us deal with the things themselves, on which we agree, and leave disputes about labels for spare time diversions. In this world our powers as living human beings are chiefly shown by us as Thinking, Emotion, and other Action. These are known as spiritual powers, and when displayed in religious lives in union with "spirits" or Spirit they get a special meaning as "spiritual" (H.B., p. 48). These powers of the Thinker and Lover are always connected with some kind of body, and that body is always connected with an outside world, in which and by which to act and be nourished. This connection of spiritual and material is so close and interactive that the Agnostics and Materialists very excusably think that spiritual powers depend entirely on our material universe.

By spirit communion we find that that is not true; we find the powers of life are in Something in man that exists after death—exists *as man*, independently of our material body and its universe; but we also find that those powers are connected with a suitable body in a suitable world, which, rightly or wrongly, is called *spiritual*, being of indescribably finer and more radiant substance than any stuff we call material, and being specially fitted to manifest those greater powers of the Thinker and Lover which are also known as spiritual.

What is not sufficiently recognised by us is that we should prove that spiritual universe, as spirits in flesh bodies, by our direct powers, as well as by communications with spirits. It is because of the powers of our spiritual nature *now*, living in a spiritual body *now*, sustained by the spiritual universe *now*, that we are able to live on in other states. There are evidences by clairvoyance, photography, and mediumship, of this great fact. We should pay more attention to the proofs of it in our own "spirituality." It is because of our common spiritual nature with our fellows as part of that spiritual universe that we can hold spirit communion and prove Immortality, and can also claim the philosophic title of Spiritualists. (L.M. 105, 137; O.S., ch. iii. 8; Sp. ch. 5).

NELSON.—On July 8th we held our Open Session when the following rendered items:—William Tancock, Hilda Leach and 2 visitors. On Sunday, July 22nd, Mr. Bentley, from Blackpool, was the speaker for the Church services, and he paid us a visit at the morning session, giving the Lyceumists a few encouraging remarks which were greatly appreciated. We send our fraternal greetings to all Lyceumists and leaders of our movement.—Mrs. A. Parkinson, Sec.

Some of the enemies of Spiritualism will go to any extreme to villify our truths. The *International Psychic Gazette* states that a letter has been received from the Azores that Catholic priests there are stating that Sir Oliver Lodge's son, "Raymond," has turned up alive, having been a prisoner in Germany. We sympathise with Sir Oliver Lodge, who states "these lies are very difficult to overtake: and the responsibility must rest with those who believe them, and thereby play into the hands of the diabolical party or parties who initiate them,



My Dear boys and girls,

In the first place, a few breezy breezes from the London Demonstration. Battersea is renowned for being the dogs home, and one could soon locate the district on the 15th by the amount of friendly barking that was heard.

No doubt you have all witnessed a cat and a dog meeting; pussy at once puts up its back, to show its partner it means business. Londoners, be the cat, but be not catty, and let us just show those gay dogs from the North a fighting spirit. Our claws can make a lasting impression, for the good of the cause, before their next visit. Fulham, of course for the present, should ring the bell for attention, others falling into line and carrying on.

Our keynote of success will be found in the expression of that wonderful boyish pioneer (Mr. Alfred Kitson) "I AM CLAIR-NOTHING." If we could only lose the importance of outer self, and realise to the full, all this expression contains, then the real inner life of each one of us would express itself in such force, that London would become the hub of the Lyceum movement, as it should be, and the North would be the hubbub, and get the rubbubs. The title by which Mr. Engholm wished to be identified "A Spiritualist" sets the example that every real Spiritualist should be a member of the Lyceum, and know its teachings before claiming the full title. The flares of the fiery furnaces of Sheffield should certainly have melted some of the London icicles, and provided the conditions for a further spiritual heat wave.

Liverpool may yet send her ships to London, for cargoes of hints, including a few biscuits from Reading, and the Secretary will be in a "knot" when he has to come house hunting. For the other friends, I will leave them to the mercy of the official report.

Londoners, think of the little mite who won her medal; if she, at the age of seven can face 333 others with boldness, read S.C.R.B., and get your backs up, and into it, even if it should mean 3 a.m. occasionally. Too much sleep is not good for us.

HOLIDAY MAKING.

"Good afternoon, boys and girls, I hope you will have a nice holiday." "Good afternoon teacher, and the same to you." I expect quite a lot of my tiny tots heard these remarks when you broke up for your school holidays. You lucky kiddies, one whole month's holidays, no getting the cane for talking and laughing, you can just let your little tongues and merry laugh rip, for all you are worth.

What a time you are going to have, your little brain boxes are cram full of holiday adventures. Some of you building castles of sand by the edge of the incoming tide, and then standing on them shouting with all your might "I am the king of the castle," what jolly fun it is when the tide gets all round it.

Then some of you will be going to the country, having a ride on Farmer Brown's horse, or climbing trees and jumping ditches.

Some of you going off for picnics near home, with your little parcels of good things Mamma has been busy packing up for you.

Well, wherever you should be going, you are just full of excitement, I am sure, and Auntie Ruth and I just wish you all a right jolly good holiday, but there is just something I want you all to do this month, it is not very hard if you only go the right way about it, and so I had better just tell you what it is, and give you a few hints how to do it, it is to "SEEK HAPPINESS." I know you are all starting your holidays full of it, you have just opened that money box of yours, and you have quite a lot of pennies and perhaps a silver sixpence, and this alone makes you feel happy, but will you feel as happy when you come to spending the last penny of it. Such a lot of boys and girls, and grown up people, are happy while everything goes right, but the moment things go wrong, oh, the long faces, the ugly frowns. I wonder why? It is just because such people have only found happiness in selfishness, but I want you to find happiness which will shine forth at all times.

How can you tiny tots find such happiness, read 305 L.M., what does that say, "Be happy, earth is a beautiful place,"

and that is the secret I want you to learn on your holidays. When you are enjoying your morning dip, or building your sand castle, when you are gathering bunches of wild flowers, while you are enjoying a picnic under the branches of the old shady oak tree, with its birds singing forth their song of praise, REMEMBER God has given you all these beautiful things, but what for, just that you should find happiness in everything. With all the blessings you will enjoy during your school holidays, it should not be very hard to find it, should it, so above all, in all you do, in all you say, remember to be a real Lyceumist.

CASTLES IN THE AIR.

I want to continue my holiday message to the older boys and girls. You know we are all children as far as holidays are concerned, and we all get excited when the time draws near for us to pack our trunks to go.

What do we mean by building castles in the air? Just this, all of a sudden an idea, or what we sometimes term a brain wave flashes into your mind, about something you would like to do, or be, and the more you think about it, the more it grows, until it becomes so large, we call it a castle in the air. Some people say they are no use, but they are wrong, because many of the greatest works of art, have had their foundations built in this way.

When you are at the seaside, and about to build a sand castle, you first plan out in your mind, just what sort of castle you intend building, how large and how wide, and the result is largely determined by this first air castle, because the more beautiful we picture the plan, the more beautiful the real one will be when finished with sand. Now boys and girls, if we can do this with sand, what sort of castles can we make of our lives, and of our Lyceum? It is true some of the air castles never reach the building stage, but there are the castles of loving deeds, castles of thoughtful action, castles of usefulness. First put your minds to work, as to how beautiful you can build them, and then put your thoughts into action, and who knows the result.

Lyceum Conductors and co-workers are always building castles of hopefulness for you, trying to make the Lyceum the brightest of all schools, by working out in their minds, interesting plans, with what object? Just that you boys and girls should become true living castles for God, some of their plans fall short in the building, but as a final word, be willing to let them help you to build that all important castle in you, the castle of a good character, a castle that as you grow into men and women will be looked upon with the interest such as we show when we visit some of the well known castles of England, they have lost maybe some of their early beauty, but their foundations are firm as a rock.

COMPETITIONS.

With a view to making this part of my letter more attractive, I want you all to send me a list of competitions you like best, they can include Essays on subjects in the Manual or otherwise. Painting, Drawing, Pearls, but I only want you to give me a list of them for now. I shall give prizes for the best list received, and I shall use any good suggestions from time to time.

RULES.

1. Name in full, age, and 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 paper "Liberty Section." Address to Uncle Bert, 2, Villiers Road, Osterley, Middlesex, not later than August 18th.

Prizes will be sent to your Conductor, receipt for same being requested.

Prizes last month for efforts received by July 20th awarded to:
John Whitridge Chisholm. Age 9. Barrow-in-Furness.
Isabella Riley. Age 10. Hebburn.

Award of Merit, "Liberty Section":

Miss M. McLaren, Newcastle, "Essay on Love."

Teacher to class: "Where is Yorkshire?"

Small Boy: "Top of Cricket League! Sir."

A jolly holiday to you all.

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middlesex.

With love,
UNCLE BERT.

The B.S.L.U. Management Committee in London.

The B.S.L.U. Management Committee held their quarterly Business Meeting in London, at Peckham, on July 14th.

Mr. G. A. Mack signed the Presidential Roll and presided at the Meeting. Mr. Stewart and Miss Rayner were welcomed to the Committee.

Fraternal greetings were offered to the M.C. by Mr. Williams and Mrs. Bell on behalf of Peckham Church and Lyceum. The President responded.

The invitation to hold the next Annual Conference in Hull was cordially accepted.

Mr. Kitson was appointed to attend the International Spiritualist Congress at Leige on behalf of the B.S.L.U., and a request is being sent to the Congress to accept a paper on "The Aims and Objects of Lyceums."

The M.C. decided to transfer £300 from the current cash of the £2,000 effort to the Trustees of the Union.

The General Secretary was instructed to note, in the *Banner*, a request to Lyceum Secretaries to revise the lists in the *Banner* and *Two Worlds* and send the necessary corrections to the press.

The Secretary of the £2,000 effort reported he had received £10 11s. 0d.

All Lyceums owing 9 months' accounts for *Banners* will in future be suspended from benefits of membership until the accounts are paid.

The Physical Exercises are being reprinted.

B.S.L.U. Representatives, Mr. Burrows and Miss Hesp, have attended the National Peace Congress.

The M.C. suggest the favourable consideration of D.C.'s inviting the Area Representatives to quarterly meetings and the payment of expenses incurred.

The M.C. complimented Mrs. Greenwood on her election to the Presidency of the S.N.U.

The applications of Portsmouth (Francis Ave.), Higher Openshaw (Manchester), Doncaster (Spring Gardens), Hackney, Kettering (Dalkieth Street), Leicester (Marston St.), Winnipeg (Princess Street), and Idle Lyceums were endorsed.

Four applications were held over for further enquiries.

The Conference Minutes were corrected and approved.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Allured for her arduous work as Minute Secretary to the 1923 Conference.

Mr. J. K. Jones was appointed Secretary of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The General Secretary's Holiday, and the closing of the Union's Office from September 10th to 17th was confirmed.

The thanks of the M.C. was given to the Peckham Church and London D.C. for the opportunity of meeting in London.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

Under the auspices of the London Lyceum District Council a splendid united session was held in the Battersea Town Hall.

The great change and growth of Lyceumism in London, since the 1917 Conference was held there, was a pleasurable surprise to the M.C. Mr. Kitson's eyes sparkled with joy as Lyceum after Lyceum entered the Hall. Fifteen Lyceums were represented.

Many prominent leaders of Spiritualism in London were present, amongst whom were Mr. Engholm, of *Light*, and Mr. Lewis, of *The Psychic Gazette*. Mr. C. J. Williams, President of the L.L.D.C., took charge of the session. Members of the M.C. conducted the readings. Miss E. Ashley took charge of the physical exercises. The marching was smartly done, and in the calisthenics precision was excellent.

A pleasing feature of the Session was the presentation of medals by Mrs. Clegg (who along with Mr. Clegg has pioneered Lyceum work in London for many years) awarded for songs and recitations to Doreen King, Annie Hasler, Olive Gagg and Laura Murray. Honourable mention was made of Trissie Bell, Louie Davies, Thelma Carmen, Eva Davies and Iris Stockwell for their efforts.

The Silver Bell Competition resulted in Fulham being declared the holders, and the President of the Union (Mr. G. A. Mack) presented the Bell to the Conductor.

Mr. Engholm, in a brief speech, spoke of the Lyceums being the movement within the movement, and the world at large will, one day, point us out as possessing the greatest moral code. He asked the children to remember the eyes of the whole spirit world are upon us, describing the Lyceums as the nurseries of heaven.

Mr. Humphreys, speaking for the London Churches, appreciated the educational side, as the S.N.U. are looking to the Lyceums for workers.

Mr. Owen remarked on the growth of Lyceumism in London.

Mr. Kitson, on being asked to wind up the session, said it was a warming up. He paid a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Clegg and appealed for the religious and daily application of virtues gained during the session. He said age only applied to physical life and he felt quite young in the work and looked to the regaining of his youth when he reached the other side of life.

EVENING MEETING.

Mr. G. A. Mack presided and Miss Elliot invoked a blessing on the meeting.

The President spoke appreciatively of the growth and enthusiasm of Lyceum work in the London District.

Mr. Owen referred to the afternoon session and asked the audience to find out the real meaning of the session. He related the changes from orthodox and denominational Sunday School methods to Lyceumism. He used the word "make" children into Spiritualists advisedly. The method of "making" is to provide suitable opportunities and environments to wisely adopt the unfolding of truth in all its aspects as Spiritualism is in harmony with the divine truth. Lyceums are for all who are young in spirit. The unfolding of the human mind is a huge subject the Lyceum is trying to shape. Spiritualism is essential in nature and apathy should be removed.

Mr. J. K. Jones said Spiritualism stood as the great illuminant. Churches and Governments have built on force. Christ built on love, and our movement will grow and build by love. When the truths of Spiritualism are applied to individual and collective life we shall be brothers all.

Mr. H. W. Engholm, addressing the earthly friends and those in spirit, spoke of Lyceums for the training of the child to understand the etheric body, built of our thoughts, acts and deeds, which form it as a character body. Lyceums have extended the human mind to those places and spaces which are in touch with the unseen.

The little children, just beginning life, should cause us to live such a life that we feel the children around us in robes of white and minds filled with purity. The Lyceum bell rings out the message from the spirit world. There are myriads of them. It is the biggest Sunday School in the world and the door is open for them to pass through. There is a chain of guidance to the throne of God. With a little story of children in spirit-life Mr. Engholm appealed to the audience not to stop the flow of God's powers but continue until we have heaven upon earth.

Mr. Alfred Kitson felt his name is loved because he had been an instrument of the Spirit-world. Though he was "clair-nothing" his heart warmed towards the children. As a child he had been taught "hell-fire," and he wished he had never been born. It was the religion rather than the phenomena which had attracted him. The phenomena is necessary to prove that the physical man is not the real being.

The Lyceum movement, said Mr. Kitson, is necessary to the continuity of Spiritualism. Children have been treated in ignorance for nervous debility and the door has been closed on their psychic ability. Our Lyceums are filled with children from the other side of life and we walk hand in hand with angels who are asking us to come up higher.

Mrs. M. E. Pickles expressed the consciousness of spirit power and mediumship bringing to us the faculties and development which showed themselves in child life. She spoke of the presence of some of the founders of the Lyceum movement who were bringing to London the message that "Union is strength." Some convincing clairvoyance was also given and appreciated by an interested audience.

Mr. Knott thanked the many workers who had made the visit possible, and expressed the pleasure and thanks of the M.C. for the splendid meetings, to which Mr. Connor responded, enumerating the work done by the various sections.

Mr. Drew, of Fulham, sang a solo during the evening entitled "Queen of Angels."

The President closed the meeting with good wishes for the future welfare of the London District.

We are grateful to *Light*, *The International Psychic Gazette* and *The Two Worlds* for the splendid reports of the B.S.L.U. meeting in Battersea Town Hall.

The Education Scheme is ready for YOU. Are you ready nurseries of heaven.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

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

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

Twelve copies, 1s. 9d.; 18 copies, 2s. 7½d.; 24 copies, 3s. 6d.; 30 copies, 5s. 8d.; 42 copies, 6s. 1½d.; 48 copies, 6s. 8d. All orders for four dozen copies and upwards are supplied at 1s. 8d. per dozen. All parcels sent post free. Accounts due quarterly: March, June, September, and December. Single copies, 2½d. post free.

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AUGUST, 1923.

The B.S.L.U. Office will be closed for holidays from Sept. 10th to Sept. 17th. Lyceums are requested to withhold their correspondence during these dates.

The joy supreme is felt within
Communion's holy ray,
And shows above the mortal din
The flowers which ne'er decay.

God's Garden.

The Lyceum has been founded for the education of children of all races and times. It was the intention of A. J. Davis that the system could, and he hoped would, be adopted as a general method in all phases of education concerned with child-life.

The system has been adopted by the Spiritualists in England and America. It is peculiar that American Lyceumists are outnumbered by British Lyceumists, but there is a tendency now in U.S.A. to realise the need of closer touch with the minds of the children of Spiritualists. The races are coming nearer together and there is hope for an international basis being adopted to define the universal principles of Spiritualism.

In a small degree the Lyceum method has been adopted in the primary and Council Schools in England, as in the adoption of calisthenics and intuitional exercises.

The new light which has been shed on religious problems through science and higher criticism has made the agnostics, in many cases, lose their opposition to deism and a future life. There are very few materialists to-day; the agnostics are becoming fewer and Spiritualism is opening the minds of many people to newer revelations. The apostolic age is being revived, and we are proving links with the past by finding many of the miracles are being repeated, but we now witness these happenings without the fantastic conception that these things are performed by some direct will of God.

The world of phenomena is gradually being brought within human understanding of the laws underlying strange experiences. The "why" and the "how" are modern demands which progressive science can in many ways explain, providing an open mind is brought to the investigation of each phenomenon.

Lyceumism is something more than the plaything of an hour. We find the paradox of a paradise where work is productive of genuine happiness, so real that its effects are seen in the growing powers of children to assimilate simple truths and accept definitions of abstract forces which are capable of displaying growth and change. What a bountiful feast is provided when a number of young children can sit round a festive table on which is displayed for consumption some mustard and cress which has been sown by the little ones, under the guidance of the leader. How its growth has been watched day by day. The children go to bed one night and in the morning tiny leaves have burst forth in a beautiful light green. In a few days, each child, with a pair of scissors, cuts off the roots and washes the greens. And so we get our banquet. Many pairs of tiny hands have prepared it. A beautiful home, musical with loving voices, is the nursery of heaven.

The plants which grow flowers take a longer time to grow, and so our children learn patience. These are our stepping

stones to the garden of the heart. Some seeds show quick results; the flowers of a human character take longer. One act may reap a habit, one habit may shape a character. Every act needs a premeditating thought. We plant faith, hope and love in the garden of the heart. We sing of heart flowers. Oft have your beauty sorrow beguiled. I think we are all children where flowers are concerned. We carry them to the sick and they tell the story our lips oft-times refuse to frame. Sympathy is the great link which binds humanity together and it is the source of many virtues and friendships.

Sorrow pulls our heart-strings when we find children pass through the transition we call death. Flowers convey our sympathy and we feel something is wrong when the children we have brought into the world pass away before us. Frail in body, but strong in spirit, they find themselves in a new experience when the guiding influence of earth's cheated mothers foster the procreative desire and become the guardians of embryonic angels. Surrounded by the sweet love of tender associations, children in spirit are naturally drawn to the unfolding desires and appreciative foster mothers. Thus the children regain the watchful care in the new sphere and childless spirits find expression for enjoying the motherhood of babies born into the spirit world. O, the joy and comfort they bring again into the home when we can cognize the conditions and realise these visitations. What beautiful stories are revealed of the course of study and service as the visitants to the old associations reveal themselves, carrying fragrance and charm in the unfolding chain of spiritual experience of that real life of growing power and strength. No money can buy or enters into these methods of service and love.

The lessons of life are conveyed to our Lyceums in the real existence of spirits who associate with us, join in our marches and infuse us with feelings and sentiments of purity, harmony and peace as their vibrations mingle with our thoughts. Placed with our children we feel the buoyancy of eternal youth and face our tasks with joy and animation to surround the mind with song and prayers, giving us strength and courage to persevere. Here is a human and spiritual paradise planted in the garden of the heart. Blessings sent down from the Father in love; oft have your beauties sorrow beguiled, for ye are fair in the eyes of a child.

Faith ever twining, hope never drooping, love e'er the same, come sunshine or shower, brightest and fairest, the queen of the flowers, reigning over our home and sessions with the eternal pulse of immortal life throbbing through their message. For this we work, for this we pray and the radiance of their happy smiles and innocent mirth teach us that simple things can afford us contentment and pleasure. They truly say "We come, we come from a land of love to dry your tearful eyes." Shaping our lessons on this unfolding plan, the Lyceum becomes sainted and holy, and even prosaic things become sanctified by the inspiration their messages give to humanity. We carry ourselves through the sordid world as bearers of light, truth and wisdom. Not half has ever been told, but we know that we possess the link which binds humanity, overcomes race prejudices and breeds human brotherhood as a force in the world. Through blood and tears, mistakes and follies, we can turn for consolation to our dear children in spirit life. The Lyceum provides a ready means of reaching the verities and purpose of life. Glory to God who has given us flowers, sweet flowers. Some of them are buds which have blossomed and burst the bonds of earth, soared to the realms of spirit, and from thence point us the way of life, through death, to a world of etheric forces where the moulding, shaping, building and formulative powers seem to be plastic and capable of a visibility and invisibility, according to the desire of the operating spirit, to the astounded mind of man. This condition is subject, of course, to the earthly man realising the actuality of a post-death life.

Here readily springs in the thinking mind, a passing thought, wafted from the spheres where these things actually operate; if a spirit can build to the clairvoyant eye, and show the spirit-robe, or any kind of clothes worn when in the mortal body, or show any kind of scene or object to prove a test of identity, it then appears possible for young children in the spirit to appear as nymphs, fairies, or in other forms which fascinate child-life.

The fact of writing these words to convey a mental picture of possible fantastic (or phantasmic) ideas may be founded in an inspiration which changed the theme of this article to illustrate what actually occurs in the children's sphere in the after-death conditions of life's expression. In commencing the article the first purpose was to write of "Children in Spirit-life." Then came an extraneous thought to compare flowers

of the garden to the association of earthly and spiritual conditions produced by communion; to be followed by the description of the two phases of thought. The first theme was apparently a personal expression of the writer and the second theme was an extraneous expression conveyed from an outside intelligence. The inferences and deductions within every book will find the student much contemplation if we try to find the originating personality and motive which is responsible for the written words. It seems to be that the power behind the cosmic scheme of things finds expression in the law of association, and thus slowly reveals the underlying principles of human and spiritual progress. It is particularly interesting to the educationalists and will prove serviceable to every Lyceum leader.

Mediumship and Circles.

THE PASSPORT TO SPIRIT COMMUNION.

By MRS. M. E. PICKLES.

"Build thee more stately mansions, oh, my soul!
As the swift seasons roll;
Leave thy low-vaulted past,
Let each new Temple, loftier than the last
Shut thee from Heaven, with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by Life's unresting sea."
From "The Chambered Nautilus,"

By OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

We set out at the beginning of our home circle, with a determination to reach as high as possible and with a desire to be able to receive the best of phenomena, and at the same time a spiritual education.

Step by step we have proceeded, trying to build the necessary conditions for the spirit operators to work upon, not only in the circle, but always making preparations beforehand. There may have been nights during the sitting when nothing has occurred worth noting down, but probably the following week we have been more successful. Do not despair when the quiet evening comes with little or no manifestation, for very often this is what I call a building night. The spirit people have to find out how much material there is at their disposal sent out by the sitters, and work accordingly.

It may be that one sitter will throw off that which another cannot. It very often happens even in well-conducted circles, when you are sitting for a special phase of phenomena, that not a single sitter possesses the tiny essential element required, making it doubly hard for the spirit people to do their work. Also, sitters may have almost all that is required, the medium supplying a very little indeed, but that little the most essential of all. For instance, we need yeast to prepare the dough for bread, 4 ozs. to the 16 lbs. of flour, to be successful in our baking. What a small quantity of yeast, you see, to the great amount of flour, but we know how necessary the yeast is. It is just the same in all aspects of physical phenomena, especially materialization, where probably the medium will supply the most vital essential powers of all for the moulding and building of the forms.

Here I want to point out that there has been something going on the whole of the time we have been sitting. Possibly we have not been conscious of it, but in our desire to give the best from ourselves to help the spirit people a great change has been coming over us. This is the soul's growth or the reaching out to higher planes. And all this time we have indeed been building a more stately mansion to live in. There is a perceptible desire to leave the low-vaulted past, and enter a more exalted sphere.

There is a desire at times to leave the great unresting sea of life and pitch our tents upon a firm shore. I am confident we can learn to do this, and we shall find the way (even though we still dwell in the body) when we live righteously. A dear soul who had given her life almost for our beloved Spiritualism, said she knew what she would be doing when she passed on, and that work would be most congenial to her. "It would be continuing in the good work she had been engaged in here, but with far wider scope and fuller liberty." She also knew who she would be labouring with, for it had been her portion whilst lying physically ill for many months, to talk with her

guides and follow them in their work on the other side. She was a lofty soul, a well-developed medium, and she was in possession of a great heart, that seemed at times to pulsate with all humanity.

It has been my lot since her passing to see her many times and feel her calm and soothing influence, and I know she is accomplishing greater things than it was ever possible in earth life. But she made preparation. She did indeed build a stately mansion that she might function in, on that other side. I know she is only one of many hundreds of Pioneers who are continually setting us examples, and who help us to toil up the mountain side; thus the inhalation of such an influence brings a deeper desire and a wider horizon of feeling. We forget the petty annoyances of existence. We feel ourselves. We can speak to the earth, the sun, the air, and the distant sea, and the things beyond sight.

We can feel the earth's firmness, we can feel it bear us up. Even the grassy couch upon which we lie at times speaks to us. The air, and its purity which is its beauty, elevates us also. The rich colours of even the unattainable flower, draws us closer and gives us rest. Prayer comes, and it may be a puny feeling, but we know no other way. Thus do we reach out through all natural channels, higher even higher, in more refined vehicles or mansions, till by spiritual development we are attuned to all.

£2,000 Effort.

The contributions to the "Effort" since Conference are £9 1s. 0d. from Tyne-Side Lyceums, and £1 from Armley. Apologies are due to Macclesfield for having omitted their name from the list in the June "Banner," when the names of past contributors were enumerated.

£300 is being transferred to the Trustees for investment.

The "Effort" has taken definite shape, and the object is to achieve the full total of £2,000.

The efforts of Lyceums are now requested to assist in raising this total.

The S.N.U. and the Britten Memorial are working hard for the solidification of the movement, and the B.S.L.U. must not be found unready when the Spirit World sounds the Bugle to "Fall in." We have a large future before us, and the whole world is looking to us to reveal the true facts of existence. In a material world we must have a financial basis, and I await your donations to this fund.

The union appreciates the work of those who have already contributed, and appeals to the Lyceums who have not sent their quota to start on definite lines to render this service to the movement.

W. BURROWS, Hon. Sec.,
29, Kliffen Place, Coronation Rd.,
Halifax.

The B.S.L.U. offers its compliments to Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, J.P., a Past-President and present Chairman of Trustees of the B.S.L.U., on her election to the Presidency of the S.N.U. To Mr. R. A. Owen, Treasurer of the B.S.L.U., on his election to the Vice-Presidency. And to Mr. T. H. Wright, Trustee of the B.S.L.U., on his re-election as Treasurer of the S.N.U. These are a sign of the times and cement the growing Unions who form the principal national aspects of the organised Spiritualist Movement. Though there are two sections we find the real nucleus works through the Lyceum to the Church, and gradually asserts itself to an interblending national influence which is merging towards an international and universal permeation under the influence of the spirit world, who guide our policy and direct our principles. "Hand in hand with angels, through the world we go."

District Councils are advised to invite the local Area Representatives to the meetings of the Councils in the interests of organisation and growth of the Union. Where such invitations are sent and accepted by the Area Representatives, the District Councils should, in courtesy, pay the travelling expenses of the invited Representative.

Whichever way, the wind doth blow,
Some heart is glad to have it so;
Then blow it East or blow it West,
The wind that blows, that wind is best.

Our Lyceum Guild.

(Worked in conjunction with the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme).

OUR MOTTO:—"We live to learn, and learn to live."

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

(Full information about the Guild, how and why to become a member and to realise its aims, may be obtained from the Leader—(Miss) M. E. KITSON, B.A., 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks.).

OUR MEMBERSHIP (on 22nd July:—

1,560 members, from 135 Lyceums.

THE SPECIAL MOTTO FOR THIS MONTH.

"Knowledge is power."

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

As this issue of our Paper will come to you in the holiday month, we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very enjoyable holiday, with mirth and happy times; and benefits in every direction resulting from the change of scene and usual routine. Holidays over, we trust that you will feel ready and eager to enter on the work for your next examination, and also to carry out the other promises that you made on becoming a Guild member.

OUR COMPETITIONS.

Last month we gave full particulars of our competitions—rules, qualifications, and subjects—and we hope that a big percentage of our members will send in efforts. Remember that the last day for posting your effort is 31st August.

TO LYCEUMISTS OVERSEAS.

Some of our Lyceumists in the British Isles are desirous of finding a correspondent who lives in another country, so that they might exchange ideas about Lyceum work, and compare notes on mutual interests, etc. Will any Overseas Lyceumist who is willing to undertake such a correspondence, please communicate with the Leader, and state age, sex, Lyceum (if able to attend one), and address. The Leader will then send on the particulars to an English Lyceumist of suitable age, and the two can begin their interchange of letters—to the advantage of each.

Should any other English Lyceumist wish to begin such a correspondence, please send on the necessary particulars to the Leader, who will let you know when a congenial Overseas friend has been found.

FROM OUR MEMBERS.

Here are a few gems sent on by some of our members, in the hope of giving pleasure to other members.

(I) *Just a minute.*

"I have only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it,
Forced upon me—can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it;
But it's up to me to use it,
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give account if I abuse it,
Just a tiny little minute—
But Eternity is in it."

(II.) "Failure after long perseverance is much grander than never to have had a striving grand enough to be called a failure."

(George Eliot).

(III.)

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs.

He most lives, who thinks most—

Feels the noblest, acts the best."

Lyceum Ideals.

(Suggestions for Thought and Action).

By J. TINKER.

VIII.—THE PROGRAMME.

6.—*Musical Readings.*—Members sing the verses as they occur, and the Conductor or some members read the portions between the verses. Stand.

"We should at least take care that the music is sung without distractions, with full concentration of attention, with due rhythm and expression."—Art. VII., Ideals.

"Music possesses a wonderful harmonising power. . . . It will move to tears or send into ecstasies of delight. It will call forth the deepest and holiest sentiments of our nature and fill us with reverential emotion, or fill the heart with low, sensual, debasing passions. Such a factor for weal or woe must not be overlooked. There should be a choir in connection with every Lyceum, to train and cultivate the talents of its members and induce all to take part in rendering hymns and anthems, whose sweet harmonious powers will hush the wild tumult of the troubled, tempest-tost heart and wed the two worlds in one." O.S., p. 182.

"AND WED THE TWO WORLDS IN ONE."

"Read—mark—learn—and inwardly digest" that truth, so valuable to Spiritualists. Read that little essay in "Outlines" on "The value of vocal harmony." Meditate thereon; inspire therefrom; give the application of it to the Lyceum. Last month I mused on the grand masters and church organs and *tinny* pianos (not "tiny"). Why? I urge that we must cheerfully work with such materials as we can get; but we must also direct our energies to the getting of the best materials, and improving our use of the materials we have.

Whatever the instrument, we should enjoy music. There are sufficient remnants of savage ancestry in me to respond to the lilt of tin whistles and the despised bagpipes; but give me the Cathedral organs, the grand orchestras, the choirs, the Masses, the sonatas, and "the music of the spheres." It is our privilege to lead the child from the savage and the jazz to the soul's divinest melodies. I do not know any that have "no music in their souls," however tone-deaf some seem to be. All have some "social affections"—and music is their language and magnet. Our "Songster" cannot provide the deepest and loftiest strains for the exercise of joy and grief, devotion and ecstasy. It is a primer of song. But a study of its scope and fitness for varied emotions gives a fuller appreciation of its educative value than most of us possess.

We should make the fullest use of it. Tiresome repetitions of special favourites should be avoided, and tunes selected for the all-round development of the children. The Lyceum is a school for harmonious education—all parts in well-balanced operation—and not an arena for officers to ride their favourite hobby-horses. How many (or few) tunes does your Lyceum know? Why? *How many sentiments do they exercise?*

Notice how the music and words help each other to express definite sentiments. Help the Director to bring out the fitting rhythm—and expression. The M.R. combines the values of songs and S.C.R. and G.C.R., and is the most educative item of the full session—or should be. It is necessary, therefore, that the best interpretations should be given, and that *all* may *fully* benefit. The Musical Readings should not be merely practise grounds for novices, who often draw attention from the merits of the Music and Readings to the novice's incompetence. The best Director available should play, that the music may inevitably arouse the proper feelings. The best readers should take the connective readings—those who understand the meanings and can enunciate them fittingly, that the hearers may feel the truths by the mode they are pronounced.

Before children are called on to play or to read, the Conductor should know they are competent, not merely smart for their years. We must train our young members; but in "due order and degree." The first training is in the day schools—then in our groups, our individual efforts, our Guild, and, especially and always, *our homes*. In full session we must provide the best culture for *all* the plants in our Garden of Souls. We must not cover it with hot-houses for orchids and prize blooms. Beware the repeated staging of choice exhibits. That makes the wise educationist thoughtful about what cultural benefit the exhibits are receiving and what cultural benefit the poor "forget-me-nots" that are not chosen specimens are *not* receiving. Whatever their age, let the Director and Readers be the best available, or, at least, efficient.

Next: THE G.C.R.

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

By WM. WOODALL (South Shields).

JUNE. BLUE. *Bluebottle* may be found in cornfields from now to September. The leaves lying upon the ground are of a whitish green colour, long, narrow and much cut up, the upper leaves being slender and less divided, the stems thin and slightly branched; stems and underneath leaves are

covered with a loose cottony fibre. The flowers are many, set upon a scaly head. Scales of the involucre are greenish with brown margin. Ray florets, 5-toothed; inner florets, darker in colour. This may be successfully used for bleeding at the mouth from bruised veins inwardly; and is very good against infectious diseases and fevers. The juice is very good to heal cuts, also ulcers in the mouth. A good anti-poison.

Brook Lime grows in wet marshy places and in streams. The root is of a creeping nature and sends up stems at every joint, round and branched with deep green, round and thick leaves set in pairs. From them rise long foot stalks. The flowers are small, consisting of 5 round pointed petals. This herb purges humors from the body and blood, and is useful in scurvy. It may be eaten with watercress for this purpose. It is also good for the kidneys and to break the stone.

Field Scabious grows in meadows and by lane sides. This has a stout root and hairy stem growing over three feet high. The leaves from the root are oval in shape and entire, with toothed margins. The stem leaves are lobed and almost pinnate. The flowers grow on heads upon a long foot stalk and consist of 40 to 50 florets, increasing in size from centre to margin, the centre ones being more of a reddish colour. The corollas are four-lobed, the outer florets forming two lips. The involucre bracts are leaf-like and broad in two rows. It is good for coughs, shortness of breath and diseases of the lungs and breast, bringing away tough phlegm; and ripening inward ulcers; also good for pains and stitches in the side. If you wish to get rid of carbuncles and such-like quickly, bruise the green herb and apply. It makes a splendid wash to clear the head from itch, scurf and sores.

GREEN. *Eringo* or *Sea Holly* grows in sandy places by the seaside. The root is mostly used, and it is large, white and long. The leaves are stiff and full of veins, narrow at the bottom and roundish at the ends, very prickly like a thistle. The flowers are of a greenish white colour, are set in a prickly head, each in a separate calyx. The calyx tube is set with sharp teeth and is longer than the petals. It grows about 18 inches high. The leaves upon the stalk are more palmate in shape and without foot stalks. This plant is venereal in its nature. A decoction is good to open obstructions of the liver, and good against yellow jaundice, pains in the loins, dropsy and colic.

PURPLE. *Burnet*. This very tall herb grows in meadows and by the side of lanes, and is very useful. The stem is angular, the leaves pinnate, the leaflets of the radical leaves are broad and nearly heart-shaped, the stem leaves narrower and greyish underneath. The use of this herb keeps the body in health and vigour. It is good for the heart, liver and other vital organs. Also it is a very good wound herb used inward or outward, and is good in all kinds of fluxes of blood or humours.

Soap Wort. This plant grows in marshes and near rivers. The stalk grows about a foot high and is full of knots, and reddish in colour. The leaves are smooth, pale green, broad and sharp-pointed, about two inches long, with three high veins upon the back; footstalk broad. The flowers consist of five large round-pointed petals in a long calyx. It cures itch and gonorrhoea. When bruised it makes a good lather in water, and quickly cleans grease spots from clothes. It is very bitter in taste.

WHITE. *Comfrey* grows in moist places. The root is very large and branched. The leaves lying upon the ground are large and hairy, the stalk two or three feet high, hollow, cornered and hairy, bearing many lesser leaves. At the joints it is divided into many branches with some leaves on them, and at the ends many flowers one above another like the finger of a glove. There is a smaller kind with pale purple flowers. Taken inwardly it helps all wounds and ulcers of the lungs and brings away the phlegm. It is good for ruptures and sore breasts, also good for running ulcers and mortifications.

Marsh Mallows. The stalks are white and grow three or four feet high. The leaves are soft and hairy, rather smaller than the ordinary Mallows and with longer points and cut into a few deep divisions. The flowers are white with a bluish tinge. It grows in salt marshes. This is very useful in pleurisy and all diseases of the chest and lungs; eases inward pains of the body, applied inwardly and outwardly, and opens the body. A poultice made with the leaves is good for tumours, swellings and inflammation; also a good antidote for poisons. Used as a hair wash it prevents the hair falling off. It also makes the voiding of the stone from the kidneys easy and painless. It is good for coughs and shortness of breath. Make an ointment with the mucilage of the roots and linseed for cuts, wounds, hard swellings and inflammations.

New Lyceum Secretaries.

- Bolton, Deane Rd.*:—Mr. G. F. Walsh, 4, Joseph St., Bolton.
Hebden Bridge:—Mr. H. Greenwood, 23, Wood End, Hebden Bridge.
Batley, Birstall:—Mr. J. M. Fone, 16, Ealand Crescent, Batley.
Manchester, Hr. Openshaw:—Mr. S. Molineux, 70, Ambush St., Hr. Openshaw.
Sale:—Mrs. A. E. Ashley, 24, New St., Altrincham.
Ashton-U-Lyne:—Mr. A. V. Davis, 14, Watergate, Audenshaw.
Hyde:—Mr. F. Hill, 12, Howard St., Hyde.
Barnoldswick, Green St.:—Mrs. Whittaker, 66, Manchester Rd., Barnoldswick.
Earby:—Miss B. Smith, 3, John Street, Earby.
Stockton-on-Tees, Cecil St.:—Mr. G. A. Atkinson, 1, Haswell St., Stockton.
Craghead:—Mr. I. Bulmer, 59, Bessemer Terrace, Craghead, S.O., Co. Durham.
Darlington H. Northgate:—Mr. W. E. Wilson, 35, Westmoreland Street.
Fleetwood:—Mrs. F. Benson, 126, Mount Street, Fleetwood.
Manchester Stretford:—Mrs. R. T. Jackson, 32, Lonsdale St. Gorse Hill, Stretford.
Miss E. Eden, Conran Street, Harpurhey.
NEW D.V. FOR SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.
Mr. G. Armitage, 366 Brightside Lane, Sheffield.

NEWLY AFFILIATED LYCEUMS.

- Idle*:—Mr. E. Bottomley, 59-61, Victoria Rd., Ecclehill, Bradford.
Quarmby:—Mr. J. W. Heap, 261, Ing Terrace, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield.
London, Battersea:—Mr. W. J. Clements, 62, Hubert Grove, Stockwell, Surrey.
London, Hackney:—Mrs. M. Hester, 26, Urswick Rd., Clapton, E.9.
Leicester, Marston St.:—Mr. A. Greenhalgh, 96, Green Lane Rd., Leicester.
Kettering:—Mrs. H. A. Bryan-Smith, 'Ingledene,' Kingsley Avenue, Kettering.
Doncaster, Spring Gardens:—Mr. W. Moseley, 6, Orchard St., Doncaster.
Winnipeg, Princess St.:—Mr. F. Cartman, 325, Main Street, Winnipeg.

LYCEUM APPLICATIONS NOT YET ENDORSED BY M.C.

- Leeds, Horsforth*:—Mr. T. Binns, 1, Roo Yard, Long Row, Horsforth, Nr. Leeds.
Bury, Freetown:—Miss E. Ratcliffe, 39, Benson Street, Bury.
Manchester, Stretford:—Mrs. R. T. Jackson, 32, Lonsdale St. Gorse Hill, Stretford.
Hollinwood:—Mr. H. Ball, 20a, Clowes St., Hollinwood.
Dukinfield:—Mr. S. Purkis, 30, Alma Street, Dukinfield.
Denton:—Miss J. Ogden, 8, Bank St., Hooley Hill, Nr. Mchr.
Glasgow, Prog.:—Miss B. P. Smith, 925, Shettleston Rd., Glasgow East.
Penrhiwceiber:—Mr. B. T. Jones, 44, Rheola St., Penrhiwceiber, S. Wales.
Spennymoor:—Mr. W. Sawley, 59, Bessemer Terrace, Mt. Pleasant, Spennymoor.
Newbiggin:—Mr. T. W. Hope, 15, King St., Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland.

BYE-ELECTION OF AN AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR AREA G.

The Management Committee have arranged an election in Area G, since Conference, to provide an E.C. Member to represent Area G on the Management Committee for 1923-4.

	Votes.
Miss V. G. Rayner, Nottingham, Mechanics Hall	182
Mr. D. J. Maddocks, Nuneaton	119
Mr. J. H. Wicks, Leicester, Silver Street	82
Mrs. K. Armstrong, Newport	47
Mr. T. W. Northam, Cardiff, Queen Street	20
Mr. D. Jewitt, Grimsby	} No returns.
Mr. G. Paling, Beeston	

Miss V. G. Rayner is declared elected as the Representative for Area G, for 1923-4, and will serve in that position until after the 1924 Conference.

(Signed) G. A. MACK, President.
G. F. KNORR, Gen. Sec.

France and the International Congress.

The following is a reprint of a portion of a long article in "*La Revue Spirite*," which denotes the French position, and may help English readers to understand the relations of France to the International. Dr. Seley, of the Metapsychical Institute of Paris, was invited to give a paper at the International Conference held in London last year. Unfortunately, he could not attend, but a paper relating to the French research was given by Mr. S. De Brath.

The European war broke down the possibility of immediate future Conferences, and an attempt is now being made to institute an International Union on a new basis, to correlate the activities of Spiritualism throughout the world.—Editor.

International Spiritualism.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

(Translated from "*La Revue Spirite*" by G. HALLIDAY).

All the readers of the *Revue Spirite* have been able to observe that Spiritualism and Psychism have, during the last few years, spread throughout the world; important centres have been formed in almost all countries; many scientists have been moved by the importance and clearness of the metaphysical phenomena. In France, an International Metaphysical Institute, recognised as being of use to the public, has been formed in order to study Spiritualism purely from a scientific point of view. The results which have already been obtained are of a very high character. As for the spiritual philosophy, its natural simplicity, its clearness, its greatness and the large part which it plays in verifying experiments attract more and more the sympathy not only of the public, but still more of the intellectual classes in the different countries.

This triumph, almost universal, of the spiritual idea was foreseen, more than 50 years ago, by the founder of this paper, Allan Kardec. In view of such a success and of an expansion so important and so rapid as has been observed these last few years the idea is presented of a solid organisation without which the good individual efforts will risk being unfruitful.

But such an organisation cannot be brought into being on the spur of the moment, it needs meditation and method. This was, perhaps, the greatest mistake of those who, last year at London, attempted to lay the foundations of an International League of Spiritualism. This congress or conference (?), besides, does not seem to have been formed in such a manner as to represent all the necessary moral authority. Speaking only of France, none of our great spiritual organisations had been invited, and consequently were not represented. The "*Union Spirite Française*," the national federation of Spiritualists in France and the Colonies, which comprises 30 Societies and more than 1,500 individuals as members, was unknown to the organisers of the Conference in London, just as the *Revue Spirite* was also unknown to them, the *Revue Spirite* established 66 years ago, which is one of the oldest and one of the most important spiritualistic publications in the whole world.

What is needed, at the present moment, is the organisation of Spiritualism in each country, in aspiring or aiming at the highest philosophical, scientific and moral teachings of Allan Kardec, teachings large and free, logical and rational with which, however, certain theories are clearly inconsistent and have already been condemned as such.

France has taken a great step in the necessary pathway for national organisation: the "*Union Spirite Française*" has sent its lecturers round the country, has organised societies everywhere, and realised the national unity which ought to be the basis of international unity and ought to be compelled to precede it. If such an effort could be realised in each country then we should be able to bring about an International League of Spiritualists. For the present, the rôle which this League could be given to play is exactly that which is carried out by the International Bureau of Spiritualism: a centre of relations where all societies, or all isolated Spiritualists could find the means of putting themselves in touch with the Spiritualistic organisations of the whole world. This brings us to the decision of the Geneva Conference of 1913 which, as far as we remember, had decided to transfer the International Bureau of Spiritualism to Paris.

The seat of the International Bureau of Spiritualism is transferred to Paris.

Those who voted for: Delegates from England, Brazil, Spain, U.S.A., France, Norway, Holland, Sweden and Switzerland.

Abstained from voting: Two delegates from Belgium alone, the third, M. le Clément de St. Marcq, author of the pamphlet, voted against.

We insist that those who signed the decision of the Conference at Geneva compel M. le Clément de Saint Marcq to give back, without delay, to the "*Union Spirite Française*," with the records and documents, the ordering of the International Bureau of Spiritualists, of which the National Federation of Spiritualists of France and the Colonies is ready to assume the responsibility and to promise fair working. Its President, M. Gabriel Delanne, has been ordered at this time besides to receive the deposit.

We are able to say that the International Bureau of Spiritualists will find, in Paris, a habitation deserving of such a centralising office, and that a commission has been drawn up from this moment by the "*Union Spirite Française*" to study the best conditions to bring about the realisation of this office.

R.S.

The Poetical Language of the Mental Faculties.

(To be recited by Groups of Children).

BY F. W. C. AND I. CLARKE.

CONSTRUCTIVENESS.

I have the power to help you make all things that you need.
I'm Constructiveness; in works of skill I ever take the lead.
But I always need a helping hand in accomplishing my task.
You must first say what you need, and I'll do everything you ask.

I can help to make your dresses, your bonnets to adorn;
In fact, I'll tell you briefly, I *help* make all that's worn.
I construct the pleasing paragraphs you see in daily papers,
The motor cars, the roller skates, on which you cut such capers.

The tools which made the chairs you use; also the chairs themselves,

Were fashioned by my cunning art, with help of other elves.
The dainty shoe, so much admired in ball-room or in street,
I helped to make to fit the foot and grace the ankle neat.

I give you much dexterity, inventive powers bestow;

And interest and insight with machinery I show.

In organising, planning, my aid is e'er required;

In making picture, verse or song, I do the thing desired.

Why, the funds of your society would be less but for me.

The things you sold at that bazaar I partly made, you see.

The tables that oft groan beneath the weight of wholesome fare,

Had I not lent a helping hand, would surely not be there.

O'er all the world my powers I use; and concluding, may

remark,

That Noah, if I'd not been there, could not have built his Ark.

IDEALITY.

Refinement I boast, and Perfection I love;

All beauty in Nature and Art I approve.

Ideality called; you can tell by my name

That ought but perfection would call for my blame.

In Poetry's realm oft my thought finds its home,

Midst the flowers and glad music of birds' song to roam.

I give love of perfection and creative art;

Gentility, elegance ever impart.

Susceptible I, and refined in my ways,

Whilst beauty of thought ever calls forth my praise.

The ornate in religion I like, I confess,

And pay due regard to appearance and dress.

For your home ev'ry beauteous thing I suggest;

In furniture, pictures, like all that is best.

Let your eye feast on "beauty," Ideality's charm;

'Twill refine all your thought and can do you no harm!

ADVENT.

THE BEGINNINGS OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM.

By A. T. CONNOR.

CHAPTER IX.

EARLY AMERICAN INVESTIGATORS.

Although some of the inhabitants of Rochester were unwilling either to investigate the claims of the Fox family or to allow others to investigate, there were others who braved the fury of the bigoted rabble, and conducted investigations in their own homes. In many cases the Foxes were the mediums, but in others it was discovered that members of the family were the possessors of psychic gifts, and many convincing proofs of spirit power and spirit communication were obtained. And as the fame of the sisters spread, many eminent men of other cities investigated the phenomena and were convinced of their genuineness. Nor did the spirit communicators confine themselves to raps and similar noises. The pedlar, having played his part in "breaking through," would now seem to have retired (except for special occasions) into the background, and the organisers themselves to have taken charge. As a result, practically every phase of phenomena now known was produced, and appeal was made to every class and standard of intelligence.

Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten, in "Modern American Spiritualism" (published in 1870), gives an entertaining and instructive account of the fortunes of Spiritualism in America during the twenty years following "the Knockings," and it is from her records that the incidents quoted in this and the two following chapters have been culled. It will be impossible to give an account of all the "tests" received by these early investigators. The most that can be done is to introduce the eminent persons who took part in the investigations, and were convinced of spirit communication, giving, where occasion warrants, a brief summary of their methods or their principal experiences.

It will be remembered that, at the time of the Corinthian Hall meetings, Catherine Fox was not in Rochester. Mr. E. W. Capron, of Auburn, had persuaded Mrs. Fox to allow Katie to live at his home; and through her mediumship most of the inhabitants of Auburn were enabled to study the phenomena under conditions which prevented any possibility of deception. Yet (we are told) "Spirit music was produced; hands were seen, felt and even examined, forming and melting apparently in the clasp that held them; messages of affection, timely warning and prescient intelligence were constantly spelled out through the raps; the furniture moved in supra-mundane feats of power, and almost every conceivable phase of intelligent spiritual phenomena was exhibited to all who chose to come and witness it."

Mr. Capron was one of the earliest investigators. It was at his request that the spirits resumed communication after their departure in November, 1848, and it was he who delivered the explanatory lecture at the first meeting in Corinthian Hall. His investigations are recorded in his book on "The Facts and Fanaticisms of Modern Spiritualism," which contains also letters written by numerous investigators, giving accounts of their experiences. Amongst these contributors are George Willetts, the hero of the fourth meeting at Rochester, and Rev. C. Hammond, who afterwards became a noted medium and inspired writer.

George Willetts visited Rochester during the summer of 1848, to negotiate with the owner of some land in Michigan which he wanted to buy. As a result of being introduced by Isaac Post to the Fox circle, he bought some land in Rochester and settled in the district, having been foretold what land he would buy, the name of the owner, and the average price of the various lots—150 dollars. Later he was instructed how to find regular employment on the local railway "before the week was out." He was to see a Mr. Wiley at 2 o'clock on the Thursday following the Circle, but on Wednesday evening he learned that Mr. Wiley had gone to Boston and would not return till the Saturday. On Thursday, at 1-30, he informed the spirit friends of this, but they insisted on the visit, and on going to the railway office he found Mr. Wiley there! By dusk on Saturday he had heard nothing about employment, but at 8 o'clock he received instructions to start work on Monday morning.

Mr. Hammond's letter records a case of table-tilting, and other physical phenomena, which he declares could not, by any possibility, have been produced by any member of the circle.

In the spring of 1850 the Fox family paid a visit to New

York City, and gave many proofs of the genuineness of their mediumship. On one occasion a circle, consisting of Fenimore Cooper, N. P. Willis, W. Cullen Bryant, Hosea Bigelow, G. Bancroft and other men of note, met at the home of Dr. Griswold. Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Fish, Margaretta and Katie were all present. For about half-an-hour there were no signs of spirit presence, but at last faint sounds began to be heard, these gradually becoming so loud and distinct that everyone was satisfied. On this occasion the tests took a peculiar form. The various investigators "fixed in their minds" the names of deceased friends, and took turns in asking the communicators to answer questions about them. All the answers were stated to be correct.

Admirers of *The Last of the Mohicans* will be interested in Fenimore Cooper's test. In answer to questions he was told that the person he was thinking of was "a relative—a near relative—a woman—a sister—died fifty years previous—by accident—thrown from a horse." Mr. Cooper declared that the information was correct. Within a year both Cooper and Willis were in spirit life, their journey thither being no doubt brightened by their knowledge of what lay before them.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to physical phenomena, and the mediums were thoroughly tested.

Horace Greeley, the famous editor of the *New York Tribune*, invited the Foxes to spend a few days at his house, and there he devoted "what time he could spare out of three days" to investigation. His testimony, published in the *Tribune*, is all in favour of the mediums. He begins by stating the precautions taken at the various seances. "The rooms which they occupied at the hotel (Barnum's)," he says, "have been repeatedly searched and scrutinised; they have been taken, without an hour's notice, into houses they had never before entered; they have been unconsciously placed on a glass surface, concealed under a carpet to interrupt electrical vibrations; they have been disrobed by a committee of ladies. . . . Yet we believe no one to this moment pretends that he has detected either of them in producing or causing the rappings."

Regarding the experiments in his own house, he says—"it would be the basest cowardice not to say that we are convinced beyond a doubt of their perfect integrity and good faith in the premises. Whatever may be the origin or cause of the rappings, the ladies in whose presence they occur do not make them. We tested this thoroughly and to our entire satisfaction. . . . How they are caused and whence they proceed are questions which open a much wider field of inquiry, . . . but if we were simply to print (which we shall not) the questions we asked and the answers we received, during a two hours' uninterrupted conference with 'the rappers,' we should be at once accused of having done so expressly to sustain the theory which regards these manifestations as the utterances of departed spirits."

In February, 1853, the Fox sisters were in Washington, and there their powers were tested by Governor Tallmadge, a distinguished United States Senator. He received many messages from a deceased friend named Calhoun, one being in direct writing. On one occasion the communicator said:—"My friend, the question is often put to you—'What good can result from these manifestations?' I will answer. It is to draw mankind together in harmony, and convince sceptics of the immortality of the soul." This reminded the Senator of an answer he had received at Bridgeport in 1850 when he asked a similar question—"To unite mankind, and convince sceptics of the immortality of the soul." Surely no nobler ideal could form the basis of any Movement!

Yet another phase of mediumship was exhibited to Mr. N. Draper, of Rochester, who, "after the severest tests, under a variety of circumstances and in various places, for about a year," had been convinced of Spirit Return. His wife was a "magnetic" clairvoyant, and through her he tried to find an answer to the question—"Is it practicable to have communication between two distant points by means of these rappings?" A spirit claiming to be Benjamin Franklin undertook to do this, and made an appointment for Friday, 15th February, 1850. On that date the circle met, and Mrs. Fox and Katie, with Rev. A. H. Jervis to take notes, went into one room, while Margaretta, with Mr. Draper to take notes, went into another. They were just beginning to get results when several unauthorised persons entered both rooms. The only message received by Mr. Draper was—"Things are not as I directed; therefore you cannot proceed at this time. There should be but four in each room." Mr. Jervis received a similar message. A further meeting was arranged for the 20th,

and on that date the mediums and scribes were as before, the required numbers being made up by reliable investigators. The rappings sounded like the clicking of a telegraph instrument, and each party received the following message—"There will be great changes in the nineteenth century. Things that may look dark and mysterious to you will be laid plain before your sight. Mysteries are going to be revealed. The world will be enlightened. I sign my name, Benjamin Franklin." To Mr. Draper's message was added—"Do not go into the other room," while Mr. Jervis's addition read—"Go into the parlour, and compare notes." Dr. Franklin had fulfilled his undertaking.

The message was vague, and we can hardly claim that the promised enlightenment has been realised—but this and the other phases mentioned show in how many ways the spirit operators are able to manifest, if we will only give them the proper conditions.

(To be continued).

Revision Notes.

It is a pity that the London resolutions were not discussed at our Whitsuntide Conference, as it would seem that they are not fully understood. Let me first, as the London Secretary, explain all that is meant by the two resolutions to which exception has been taken. In the first place, only one of the three (the first) would be binding on the Union—even if passed by Conference. The other two would only be expressions of opinion as to how the situation created by the passing of the first resolution could be used to the best advantage, and be met with the least possible inconvenience. Those Districts that did not want to help in the production of a new and up-to-date edition of the *Manual* would not be compelled to help. They would only be advised that, in the opinion of Conference, it would be a good thing if all the District Councils joined in helping the Revision Committee—but if they did not want to take the advice, they need not. Further, it would be declared that the best way for a financially weak Lyceum to prepare for the purchase of a full stock of a new edition would be the establishment of a fund that could be built up gradually, and without strain, to the required total. But again, it would only be advice, and not an order.

Congratulations to Sheffield, Tyne-side and London for their promptitude in appointing Committees. I am hoping to hear, as a result of the quarterly meetings, that all the other districts are following suit. The idea is quite simple, and need not cause any very great amount of work. In London our Committee consists of the District Executive and two other members. We have asked all the London Lyceums each to appoint a Revision Committee, to go carefully through the *Manual* and send in suggestions to the District Committee. Such suggestions as the latter accepted would be submitted to the Council and, if approved, sent to me as Secretary of the National Committee. In this way we shall be helping the National Committee in its work by letting them know what amendments have been thought desirable by the District.

There are many subjects that could be profitably discussed by the District Committees. For instance, how often do we hear regrets that certain favourite pieces are not contained in the present *Manual*? These could be submitted to, or through, the Districts. Also there is the suggestion that the various pieces should be arranged as in hymn-books, under headings for different occasions, so as to assist Conductors in choosing appropriate Sessions. I do not suppose for a moment that many of the present Readings would be left out of the *Manual*—but most will agree that some of them need to be revised or brought up-to-date, and that the book could be rearranged with advantage. All those who dislike change can take comfort from the fact that no alteration of any sort would take place without the previous consent of the Movement as represented at Conference. The Committee has been appointed to prepare a new edition—not to publish it.

All communications must be addressed to the Revision Secretary, Mr. A. T. Connor, 19, Oakhurst Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

THE TRUSTEES AND OFFICE ASSISTANCE.

The Trustees have met and made amicable arrangements with the General Secretary regarding office assistance. A report will be made to the next Conference.

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.

BIRTH.

ROCHDALE, REGENT HALL.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nurse, on July 5th, a son, John.

IN MEMORIAM.

GURNEY VALLEY.—In memory of Mrs. Woods and her infant daughter (of Eldon Lane) who passed into Higher Life July 4th, 1923.

Also of Mrs. Clarkson, who passed into Higher Life June 18th, 1923.

JONES.—On July 1st, 1923, at 112, Gurney Valley, Bp. Auckland. John David Jones, aged 28. Dearly beloved husband of May Jones. "Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee."

MARRIAGES.

LEEDS, ARMLEY.—June 24th, at Leeds, the marriage took place of Mr. William Speight (of Armley Lyceum and Society) and Miss Margaret Sweeting, of Holbeck, Leeds.

District Visitors' Reports.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

I visited Henry Street, Bolton, on May 13th. We had a prompt start. 38 present; 2 came late. Opening song very fair; silver chain fairly well explained by Conductor; musical reading very well explained by reader; golden chain nicely explained by Conductor; pearls very good; marching and calisthenics good; general conduct good.

I paid a visit to Daisy Hill Lyceum on June 10th. We had a prompt start, with a good number present, including many visitors from other Lyceums connected with the Council. This session was one that ought to be remembered, especially our Daisy Hill friends. We received a promise from them. May success attend all their efforts for good. We all had a good and interesting session together.—F. Jones, D.V.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

I made my first visit to Darnall on June 10th. The session commenced promptly. Nine members arrived late. In the readings the unison and responses were very good, being spoken in a clear, distinct manner. The marching and calisthenics were well rendered; the carriage and accuracy were features worth special note. The devotional side was very good.

I visited Gifford Road, Heeley, on June 17th. The session commenced promptly. Thirteen members late. One pleasing point was that of the Conductor asking anyone if they would care to pass a few thoughts on the readings. The marching and calisthenics were well rendered.

I visited North Pavement, Barnsley, June 25th. The session commenced twenty minutes late. The unison and responses were good. The singing was carried out in a good, hearty manner, and there was plenty of enthusiasm shown throughout the session. The marching and calisthenics were very fair. The carriage, accuracy and energy were the special features. The devotional aspect was good, and the whole session was of a pleasing character.

I visited Bold Street, Attercliffe, July 15th. The session commenced promptly. Six members late. There was a good tone with the singing, but lacking expression. The unison responses and delivery were fair. There was a good time shown in the exercises, which gave a pleasing effect. This Lyceum is to be complimented on the calisthenics, being carried out in a fine manner. One pleasing point I noticed: the younger members were triers. The devotional aspect was fair and also the general standard.

I visited The Centre Lyceum, Princes Street, on July 15th. The session commenced seven minutes late; eleven members arrived later. The singing was fair and nicely rendered. In the readings the Conductor brought his thoughts to the child mind, and nice responses were received. The unison responses and delivery were good. The marching and calisthenics were well rendered. The general standard and attention was good, and a good devotion was shown.—G. Armitage, D.V.

TYNESIDE DISTRICT.

I visited a new Lyceum at "Newbiggin by the Sea," on July 22nd, where a good session was held. 13 recitations, 3 solos, 8 pearls, and altogether a splendid time. I was struck by the thoroughness of the Conductor, Mr. Teesdale, who never loses an opportunity of driving home the lessons conveyed in the various exercises. Like many other Lyceums, the finances hold them back for *Manuals* and other publications of the B.S.L.U. What a pity we have not a Pooling Scheme where poor Lyceums could be helped. However, we call ourselves Progressive, and perhaps this will come some day.—Robert Hunter, D.V.

District Council Reports.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

The next Conference will be held at Railway Terrace, Birstall, on Saturday, September 1st, 3-30 p.m.

Business: President's Address. Minutes. Correspondence. Reports. Field Day Business. Notice of Motion (Batley Carr) Affiliation Fees be raised from 3/- to 4/-. Competition Business. Associates. Open Council. Usual catering arrangements.

Delegates and Associates please note. Take car for Birstall or Birkenshaw and ask to be put down at Railway Terrace.

Will Associates please forward me present postal address? Invitations for Field Day, 1924.

P.S.—Lyceums represented at last Conference, June 9th, add Holborn Hall.

A. W. HARDING, Sec.

NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE.

The United Annual Outing of all Lyceums in the above Council took place on Saturday, July 14th. Upwards of 270 Lyceumists and friends of the following Lyceums journeyed to Howe's Farm, High Lane, Woodley, to participate:—Macclesfield, Glossop, Stockport Central, Baker Street (Heaton Norris), Ashton and Hyde. The weather was glorious and both children and adults enjoyed themselves immensely. The one great feature of the day was "Sports," which were held immediately after tea. The winners were:—

Boys under 8:—Stanley Holland (Stockport Central); Sydney Garner (Ashton).

Girls under 8:—Sally Jackson (Ashton); Iris Dean (Hyde).

Boys, 8 to 12:—Ernest Normington (Macclesfield); Reg. Bennison (Macclesfield).

Girls, 8 to 12:—Alice Bennison (Macclesfield); Dorothy Chadwick (Macclesfield).

Boys' Skipping Race:—Samuel Hannan (Stockport Central); Ben. Bennison (Macclesfield).

Girls' Skipping Race:—Lily Henderson (Stockport Central); Laura Craig (Baker Street).

Single Men:—Elias Lloyd (Ashton); H. Slater (Macclesfield).

Single Ladies:—Violet Manning (Macclesfield); Florrie Hobson (Ashton).

Married Men:—W. Snook (Stockport Central); P. Parfitt (Stockport Central).

Married Ladies:—Lena Cadman (Baker Street); Mrs. Hobson (Ashton).

Boys—Non-Prize Winners:—George Craig (Baker Street); Frank Hobson (Ashton).

Girls—Non-Prize Winners:—Alice Ashton (Hyde); Evelyn Mellor (Macclesfield).

Mr. Edmondson (Macclesfield) presented the prizes.

MARY MALTBY, Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

The above Council will hold the Quarterly Conference at Doncaster on Sunday, August 19th, 1923.

Business will commence at 10-30 a.m., at Wood Street Church. Officers and Delegates attending the Demonstration on Saturday, 18th, and staying overnight, please notify Mr. C. Batty, 2, St. Mary's Crescent, Doncaster, as soon as possible.

Open Session will be held in the Guild Hall, Doncaster. All Lyceumists invited to attend.

Evening Service will be conducted by joint Councils, with Mr. G. F. Berry and Mr. A. Kitson, National representatives.

Lyceums please invite Associate Members to Council.

A record gathering is anticipated.

C. H. SAXELBY, Sec.

Special Reports.

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

BARROW, Ramsden Street.—On July 1st we held our Lyceum Anniversary Services. Mr. Batley, the President of N.E.L.D.C. was the speaker. The Lyceumists responded well with recitations and solos. Mr. Batley presented the Prizes. Miss M. A. Lawton, the District Visitor, also exchanged greetings. We had the pleasure of Dalkeith Street Lyceum joining in our session. Evening: solos and recitations by Lyceumists and choir. A short address by Mr. Batley; also a few words from our President, Mr. J. Owen. Our conductor, Mr. R. Brown was the chairman.—S. Nock, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—On July 1st, at our open session conducted by Miss Lilian Long, we had a very good programme of solos, recitations and songs by Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Babbs, Miss Tordoff, Lilian Whitley, Lucy Farnell, Marian Ashforth, Alice Berry, Ernest Satterby and Mr. Hollings. On July 15th, we celebrated our Lyceum Anniversary with a Service of Song, entitled: "An Angel in Disguise," with Mrs. Richards as Reader. We had with us Mr. W. Barnes, of Whetley Lane, who gave us some good advice and we had some friends from Hull and Saltaire. We send our greetings to all Lyceumists:—J. Babbs, Sec.

BELPER.—On June 24th, we celebrated our 37th Lyceum Anniversary. Mrs. Crowder, of London, being our speaker. We formed in procession with 200 Lyceumists and friends. We had a very nice band and excellent hymns and music. We paraded the town, singing at various centres, and finally arrived at the Memorial Grounds, and circled round the Cenotaph. Mrs. Crowder gave a very nice address, speaking so very pathetically of the dear lads who had passed out in the great war. Here we sung two hymns, having been on parade over 3 hours. The afternoon service in Jubilee Hall, was packed, many having to be turned away. Mr. T. F. Smedley occupied the chair. Recitations, songs, choruses, etc., were given by the children. The evening service was presided over by our President, Mr. Ling. Long before the time to commence the hall was full. The anthem was very ably rendered, conducted by Mr. Wigley, and accompanied by our organist, Mr. Orme.

Mrs. Crowder gave a very eloquent address, which was listened to by a very appreciative audience. The total collections for the day amounted to £25/10/—John H. Hawkins.

CHEETHAM, Halliwell Lane.—We held our Open Session on July 22nd, and a fine effort was made by the children. Solos, recitations, pianoforte solo and duets were rendered by our young Lyceumists, and also a Lyceumist from Middleton gave a solo. We had representatives from the following Lyceums: Gillmore Street, Middleton, H. Openshaw, South Manchester, New Manchester, Moston, Clarence Street, Broughton, Newton Heath, and Miss Elliott for the M. & S.L.D.C. To crown the night with success we converted a Sunday School Teacher. All went away satisfied with the session. A. Robinson.

DARNALL.—July 22nd was our Open Session. Mrs. Bentley, of Manchester, was the Speaker. Eight girls recited a welcome to her, and also gave her flowers.

Mrs. Bentley told us a few of her experiences as a District Visitor, and everyone were greatly interested.

Three girls sang solos. Marching and calisthenics were good. The evening services were most educative, also the Monday Services, when Mrs. Bentley explained to the audience the vital importance of studying the natures of the children, instead of forcing them to do against their natures. We had a good audience at each session.—Maggie Jones, Sec.

DONCASTER, Spring Gardens.—On the 24th July we held a Social evening at the above Lyceum under the leadership of Conductor Mr. Ockleford. We were visited by Lyceumists from Wood Street, and spent an enjoyable time together. Miss K. Cross presided at the Piano. Mr. Stacy gave great assistance to Mr. Ockleford in providing games. The programme for the Demonstration was read out. The Lyceum is progressing favourably. Mrs. Quinton was quite up to her reputation in arranging the tea.—W. Moseley, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—Election of Officers, June 25th. Mr. Batley, Conductor; Mr. T. W. Cooke and Miss Doris Watkins, Assistant Conductors; Mrs. F. Benson, Secretary; Mr. Jordan, Treasurer, Mrs. T. Church, Guardian; Mrs. T. W. Cooke, Musical Conductor; Miss Firth, Assistant Conductor; Mr. T. W. Cooke, Marching Conductor.

On July 8th, Anniversary, 170 present. Mr. Batley spoke of our success. Visitors from Blackpool and Radcliffe were requested to extend our greetings. Greetings from Barrow, Dalton and Millom through Mr. Batley were accepted. Evening service, many Lyceumists took part. An address was given by Mr. Batley. The chair was taken by Mr. T. W. Cooke.

On July 14th, we had our Annual Lyceum Picnic, going to Rawcliffe in 6 char-a-bancs. We had a lovely field and a glorious day.—Mrs. F. Benson, Sec.

GLASGOW. Progressive.—On Saturday, June 30th, we held a Social in honour of Miss Watt, an adult Lyceumist, who leaves us to go to Australia. After the Lyceum "Odds and Ends Concert Party" had given a splendid programme full of mirth and jollity, Miss Watt was invited to join our conductors on platform.

In the name of the Lyceum, Mrs. Roehead, in a nice little address, wished her God-speed, and presented her with a little token of our esteem. Miss Watt very charmingly replied.

We are very sorry to lose such a quiet, unobtrusive worker, but know Bessie will make friends wherever she goes.—B. P. Smith, Sec.

HALIFAX. Alma Street.—The absence of our Lyceum from the Lyceum Demonstration held at Harrogate on Saturday, June 16th is accounted for by the reason that they have not received any official invitation to assemble there.—P. Chapman, Sec.

HETTON AND DISTRICT.—On Saturday, July 7th, we held our annual trip to Sea-side Lane. We had a most enjoyable ride there in the char-a-banc. When we arrived we had games of football, cricket, etc., and as the weather was fine many of the Lyceumists went bathing. We left for home about 7 o'clock after having spent a very pleasant day.—E. Reay, Sec.

LANCASTER.—We held our Open Session on July 1st, having a most enjoyable time. The Lyceum were favoured by recitations from Annie Smith and Albert Stephenson. On the 14th, we held our Annual Children's Treat. This year instead of travelling out of town, we were fortunate in having a field placed at our disposal by a friend, on the outskirts of the town. The public and friends were invited to join us and the Lyceum Committee provided for 300 people. The children enjoyed the sports and games immensely, receiving prizes for racing. After the sports and tea there was dancing, and then the Lyceumists gave an exhibition of marching and calisthenics. The John O'Gaunt Band was engaged for this. Then more games till the day was over. Our Lyceum continues to grow and prosper, and we hope that others are doing likewise. Greetings to all.—Marion Swale, Sec.

LINCOLN.—Saturday, June 30th. Public Tea and Concert. July 1st and 2nd, 16th Anniversary Services, conducted by Mrs. George (Sheffield), when special vocal and instrumental music was provided. Proceeds from Tea and Concert to Annual Outing Fund, augmented by generous gift from parent body. Saturday, July 7th, Annual Outing to Skegness. A splendid day.—H.C.D.

LONDON. Hackney.—On July 21st a Sale of Work was held in aid of the Children's Summer Outing. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves for the whole of the day. Recitations and dances were given by the children. The profit of the sale was £12 10s. 7d.—remarkably good for so small and so new a body. Greetings to all.—(Mrs.) M. Hester, Sec.

LONDON. Brixton.—On Tuesday, 3rd July, the Lyceum and Church held their combined outing to Oxshott Woods. The char-a-bancs, of which there were six, made a brave show for Spiritualism as they sped on their way. The day was spent very enjoyably by grown-ups and children alike, with rambles and games. After tea, the sports gave amusement to everybody, the climax coming in the tug-of-war between the married ladies and gentlemen, when the rope broke and each side fell in a heap! Our return to Brixton, tired but happy, completed a most enjoyable day.—G. F. W. Tuttlebee, Sec.

LONDON. Walthamstow.—On Saturday, July 21st, we had our Annual Outing to "Jubilee Retreat." Fifty four Lyceumists and friends were present. All enjoyed the sports and races. One energetic Lyceumist raised 36/- towards the Funds and four others 7/6 for competitions. District visitors were present.—M.C.

NOTTINGHAM. Mechanics' Hall.—At our Anniversary on June 24th, a Recital entitled "God through the Ages" was rendered by the Lyceum, explaining the God Idea, from Prehistoric Man to Spiritualism, most of the Lyceumists taking individual parts. Explanations were given of the Founders and the teachings of the Hindoos, Persian, Egyptian, Chinese, Buddhists, Pantheist, Jewish, Christian, Ancient Britons, Mohammedans and Spiritualists, interspersed with hymns, solos, and duets. It was composed specially for this occasion by our conductor, Miss Rayner. We had a successful day.—O. Peel, Sec.

READING.—It is with great pleasure that I have to report the unqualified success of our Lyceum Anniversary on June 24th. In the morning our Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, and Guides having marched through the town, assembled on the Church lawn and were inspected by our resident minister, Mr. P. R. Street. He pronounced the combined parade as the best he had ever seen. After inspection we took our places in Church and formed a massed children's choir, 115 strong.

Lyceumists took leading parts in all services and equipped themselves splendidly.

A special hymn-sheet, compiled by Mr. P. R. Street, was used throughout the day. Special tunes were sung and the whole was beautifully rendered and made "a day of inspiration, of spiritual power and blessing, and one of joy to all."

July 1st, the Secretary and Treasurer gave their Annual Reports showing a highly successful year. Although our expenses are heavy, our balance sheet shows an increase of nearly £12. A very commendable result on the year's working.

At the Group Leaders' Meeting convened to discuss "Systems of Training in Lyceums" it was unanimously agreed, after proper discussion, "that the Group or Class system was obsolete, unwieldy and decidedly unpopular." As such, we have no use for it.

We revert now to our own System, i.e.: a Children's Service, Group Leaders in charge and Lyceumists giving the instruction in the form of sermonettes, etc.—C. R. Churn, Sec.

SALFORD. Central.—We are doing very nicely, but miss the presence of our worthy Conductor, Mr. John Kay, who has been absent through sickness for some time. We are all hoping for his speedy recovery and return. In the meantime "Shoulder to Shoulder" is our motto.

Our sessions have recently been brightened by the presence of Mrs. Erith, Mrs. Bell and the two Misses Bell, who are on a visit from Canada. We wish them "God Speed" on their return and shall ever remember their visit.

Heartiest greetings to all Lyceumists.—Arthur W. Stansfield, Sec.

WINNIPEG (Princess Street).—June 23rd was Open Session. We had a visit from the Polson Ave. Lyceum. There were 18 pearls given by the scholars of both schools. Recitations by Misses Milly and Ella Crawley, Miss Edna Brown, Mr. Chadwick. Songs by Miss W. Brown, Mrs. H. Forrest and Mrs. Crawley. Duets by Mrs. Forrest and Mrs. Hargreaves, Mr. Luke and Mr. Chadwick. Reading Master, H. Brown. Accompanists, Miss Lawrence and Mr. Wakeman. Short address by Mr. Vernan and Mr. Brown, the Conductor of Polson Lyceum, and wished us every success and hoped that we might not be long before there were other Lyceums formed in the city. Our Conductor, Mr. J. Hargreaves, said he would like these visits to take place oftener. Mrs. Hargreaves closed the finest and most enjoyable session we have held.—F. Cartman.

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 July 25th.

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

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

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than August 22nd, to ensure insertion in the September 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.

BARROW (Dalkeith Street).—Lyceum Day and Flower Service, July 15th. We held a joint session with the Ramsden Street Lyceum, in the afternoon. Mr. E. O. Mason (Preston) delivered an address in the evening, on "Spiritualism as a Source of International Peace." A number of solos and recitations were rendered by adults.—A. A. Worrall, Sec.

BEDWORTH.—Open Session July 1st. Recitations given by P. Alsop, M. Wood, G. Chapman and A. Bradbury. Liberty, Excelsior and Banner Group also sang. A very enjoyable session.—Miss C. Rowe, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—Open Session held July 1st, conducted by Mr. I. Taylor. Recitations by Ethel George, Doris Dunn, Edna George, Eva Williams, Esther Dunn, Freda Whiteley, Duncan McCready. Solos by Mr. Woodley and Percy Woodley. A good session well attended.—Mrs. Thompson, Sec.

BLACKBURN.—On June 24th we held our Open Session. There was a good attendance of Lyceumists and friends. Solos were rendered by some of our young ladies. A very good session. In the evening we celebrated our Flower Service with enormous success. "Spring Flowers" was capably rendered by the Choir and Lyceumists, being conducted by Mr. H. Hopper. Solos, duets and recitations were rendered with the usual standard of efficiency, which is very high. The church was tastefully decorated by some of the members of the committee and was very pleasing. Mr. Stanley Robinson officiated at the organ.—J. T. Smith.

BLACKPOOL.—On Sunday morning, July 15th, we held our Session as usual. There were about 60 present. Mr. Leadbetter offered the invocation. There was an interesting ceremony in the naming by Mr. S. Spencer, of Blackpool, of the child of Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, of Fleetwood. Its name is Mary. It was a pleasing ceremony, enjoyed by all present. A splendid session.—F. Carter, Sec.

BOLTON, Henry Street.—On Saturday, 14th July, we held our Annual Lyceumists' Free Picnic. It had been decided to go to Lever Park, Horwich, a lovely spot quite near Bolton. The sun shone majestically, and everyone revelled in the welcome warm weather that has been so long delayed. The fields were very beautiful, and the children happy in their element. Races, games and all manner of competitions had been arranged, and Lyceumists in general participated. Whilst at Rivington, we met some of our friends from Horwich Lyceum.—W. C. Bearman, Sec.

BURNLEY, North Street.—We held our usual monthly Open Session on July 1st. A good number of Lyceumists were present. The following Lyceumists contributed to an excellent programme, which helped to make the session a success:—Molly Lofthouse, Annie Hanns, Lizzie Davies, Hannah Hudson and Ernest Crabtree. We extend our fraternal greetings to all Lyceums and Lyceumists at home and abroad.—May Wagner, Sec.

CALGARY, Canada.—We held our Eighth Anniversary on July 1st. A very good attendance present. Pearls good. Readings by Mrs. J. R. Thomson and Mrs. A. Rushton. Recitations by Queenie Rushton and Lottie Rayner. Pianoforte solos by Miss Agnes Reed, Miss Alice Broadley, Eva Rayner and Lottie Rayner. Solo, "A Perfect Day," by Miss A. M. Garrad. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. R. Hill, who spoke to each and encouraged them to do better work in the coming year. Our Conductor, Mr. G. H. Garrad, spoke of the progress that had been made and asked each one to do their best. It is not what we get, but what we can give that makes for success. At our evening service Mrs. Garrad was the speaker, and took for her subject, "Children's Work in Spiritualism," pointing out the duty of Spiritualists and what they owe to the children. It was instructive and enjoyed by all. Wishing success to all Lyceums.—Ada M. Garrad, Sec.

CARDIFF, Queen Street.—Open Session July 1st. We had solos rendered by Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Davies. Organ solo, Mr. Northam; pianoforte solo, Miss L. Davies; recitations, Mrs. Litman, Mr. Silby, Mr. Woodland, B. Davies. Miss Rundell recited "Guilty or not guilty." We spent a very enjoyable afternoon.—F. Davies, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On July 1st we held our Open Session and the following obliged:—Recitations by Olive Winter, Frances Hobster, Kenneth Bown, Jack Wale, Edith Slater,

Elsie Gore, Willie Campbell, Alice Alknow, George Alknow, James Baston, Linda Heath; duet by Connie and Lilian Slater; songs by Avis Bown, John Slater, Miss Allen, Mr. Gore; pianoforte solo by Gladys Machant. A few words by Mr. J. Hobster brought the session to a close.—Irene Marriott, Sec.

DARWEN.—On July 1st we had a visit from Keighley Lyceum, who conducted the morning session. In the afternoon we held an Open Session. Solos and recitations were well rendered by our young Lyceumists and our Keighley friends. We spent a most enjoyable day together.—M. Allen, Reports Sec.

DEVONPORT.—Lyceum Outing on the 25th of June. We had char-a-bancs to take us in the country and a nice tea was served. Everyone present expressed themselves delighted. The Lyceumists had races, played games and enjoyed a very happy time.—L. Warn, Sec.

DONCASTER, Wood Street.—Open Session July 1st, conducted by Mrs. Gomersall. Our sister presented seven books to seven Lyceum members. The Founder of our Lyceum, Miss V. Batty, presented the officers with their badges. On July 15th it was our Anniversary. We had the pleasure of having Spring Gardens Lyceum in our midst. Meetings during the week-end were conducted by Lyceumists. We wish to thank all who helped us to success.—Violet Batty, Sec.

EARBY.—On July 1st we held our Open Sessions, when the following Lyceumists took part:—Recitations by E. Clarke, H. Layfield, L. Clarke, A. Christopher, H. Greenwood, G. Robinson, J. Christopher, M. Nicol, Q. Dawson; solos by A. Nuttall, G. Scaife, D. Nuttall, L. Clarke, A. Bannister, M. Clarke, M. Hunter, B. Eastwood. Greetings to all Lyceums.—Miss B. Smith, Sec.

EASTWOOD.—On July 15th we held our Anniversary in the Mechanics' Hall. The speaker was Mr. Staton, of Sutton. The children gave their calisthenics at both services, for which they were highly congratulated. Recitations were given by some of our Lyceumists and were enjoyed by all.—E. Buckley, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—On July 1st we held our Open Session. S.C.R. was led by Sydney Hudson, M.R. led by Walter Taylor, Annie Thornley and Willie Barrington; G.C. led by Hubert Norris. Marching and rod exercises were gone through. Recitations and solos were rendered by the following:—Alice Owen, Sydney Hudson, Maggie Nelson, Dorothy Hartley and Annie Owen. There was also a presentation of a Lyceum Badge to Winnie Chambers for good conduct. Mrs. Walmsley, of Cloughfold, spoke a few encouraging remarks.—H. Baxter, Sec.

HEATON NORRIS, Baker Street.—On July 14th we held our Open Sessions. We had a number of visitors from Stockport Central. Mrs. Moulton and Mr. W. Turner sang a duet. A very enjoyable session with Lyceumists and visitors. At the 6-30 service the young Lyceumists gave a Service of Song, "Into the Light." The whole day was a great success.—Mrs. E. Downs, Sec.

HORWICH.—On July 8th we had a very pleasing event in the Lyceum. One of our young Lyceumists, Lily Beck, wrote an essay to "Uncle Bert," and our Conductor, Mr. Walsh, received a very nice book and encouraging letter for our successful Lyceumist. He presented it to her in the Lyceum. We hope that more of our little friends will take interest and try to write essays for the BANNER, not just to gain merit for themselves, but to make themselves efficient in our teaching, so that Lyceumism may be fully understood. Ever realizing that the "Workers Win."—Annie Purchas, Sec.

HUCKNALL.—Anniversary Services on July 1st. The speaker was Miss Leverington, of Leicester. A crowded congregation. The Lyceumists rendered hymns, recitations and solos. The speaker gave two stirring addresses on Lyceum work. The singing was conducted by Mr. Smith, of Mansfield, who brought the singing up to efficiency. The organist was Miss E. Carr, of Sutton. Mr. Wright, of Mansfield, was the violinist. Mr. Sydney Allen presided.—Miss A. Neal, Sec.

KEIGHLEY.—A crowded company of young and old Lyceum workers and friends assembled to give Mr. William Summers, who is leaving for America, the opportunity of meeting old and new friends, who wish him success in his new venture. Mr. A. Midgley, the Conductor, presented Mr. Summers, on behalf of the Lyceum, with a solid silver cigarette case, the Officers Edition of the *Lyceum Manual*, in roan and gilt, and a large photograph of the present Lyceumists, with the Bradford and

District Lyceum Shield in the centre—this Keighley has won six times in all and four in succession—as tokens of esteem and remembrance. In a short address Mr. Summers wished the school further success. Mr. W. Thistlethwaite officiated as accompanist, with Mr. A. Ackroyd as violinist.—T. O'Neil, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—On June 24th we held our Anniversary services, which were greatly appreciated by all who attended. In the afternoon we held our Open Session. Solo by Miss R. Lucas and Master B. Parker; duets by Misses D. Parker and A. Dilks, C. Jones and E. Smith, and N. Smith and E. Smith; recitations, Misses L. Lucas, D. Wicks, E. Taylor; also a duet by Messrs. H. Cartwright and C. Hallam. Best wishes to all.—J. H. Wicks, Sec.

LONDON, Battersea.—On Saturday, June 30th, the Battersea Lyceum and Church members went by char-a-banc to Brighton, where a most enjoyable time was spent by all. We were welcomed by the Brighton (Mighell Street) Society, who kindly lent us the use of their new hall. The Brighton Lyceum and Church officers prepared a splendid tea, which was much appreciated by the forty children and adults. Many thanks are due to the Brighton Society for their hard work and kindly greetings. Miss Scroggins, the Conductor of Brighton, spoke a few words of welcome on behalf of her Lyceum, to which Miss Boddington (Conductor of Battersea) responded. Time passed all too quickly and the enjoyable ride home brought a very happy day to a close.—W.J.C.

LONDON, Plaistow.—On July 21st we held our Annual Outing, when we journeyed by brakes to "Foxburrow," Chigwell Row. Races were held and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.—R. Manning, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—Our first Anniversary was held on June 10th, over three hundred people being present, and many friends could not gain admittance. Miss Entwistle, Conductor of the Lyceum, presided at both sessions, supported by Mr. Gilling, who led the chain recital and gave the annual address.

The naming of a baby by Mrs. Shearsmith was a special feature. The children came up to expectations and a splendid success was attained on our first venture.—A. Halliday, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Newton Heath.—We regret to announce the passing to the higher life of our friend and Lyceumist, Mr. Charles Cunningham, on July 12th, 1923. After ten years of bedfast suffering, his body was interred as a Lyceumist, and a wreath was sent by the Lyceum, encircled by the Lyceum colours, a big rosette in the centre, round a Lyceum badge. Many Spiritualists passed the remark:—"The best tribute I have ever seen from a Lyceum." Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Longford officiated.

On Sunday, July 22nd, a Memorial Service was held. Mr. Gibson officiated and the subject was, "After Death, what?" Many were deeply interested. The Lyceum sang his favourite hymns.—H. Hankirk.

MANCHESTER, Pendleton.—On July 8th we held our Open Sessions, which produced an excellent attendance of scholars and friends. On July 15th we elected Mr. Lilliot as Conductor, and under his supervision we anticipate making excellent progress. Best wishes to all Lyceums. Old and new friends cordially welcomed.—J. Shaw, Sec.

NEWPORT, Central.—The Open Session was conducted by Miss L. Young on July 1st. Pearls were given by Vide Jones, Walter Jones, Nina Oakley, Percy Dennison and Jack Reade; solos by Hilda Lloyd and Nellie Jones; recitations by Maisie Read and Ada Reade; readings by C. Phillips, Mr. Reade and Leslie Reade. Mr. Taylor gave a story.—Kate Armstrong, Sec.

NEWPORT, Maidee.—Open Session on July 1st in the above New Church, which was a great success in every way. The responses for songs, recitations and pearls were excellent.—H. Folkes, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—Election of officers. July 8th, Open Sessions and Flower Service 6-30. Speaker, Mr. Standish. Clairvoyance, Mrs. Hough and Mrs. Hall. Service rendered by Lyceumists, 18 of our own and 9 visiting Lyceumists. July 14th, Ramble to Hargreaves' Farm, near Denshaw.—E. Norbury, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott Street.—On July 1st we held our Open Sessions, the following Lyceumists rendering their services:—Miss Whited, Miss E. Slater, Miss May Slater, V. Slater and Mr. R. Squires. We had happy sessions throughout the day. July 8th we had Mr. Rooke, of Manchester, and we spent an enjoyable day together.—Victor Slater, Sec.

PARKGATE.—On July 1st we held our Anniversary. Mr. Rawlinson, of Wath, was our speaker. Miss Eva Gothard conducted and Miss Wood officiated on the organ. An excellent success and record collections.—F. R. Cook, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH, Victoria Road.—At our Open Session on July 1st two of the older children of our Lyceum shared the duties of Conductor. The remainder of the Lyceumists present supported them loyally with pearls and social items. Everyone present acknowledged that the service was a most harmonious and enjoyable one.—E. M. Fielder, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—On July 1st we had our Open Session, conducted by Mr. Saxelby. Pearls and recitations were given by Lyceumists, also musical items, which were well rendered and very much appreciated. Thanks to all who took part, we scored another success. Let me appeal to all Lyceumists in the Sheffield district to remember August 18th, at Doncaster, and let us mark another milestone in the history of our beloved Cause.—J. F. Smith, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Centre.—We held our Open Session on July 1st. Attendance was poor, but good. We enjoyed solos by Mrs. Gregory and Tom Emerson, also recitations by Caroline Hopkins, Tom Plummer and James Dawson. We send best wishes to all other Lyceums.—J. Hobson, Sec.

SOUTH ELMSALL.—The Election of Officers took place on June 24th. The new officers are:—Mr. Kelly, Conductor; Miss I. Dawson, Assistant; Miss A. Davies, Treasurer; Mr. Dawson, Secretary; Chris Roberts and Eva Kelly, Guards; Mrs. Poxton, Delegate; Miss Shepherd and Mr. Roberts, Sick Visitors; Elsie Eyre and John Gregg, Calisthenic Leaders; Mr. Roberts, Marching Conductor. Our heartiest thanks are given to all retiring Officers.—Mrs. Dawson, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—On July 8th we held our Open Session, when we had a large attendance of parents and friends. We also had visitors from Macclesfield, Leeds, Bolton, and other Lyceums. Our children responded well with pearls and recitations. We were also favoured with solos by three Lyceumists. We had a very enjoyable session. At 6-30 the elder Lyceumists took the platform, and did their best to make the day a successful one.—E. Joles, Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cecil Street.—Anniversary held 8th July. Services taken by Lyceum. Well conducted. Plenty of solos and recitations by the children. Anthem by the choir. Address by the Conductor.

9th July musical evening and presentation of fifty attendance prizes. Church was full at all services. Great credit, especially to the children for an excellent time.—Geo. A. Atkinson, Sec.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—On July 18th our Anniversary Services were beautifully conducted by Mrs. Rhodes Brown and Mr. Marsters, of Nottingham. Record collections, realising over £15. We thank all who helped in any way, especially we wish to thank our speakers; also Mr. Smith, of Mansfield, and the Leaders of Gladstone Hall and Hawarden Terrace (Nottingham) Lyceums, for the loan of their banners for our procession.—E. Carr.

WALSALL.—On July 12th we held our annual trip to Sutton Park. About 250 Lyceumists and friends sat down to a very excellent tea, after which sports commenced, but had to be abandoned on account of a very heavy thunderstorm, which very quickly put an end to open-air amusements. Some of the Officers were fortunate in obtaining some motor vans to convey the children to the station, and the sports were concluded at Walsall Arboretum.—G. W. Ware.

WINNIPEG, Canada.—We held a very enjoyable Open Session on July 1st, which was well attended. We had pearls and recitations from Winnie Brown, Ella Crawley, Frank Keeley, Mrs. Crawley, Violet Pilkington, Tressa Pursglove, Mrs. Brown and Edna Brown; also solos from Sylvia Parkinson, Mrs. Harry Forrest, Winnie Brown, Mrs. Crawley and Mr. H. Forrest, also a well-rendered pianoforte selection from Frank Keeley. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—Helen F. Lawrence, Sec.

WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—On Saturday, 14th July, we held our annual outing to Herne Bay, numbering about 70 (with friends), and a most enjoyable day was spent. Bathing, boating and all the delights of the seaside were heartily entered into, and all returned home safe, but tired.

On Sunday, 15th, the Lyceum attended the M.C. mass meeting at Battersea Town Hall, and an enjoyable day was spent. Old friends were heartily welcomed. Greetings to Lyceumists everywhere.—H. Watthey, Sec.