

THE LYCEUM BANNER

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

ICELAND.

(Continued from page 1.)

By JAMES KNIGHT.

Hot Springs—Geysers. The accounts of travellers vary so much regarding these Springs, as to their number, and their phenomena, that I have had some difficulty in finding the reason why. Each one will describe what he sees, and may be describing quite a different spring to the one of the next visitor; for there are hundreds of these Springs and each in turn has its grand display. There seems to be a central subterranean force which plays, now on these and then on others. Sometimes the force is feeble, at others exceedingly powerful; sometimes a Spring will be quiet for days and then burst forth in all its glory. I can only tell you a *little* of the "Great Geyser." Books have been written about it; and each saying something the others did not mention. The great Geyser has its being in what is called a 'patch' of parti-coloured silicious deposit, some five square miles in size. The steadily increasing mound which encloses the famous Crater rises some six to eight feet above the level of the lower slopes of *Longafell* on which it is situated. Its centre consists of a saucer-like depression sixty or seventy feet in diameter usually filled to the brim with hot, but not boiling water. It has a central 'tube' some ten feet in diameter and seventy in depth. In speaking of the wonderful phenomena, Lord Dufferin says: "The usual subterranean thunders had already commenced. A violent agitation was disturbing the centre of the pool. Suddenly a dome of water lifted itself up to the height of eight or ten feet then burst and fell, immediately after which a shining liquid column, or rather a sheaf of columns, wreathed in robes of vapour, sprung into the air, and in a succession of jerking leaps, each higher than the last, flung their silver crests against the sky. For a few minutes the fountain held its own, then all at once appeared to lose its ascending energy, the unstable waters faltered and fell—like a broken purpose—back upon themselves, and were immediately sucked down into the recesses of the tube."

The height to which the column rises in its finest displays is about a hundred feet, while the subordinate jets average from thirty to fifty feet. A hundred years ago the outbursts were greater, and more frequent than now, then they occurred almost daily, now sometimes two, three, or more days may elapse, and only subterranean thunderings and explosions take place.

There is a spring not far away called *strokkr* or *Churn* which is in constant ebullition—boiling hot, and sometimes producing jets almost as grand as the Geyser itself. The water near the bottom of the tube of the Geyser is 268 degrees Fahrenheit, 56 above boiling point.

Professor Bunson says, "The deafening, hissing and roaring that accompany the eruption of the jets of water from the crater of the springs, in which one may distinctly hear the rushing of

the masses of water, which fall in torrents, and are beaten to foam by the force of the vapours. The dazzling rainbows, which are formed with varying brilliancy from the reflection of the solar rays amid the pearly drops of the rushing cascades, and as rapidly disappear beneath the overwhelming mass of vapours—the dense clouds, which, rising from the waterspouts, are made the sport of the winds as they stand out in bold relief from the dark wall of rock behind them, all combine to excite in the mind of the traveller an indescribable sensation of sublime grandeur."

Some of these springs make splendid laundries, and almost daily women may be seen hard at work on the household washing. Some springs are impregnated with sulphur, or sulphureted hydrogen, that they smell like rotten eggs, and others fill their craters with really excellent *soda water*.

The Animals. I have not space to say much about Icelandic animals. There are few species that have not—at one time or another—been imported, such as cattle, sheep and horses, these are now produced in hundreds of thousands every year, and vast numbers shipped to different countries for sale. The *Elk* and *Deer* are becoming extinct. *Foxes*, three or four varieties, act as they do elsewhere, killing far more than they can eat. *Seals*, *White Bears* and *Whales* are visitors, and provide a rich income for the Icelanders. Their whale and shark fishery is one of the

finest in the World. Some day I should like to tell you how they catch, and what they do with the whale, if our Editor permits.

Of Birds. There are over 100 species Sea birds of all kinds, known to northern latitudes, are in myriads. The craggy, shelvey rocks and cliffs are, as you will see in the splendid illustration, just covered. Some of these cliffs are a thousand feet high. In and near the water are thousands of guillemots, then we have the cormorants and penguins. Still higher are Skua Gulls, and above them are the Kittiwakes (Gulls) and still higher are puffins which are

the most numerous. There are numerous varieties of ducks. The cider duck breeds here in thousands, and is a source of livelihood to the inhabitants, as are also the many kinds of sea fowl which breed on the cliffs. Where men cannot climb the face of the cliffs to obtain their eggs and young they descend by ropes, seated on boards, with baskets, boxes, and bags fastened thereto, these they fill with eggs and birds. In the interior the whistling swan is common, as are wild geese. The swallow and swift are visitors, as are Petrels, and numerous others. At one time, the Great Auk, the largest of its genus, was in millions around the coast, it was an almost wingless bird, the flaps which took the place of wings were, like Penguins, useful only in water; they were easily killed by a blow of a stick, and reckless, ruthless hunters have completely exterminated them. In 1888 a single egg was sold in London for £225, and £500 was offered for a living bird, but none have been found. I must leave plants and fish until my next.

JAMES KNIGHT, 37, Parliament Street, Bury.



Education Notes.

(Concerning the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme).

TO ALL CANDIDATES.

The Education Examinations take place this month at over a hundred different centres, scattered north, south, east and west.

The Committee notes with pleasure that a large proportion of last year's candidates are continuing the course of studies and taking the higher Grades. They are also pleased that about two hundred children under 10 are taking the Oral Grade.

We wish each one of our fifteen hundred entrants for the examinations every success and pleasing results; and thank them and their tutors for the work they are doing, and for the help they are giving to the cause of Lyceum education and progress.

TO LYCEUM SECRETARIES.

If you have not, by any chance, given out the admission cards (posted the third week in January) to your candidates, please do so without delay.

And, for the day of the examinations, provide the Supervisors with all that is asked for in the letter sent to you, along with the cards.

TO SUPERVISORS.

To Supervisors of the written examinations the parcels of necessary papers and questions will be posted during the first week in February. If the parcel has not arrived by 9th February please write at once to the Education Secretary. Full instructions about your own duties as Supervisor will be enclosed in the parcel.

THE ORAL GRADE EXAMINATION.

Where children are taking the Oral Grade, full instructions and the necessary forms and papers will be enclosed in the parcel sent to the Supervisor of the written examiners. If the Oral Grade Supervisor is not the same person, will he (or she) please ask the other Supervisor for the packet.

Each Oral Grade Supervisor will need a list of names (from the Lyceum Secretary) of the children to be examined, but such a list need *not* be sent on to the Education Secretary *before* the examinations.

USE OF THE *MANUAL* AT THE EXAMS.

Only Grade IV candidates are allowed to use the *Lyceum Manual* at the examinations. Those taking any other Grade must not use any books or papers except those given out by the Supervisor.

PHYSICAL PHENOMENA.—An Offer to Candidates.

As our examination candidates in the higher grades are expected to have had personal experience and first-hand knowledge of some form of physical phenomena it is essential that they attend séances held to obtain such phenomena. This is not always easy because of the comparative scarcity of physical mediums. However, here is a splendid chance for students who live within easy reach of Manchester. Mr. Randolph Hope sends the following invitation:—

"Any student under 21 years of age, who is taking Grade III, IV or V examination, is invited to attend a *séance* for physical phenomena (trumpet, apports, etc.), to be held in Manchester on Wednesday evening, 23rd April. The first fifteen applicants will receive a *free* ticket. Any further tickets will cost 5s. each."

Candidates wishing to attend should write to Mr. Hope (12, Moss Terrace, Upper Moss Lane, Manchester), *at once*, and give him the following particulars:—name, age, address, Lyceum attended, Grade to be taken on 17th of this month. Also please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply about time and place, and for ticket.

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

Fleetwood Church and Lyceum are having a Stone-laying Ceremony on February 2nd. We learn that Mr. E. W. Oaten and Mr. G. A. Mack will lay stones on behalf of the S.N.U. and the B.S.L.U. respectively.

The Aim of Spiritualism : A Reform.

(Handbook 2, p. 15, par. 4.)

MORE ROOM FOR WOMEN.

By J. TINKER.

"*Place aux Dames.*" This is understood to mean "Make way for the ladies to get first place." There is need for that rule, but I draw a distinction between *ladies* and selfish females, who force their way to places regardless of other people's rights. "Room for Woman" is subject to the rights of others. Women should not be first in the line of battle, whether the warfare be military or industrial, though many women would rather fight with their "boys" than stay at home. One of the greatest curses of all sorts of warfare is that women are "in the line of fire." As sufferers in the battles of life women should have greater powers to preserve peace—domestic, industrial, international. Therefore better provision should be made to educate our girls in citizenship. The trend of opinion is to give women equal powers with men. It is to be hoped they will take better care to fit themselves to be citizens than the men do. I do not see much evidence that they will. There is much to be done to remove hindrances from women as workers, and more to be done to give them their full rights as human beings. There is no space to give details. "Look around."

"*Place aux Dames*" is a splendid rule. It implies a law of deferential love for woman *as woman*—not her priority as ruler or worker or comrade. We require first, more room for woman as woman; secondly as a human being equal to man, or capable to be so. However some girls may rebel against it, they are females, and should develop, not distort, their womanhood. Then they should demand their rights as women, and not be satisfied with the animal rights common to them and to man. Parents, husbands, and brothers should help them to develop as women, not keep them as pet poodles or slaves, or merely "chums." And certainly not as encumbrances. Injustice causes rebellion. It is fine to see our girls exercising their powers in games and in work, too long forbidden to women. We are learning that *to be a woman is to be fully human*. The more society recognises that fact and adapts its schools and workshops and councils to give women opportunities for the full use of womanly and human powers the nearer we shall get to the Golden Age.

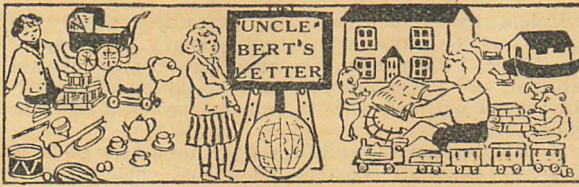
How beautiful will life be then,
When earth can cry "Behold my men!"
And woman in her perfect state
Be womanly, and yet be great. (409).

Society must not compel girls to compete with each other and with men. All men should work for the commonwealth as well as to provide homes for themselves; and all women should insist on doing the same, instead of so many sacrificing their womanhood for life or for luxury. Women must make more room for women *among themselves*. It is said they are the greatest "sweaters" and opponents of women's rights of all kinds.

Female psychology should be better studied with reference to the fitness of women for occupations now either closed to them or badly paid. Marriage is not for every woman—nor every man. Parentage and marriage require much more than sex distinctions. And there are women who possess the higher qualifications of woman who can exercise them on a wider scale than in our home. For instance, the medical and teaching professions are suited for womanly qualifications as well as for general human capabilities. Unfortunately the tendency to "mother" those she "takes in hand" is often oppressive or suffocating, especially when joined to the woman's "will to rule," whether by hegemony or otherwise. Our girls must learn that "room for woman" does *not* mean grabbing the room due to others. Yet it is very shortsighted to mistake the rightful exercise of female vitality and social fitness as rivalry with man. It is the woman's natural expression, as human *and as female*. It requires full scope and has even struggles for it, despite puritanical limitations.

In conclusion, there should be more room for women at home, in schools, in factories, in councils, and everywhere, to develop and exercise their capabilities on *equal terms* with men, to help their kin and to serve the commonwealth.

Daulby Hall Lyceum, Liverpool, has changed the time of the Session on Sundays from 10-30 a.m. to 2-30 p.m. Visitors to Liverpool are requested to note the change.



My Dear Boys and Girls,—

Last month seems to have been a real kiddies' month with nearly all our Lyceumists; Christmas and New Year's parties everywhere. What a romping time you have been having, playing kiss in the ring, Sally go round the moon, Ring a ring a Roses, and I do not know what you haven't played. Why, of course, we all love these social events in our Lyceum; it gives you a chance of kissing your little sweethearts. I've seen you do it, you know; so it's not a bit of use you trying to hide the fact. Auntie Ruth says I have no room to talk, because I used to do the same when I was a little boy. Let me see, did I do that sort of thing? Why, yes, I believe I did; so I had better not say much about it, had I?

All these social events of last month have made us very happy; they have started the New Year with a keen interest. Can we keep this interest up for eleven months? Why, of course we can, not only in our social work, but in the general work of our Lyceums.

You've all heard about Marjorie Daw, of course; she was a fine little worker. She always put her very best into everything she did. When she was on the see-saw she did nearly all the work, while her companion, Jennie, sat on the other end and hardly moved a muscle to help her. And what was the result? Why, she got turned off with but a penny a day, because she would not work any faster. What a character to go to bed with. I wouldn't like one like it, would you. Jennie, you see, was selfish; she was content to enjoy the ride, while Marjorie did the work. Sad to say, sometimes I come across little boys and girls who do the same sort of thing. I hope I shall not find any in my travels through 1924. If only you will all take my hint and follow Marjorie's example; make up your minds to become real active little workers in your Lyceums, I am quite sure I shall not.

Learn some recitations, songs, pianoforte solos, etc., always be prepared to give a pearl, and always have a spare one ready in case the member in front of you says yours. When you are singing your beautiful Lyceum songs, sing so that those passing the hall from the outside will be attracted to come inside; make the hall you hold your meetings in one great broadcasting centre of music, song, education and happiness; make all the Jennies do something; it is not fair to expect the Marjorie's to do it all every week, is it. It's not playing the game, you know, if you do. When your Conductors ask for individual efforts I want everyone of you to be ready.

I wonder how many of my nephews and nieces I can look upon as Uncle Bert's EVER READY band and how many will be found in the NEVER READY list.

Auntie Ruth says it is a waste of time and paper to prepare a never-ready list. Just for a test, to see if she is right, I want you all to write to me this month and say which list your name is to go on, and I will place a mark against all the names I get. Just write the words "Ever Ready" or "Never Ready" on the top of your letter.

We have in London a Brighter London Committee, a band of people who are always endeavouring to make everything go with a swing. Why not every Lyceumist a member of a Brighter Lyceum Committee? Let us all endeavour to create such an atmosphere of brightness in our meetings that the whole world will see the rays of sunshine spreading forth in all directions from our various centres and be attracted to the fountain of all true light, "God."

This month I want to have a few words with my older boys and girls, especially those of you who have reached the age when you are allowed to please yourselves whether you continue to attend the Lyceum or not. In cases where there are a large number of members your own age, I find there is usually plenty of interest to keep you busy, but in some of our smaller centres you may be one on your own, amongst a band of older or younger children. What are your intentions for the future?

You have come to one of the "Cross Roads" of life, and you have to decide which road you will take. You look at the signpost which reads to SERVICE on the one hand or TO SELFISHNESS on the other.

Here is your golden opportunity. Let me act the part of a guardian friend and appeal to you to take the road to service; it will lead you on through beautiful country, and when the end of this road is reached, you will look back, with a thankful heart, for all the blessings you have received.

One writer has well said: "How often do we sigh for opportunities of doing good, whilst we neglect the openings of Providence in little things, which would lead to the accomplishment of most important usefulness!"

Then, should my message apply to you, let us try and get at the root of things. You boys have reached that age when you don your first pair of trousers, and you girls have put up your hair. You certainly look very smart, I'll agree, but these things have not made you into old men and women. Oh, no; you have just reached that age when you can do most useful service amongst the little ones and render most valuable service to our cause.

Consider the great Master Jesus who, if he had so wished, could have demanded the greatest majestic homage. Did he say, "I am above considering little children." No! Translate for yourselves his sayings. Suffer the little children to come unto me, etc. Then who are we, to consider that these little ones are too young for us to associate with, to work for, and even to live for.

As you can well imagine, I have a little experience of the joy of service amongst children. So you can feel quite satisfied that by accepting my advice, you are being led into no blind alley, but into a road where the sun is always shining.

My advice, then, is that you should go to your Conductor or Group Leader, tell them you want to be of greater service to them, and I am sure they will be only too pleased to try and find you something to do to help them.

"Be a sport and carry on."

COMPETITION.

Prizes this month for Essays on—

MY EVERYDAY SCHOOL LIFE.

Liberty Section—

Original ideas for Lyceums (Social and General).

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 left-hand side.

2. Competitors for prizes must be regular attendants at Lyceum, not over 14 years of age, and each reply must be your own individual effort.

3. Competitors over 14 years of age mark papers "Liberty Section." Address to Uncle Bert, 2, Villiers Road, Osterley, Middlesex, not later than February 18th.

Prizes will be sent to your Conductor, receipt for same being requested. Enclose stamped addressed envelope if reply is desired.

Answer to Puzzle No. 1: S.C.R. 95.

Puzzle No. 2. Here is the title of a Musical Reading:

AAADDEGHHHIIILNNNNSTW.

If you can put these letters in their correct order you will be as wise as I am.

Prizes for last month's Competition awarded to:—

Elsie Hart, age 13, Kingston-on-Thames.

Milly Fuller, Fulham.

Award of Merit "Liberty Section":—

Miss Moore, Dennistown, Scotland.

Miss Wood, Rochdale.

Mr. S. Briggs, Cheetham, Manchester.

Miss Higgins, Portsmouth.

January was a deighfully busy month for Auntie Ruth and I. We enjoyed a happy party at Clapham, likewise Brixton, where we had the pleasure of meeting that well-known young Lyceumist, Mrs. Clegg; also a group of sweet-faced boys, known as the Brixton Lyceum Minstrels. At Hampton I had the pleasure of presenting prizes and seeing a beautiful sketch on Nature, performed by members of the Kingston and Hampton Lyceum, and then the crowning joy of opening the new Lyceum at Surbiton. Between these events your interesting letters have arrived, so I've been as busy as a sandboy.

With love to you all,

Your loving friend,

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middlesex.

UNCLE BERT.

The Adventures of Prince Trueheart.

(OUR LYCEUM GUILD SERIAL STORY FOR CHILDREN).

An Allegory.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

(Author of "The Garden of the Heart," etc., etc., etc.)

CHAPTER III.

Prince Trueheart was greatly surprised at the sudden disappearance of the sage. He rubbed his eyes to make sure he was awake, and thrust his hand into the inner pocket of his doublet, to make sure the gifts were there, before he was fully satisfied that he had not been dreaming. Then he remembered the advice of the venerable sage and commenced his journey, taking the path to the right.

Obstacles met him continually; pieces of rock barred the way; serpents darted forth their forked tongues in a threatening manner, and then glided away; jackals, eager for prey, made a sudden rush at him; and then his sword descended like a flash of light, and laid them dead at his feet; wolves came slinking around his path; ready to devour him, or his enemies as he vanquished them.

At times the path would run along the edge of a precipice, when one false step would have hurled him into the dark abyss, to certain destruction. The whitening bones of former travellers strewed the path, showing that they had fallen victims to some of the many foes that beset the path. It was impossible to ride. He had to dismount and lead his horse. Several torrents had to be crossed, which threatened to carry man and horse away. At last he entered an open glade, and soon struck the main, well-beaten track, and to his great joy he espied the two knights with the precious burden ahead of him. He instantly called for them to stop and release the fair Princess, who was held captive by Ignorance.

They gave a start of surprise, exchanged a few hurried words, and then Selfishness took the lovely Princess in charge. She screamed out in frantic terror, and called her lover to rescue her. But the steed on which Selfishness rode was fresher than the one ridden by Ignorance, and it had only had one burden to carry; its rider had purposely planned this, so as to leave Ignorance to do the fighting, while he made off with the prize.

When the Prince saw this he galloped forward saying to Ignorance, "Stand out of my way, you ugly brute, or I will leave your carcase as food for the jackals and vultures."

"Ha, ha, ha; ho, ho, ho," laughed the knight, "Hear how the little bantam cock can crow! Come on, my little cock-a-doodle-do! This spear (Oppression) of mine will make a good spit on which to carry your dead body to the Princess, and then she cannot refuse to marry me." And he gave his huge spear a wild flourish which was intended to frighten our hero, and make him run away.

"Come on, thou vain boaster," cried the Prince, "for, like all oppressors, thou art a coward at heart." So saying, he took a firm hold of his spear (Justice), and set himself firmly in his saddle for the combat.

They urged their steeds forward, and they met with a fearful crash which made the forest ring. The Prince received the knight's spear on his shield, which caused the spear-head to break-off. But our Prince's spear pierced the left shoulder of Ignorance, inflicting a fearful wound, which made him bellow with pain.

"Oh dear, oh dear, my poor arm," cried the knight. "But I'll pay thee out for this, thou young jackanapes," and he threw his broken spear away, and drew his big sword (Calumny). Instantly the Prince drew his two-edged sword (Truth), and the combat began, the knight seeking to break down the guard of the Prince by his superior strength. But he was not to be overcome by any such tactics. He warded off the blows and wore a calm serene smile and said "That is mere child's play, to which I shall soon put an end."

This made the knight blind with fury. "Wilt thou, thou little spifire?" he yelled, "Take that, and that, and that," he cried, as he struck with all his might. Slash, slash, slash, went his sword, but our hero sprang nimbly on one side as the knight struck the third blow, and having nothing to stop it, it caused him to lose his balance, and he came tumbling to the ground.

Instantly the Prince put his right foot on the knight's chest, and pointing his sword at his throat said, "Yield, thou base-hearted wretch, or my good sword shall put an end to thy miserable life."

"I yield, I yield! don't kill me," cried the cowardly knight, when he saw that he was at the Prince's mercy. "Oh spare me, good Prince, I did not mean to hurt thee. I was only jesting. Spare me, and I will promise never to do aught against thee again; and I will help thee to gain possession of the adorable Princess Mab."

"Hold thy cowardly, whining tongue, for all thy promises are worthless. Like all boasters, thou hast changed thy vain boasting into servile supplication and lavish promises, when thou art defeated. I want not to stain my sword with thy blood. I seek not thy wretched and miserable life. Get thee hence, and let this be a warning to thee to keep out of my path, for if thou crosseth it again, it will go worse with thee." So saying, the noble-hearted Prince spurned the cringing knight with his foot, then mounted his steed, and continued his journey.

He had not gone far before he was surprised to hear himself addressed as follows, in a sweet silvery-toned voice:—

"Well done, my brave Prince Trueheart,
A most noble champion thou;
Firm to the cause of freedom,
With "right" writ on thy brow.

Pursue thy valiant mission,
The fair Princess to save,
From dangers dark and fearful,
And an untimely grave.

Thy strong right arm shall save her,
And lay her captors low,
And rid the land forever,
Of all their deeds of woe.

Be firm and persevering,
Nor let thy courage fail;
Strike out for truth and freedom,
And thou shalt soon prevail!"

"Who addresses me thus?" he asked in surprise.

"'Tis I, thy good angel," came the answer.

On hearing this he lifted his plumed cap, and bowing his head reverently said, "I thank thee, O good angel, for thy wise counsel and cheering words. I will lay them well to heart, that they may give me strength and comfort."

"Well said, O noble youth,
I know thy heart is true.
Press on, and never fear,
And now, farewell, adieu."

CHAPTER IV.

"Ha, ha, ha; he, he, he," came in mocking laughter, as soon as the Prince was out of sight? "Oh dear, oh dear, my poor arm," continued the same voice.

The wounded knight looked round in surprise, to see who this fresh tormentor could be. "Is it thee, thou imp of mischief!" he cried, as he saw the dwarf grinning at him from behind a bush, where he had watched the encounter. "Silence," he said, "or I will pull thy tongue out of thy mouth."

"Come on, my little cock-a-doodle-doo. This spear of mine will make a good spit on which to carry thy carcase to the fair Princess Mab," cried the dwarf in mocking tones, as he strutted into the open, astride a piece of stick, in imitation of the knight riding on horseback, and a switch in his right hand for a spear. And he went up to the fallen knight as if he meant to carry out his threat.

The knight foamed with rage at seeing himself mimicked in this fashion, and made a furious grab at his tormentor, and in so doing lost his balance and rolled over on to his wounded shoulder, and before he had time to regain himself the dwarf darted forward and cried, "Take that, and that, and that," striking him on the knuckles with his switch. He then ran away, laughing.

"Thou imp of mischief, if I catch hold of thee, I'll wring thy young head off, and break thy ugly back," cried the knight. So saying, he scrambled to his feet, and ran after him to carry out his threat. But he was blind with passion, and had not gone far before his foot caught in a root, and he fell headlong, lying stunned and bleeding.

The dwarf came strutting forward with all the airs of a conqueror, and placing his foot on the knight's breast, he pointed his switch at his throat and said, "Yield thee, or I will at once put an end to thy miserable life," in imitation of the Prince.

The discomfited knight groaned in helpless misery and opened his eyes in a dazed manner, trying to understand why the dwarf stood over him, and what would be best to do.

Then he said, "Oh! my dear Mischief, take your foot off my chest. It hurts my shoulder."

"Ho, ho, ho," laughed the dwarf, "and let you wring my head off, and break my ugly back, eh! Not if I know it."

"I was only jesting with you, my young friend," whined the knight. "Take your foot off, there's a good little fellow, and let us end this farce. Oh dear, how you do hurt; take hold of my hand and help me up," and he held out his hand.

The dwarf took hold of it and tried to pull him up, but when he had got him partly raised, he let his hand slip, as if by accident, and down he fell with a groan.

"You must not let go of my hand like that," said the dwarf, to clear himself of blame. "If you do, I cannot pull you up." He managed to pull him up after a few more failures, at which the little rascal laughed to himself. But he saw he had carried his jokes far enough for once, and that it was time he was off to his master to report what had occurred, or it would be the worse for himself. So telling Ignorance to look out for himself, and advising him to get away as quickly as possible lest Prince Trueheart changed his mind and turned back to kill him, he darted away.

It did not take him long to reach the castle of his master, Mumbo Jumbo, who had a great reputation for being a powerful magician, who could turn men and women into animals by his incantations, and so he was held in fear by all who knew him.

When he heard of the fight and its results, his brow darkened with anger, and there was an evil gleam in his eyes. He recalled a prophecy which said,

"When Prince Trueheart comes this way,
For wrong-doers 'twill be a fateful day."

He was afraid of losing his power and authority, so he at once determined to prevent it by decoying the Prince into his castle and making him a prisoner. He knew that his magical arts had no power over the Prince so long as he wore his suit of armour and retained his sword, which could not be taken from him, but must be given up of his own accord.

He at once summoned his slave, Hypocrisy, who, to look at, was a beautiful, fascinating young lady, possessing all the charms of a princess; while all the time her heart was full of deceit, hatred and malice. She was happiest when deceiving and misleading people.

Mumbo Jumbo explained the situation to her in a few words, and instructed her in the part he wanted her to play. As she comprehended it her face lit up with an evil smile, and he knew he could depend on her to carry out her part of his wicked plan.

He threw a handful of powder into the fire that burned in the brazier, and as its fumes ascended he took up his myrtle wand, and waving it over her head said, "Be thou, by the power of my magic, instantly transplanted to the place assigned thee. ABRACADABRA; *quick, change, begone.*" There was a flash of fire, and she was gone.

Old Mumbo Jumbo gleefully rubbed his hands, and muttered, "The spell works well. I shall triumph once more, and overcome the powers of good which would ruin me by breaking my spells and setting my captives free. Now I must away from my sanctum and prepare for my guest. Ha, ha, ha; my guest, my guest," he croaked, as he went in search of the captain of the guards.

(To be continued).

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 9 per line.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—267, Maria Street, on the 2nd January, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Sample Dawson (Rutherford Street Lyceumists), the gift of a son, Cecil Hugh Magill.

BARNETT.—January 11th, 1924, aged 8½ years. Margaret, beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barnett, South Shields. "Our loss is her gain."

NORTH SHIELDS.—Jennie, the dearly beloved daughter of Joseph and Mary Dixon. Passed to higher life December 5th, in her 18th year. Lyceumist loved by all.

THE CHILD.

By MRS. M. E. PICKLES.

It has sometimes been stated that the Lyceum Movement is an adult movement, so I think it would be well for us to scan over our position, I could scarcely imagine an adult progressive Lyceum, for its richest asset is its child.

We are charged sometimes as leaders, and even as writers, of talking and writing over the heads of the children. I think we shall all agree that the Union's Official Organ the LYCEUM BANNER is for people of all ages, and its articles for those to whom they appeal. My experience tells me that often the young folks can understand and assimilate that which older people cannot grasp at all.

I suppose every writer has an object in view when taking up the pen to write. Last year, *mine* was to help all Lyceumists as far as possible to lay a foundation for spiritual education, and judging by the letters I have received old and young have participated in the idea. I have also found that parents have learnt lessons regarding the training and development of children; hence my subject now:

THE CHILD.

What is the child?

Some have defined it as a developing ego in a child's body; divine in origin and therefore in essence; the product of a far off past, the promise of a far-off future. Some assume that God created him, some, that he came *forth* from God. He is clothed with a physical body, or, for the time he stays in earth life he is manifesting his presence through a living temple of flesh. He progresses in this matter, but far from inhering in it, he is really independent of matter.

By means of environment and experience, he develops his potentialities, but environment, while it can help growth, cannot limit or add to his illimitable inner being.

As he grows he is no longer a plastic soul, moulded in the hands of elders, but a being to be studied and understood before he can effectually be helped. Long have I kept the following idea before my mind, and it has been a source of help to me many times, when life's perplexing problems confront me. May it be helpful to my readers. I believe I owe my life to God first of all—secondly, to the nation—thirdly to the country in which I was born—last of all to kindred and home. It will appear strange to many but in its broader sense it is absolutely true.

The purpose of life is to further the growth of the child. The purpose of education is to aid life's opportunities, and eliminate as far as possible its obstacles, with a means to a great end. In helping to educate the child, there is a preparation to send out into the world a soul to fulfil life's mission. So in the larger sense is his first duty to God, to his country and last to kindred and home, the last being the nursery of his childhood days. Men and women have paid too little attention in the past to the study of pre-natal conditions; but the time has come when teachers are being trained for the preparations of necessary conditions in this special aspect of life. When this is done good results will be shown by the growth of a healthier race. The child will become more and more receptive to finer influences. It is perfectly true that these influences will affect the child, and become operative in pre-natal conditions.

This period is indeed the malleable and plastic time for the child in the future. Here is an illustration:—

A mother lost her only child through transition. The baby had been life and soul to the once happy mother, but now the bereavement was almost more than she could bear. She always felt as if the better part of herself had been taken away. No consolation came which appeased her sorrow, and when another babe came to the home, and many said that the little one would take the place of the other, the grief still remained.

As time passed on, the mother made a big discovery, that her condition of sorrow was imprinted on the child, both mentally and physically. She found that she had made one of the gravest mistakes of her life, and prayed that if ever she bore another child that this should be one of the greatest of lessons, for she would condition herself to be as happy as possible.

The time did come again, and during those pre-natal conditions the mother willed by thought and deed to build for happiness. The result was marvellous, and as the two children grew, it was very evident that during the pre-natal period, influences had been attracted which would always have a bearing upon their lives.

(To be continued).

Many Items and Articles are crowded out.—Ed.

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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FEBRUARY, 1924.

ORGANISATION.

There are healthy signs of growth being displayed all over the area covered by the B.S.L.U. There is a big jump in the number of Lyceum Manuals being supplied. The LYCEUM BANNER goes to an ever-widening circle of readers. Lyceums are springing into existence in new districts and being revived in the old ones. The Education Scheme, despite the bad trade, is healthy. Our Guild has got a new lease of life. Over 5,000 new Lyceumists have enrolled during the last three years.

Now and again we find the passage which leads from the Lyceum to the Church gets blocked. Sometimes it is the Lyceumists and at other times the Church members who won't keep to the right and allow free passage. Just a little tact and all is well again. We don't get butter from butterflies and we won't get stability from people who fly from church to church or Lyceum to Lyceum at every little breezy whim. If a hostile windy speech approaches, put up your moral collar until it passes.

Organisation is a great word. Think of the many parts that need to be in harmony to make an organ and how one discordant note may screech in horror on our ears. An organ is a dead thing till human beings make it sound their thoughts. There is an art in the wind pressure; too much undeveloped sound will make a hiss. It is far better for the wind to reach the keys with a kiss and awaken the symphony of sounds in harmonious melody to reach the plaintive ears of sensitive minds which can respond to the vibration of the air, and feel "the world is full of music, if we will only hear."

What happens to the human instruments of sound and song. Do you echo the sentiments of your friends or does the expression come from the stomach or the heart? With what voice does the spirits speak to us. The lives from which we came are again with us in the home. The sacred charm of a home-circle has love for its theme. The sweetest breath of all is the inbreathing of inspiration and then it swells forth from the bellows of eternity "There is no death." This is the real spirit of organisation. The sound of an instrument may die upon the air, but it indelibly registers upon our minds the memory of its sweetness. The memory is eternal: the organ through which it was expressed is transient and changing.

An organisation is a changing thing in the hands of mankind which unfolds new experiences and prepares us for a higher expression and adaptation of what we previously knew.

To return to the home circle: spirits and mortals blend their grades of intelligence, experience and hopes. Spirits are willing to play with our lives and we are willing our minds shall be used to receive and convey to others the ideas, thoughts and impressions we have gained through the inspiration of those who have a clearer vision of life's mysteries. Small wonder we feel the charm of their presence, raise ourselves in spirit, and find we are the recipients of a new joy, a sweeter hope, and realise the goodness of mankind is inborn, but unconscious and largely undeveloped. The organisation of many minds with a settled purpose has produced harmonious results and the unification of ideas and forces generate a building power of strength and guidance.

In the production of these results each separate individuality has controlled his own organism to the unified purpose for which all have met. Could we but keep this complacency when we leave the circle, human organisations would be influenced for the commonweal. Yet even we who are Spiritualists come again to earth and the possessive ease of mine and ours. There is the source of all our trouble. We deify substance and lose the spirit.

An organisation depends on the blending of its parts and not the diffusion of them. Thoughts and things merge towards a common centre and outward growth of living things come from within. Thus we absorb in our movement greater numbers and all again by growth and expansion. Opportunities are found for the development of units according to ability: leaders and led, teachers and taught, all gain by association and organisation. We enervate social, moral and spiritual laws to find our correlations with men and angels.

There does, at times, creep in the personal element; alike with individuals as with organisations. In true progress there is a gradual overpowering of all things which divide. An invention is an idea which combines things which were previously apart and which, by their combination, produces beneficial results. Invention depends upon genius. Genius has been described as spiritual insight. The acme of organisation depends on spiritual insight and its source may often be found, working through inspiration from the higher realms of thought which exists in that land of spirit where the only recompense is conveyed by the power to render service in unfolding new truths, and yet this is felt to give perfect satisfaction to the initiator, for service is, in its highest sense, obedience to moral law. A good deed, performed purely for goodwill, is the test of real character. Saintliness implies wisdom in spiritual law imparted to those who need it. The saints are the real organisers of mankind; they deal with the dynamics of thought. It is regrettable we cannot all rise to the utility of studying the psychological side of material motives, so that we could thwart the unlearned disorganisers who disintegrate even our little churches and Lyceums in their machinations. This brings us to the local position of each Lyceum and Church being small organisations within the larger movement. We also work through these sections to the unit who is in himself an organisation of heredity, environment and individuality. Here is man's first conquest and having gained control of these powers, can merge himself through larger organised spheres of growth until he finds himself, by his own light, leading men, with the power they have placed in him, vibrate to the rhythm of eternal truth. The unspoken gratitude of our organisation goes out to all who are working gratuitously and also paying to be of service to humanity by encouraging the Lyceumists to think and delve into life's great revealing story; an open book that all may read. Other minds than ours look on. Our prayers are not unanswered. We have ever found a spirit-world of unseen helpers are very active in their guidance. The future of our movement and, we hope, our organisation is under their goodwill and inspiration to lead us all to greater lengths of useful service.

THE EDITOR.

£2,000 Effort.

There is a little progress to report by acknowledging the receipt of 2s. from a Coventry (Bull Street) Lyceumist, by the sale of paper flowers at a Christmas Party. The Union tenders to this Lyceumist its sincere thanks for her kindly thought and hopes that others may be influenced by her action. I have often heard it said, "Oh, we don't know how to raise the money." There are many ways of doing this. One Lyceum I heard of gave any of its Lyceumists who asked for it, 6d. and each one who took it tried to make it bigger, and in time it came to a nice round sum. There are always whist drives, socials and dances which may be held for the benefit of the Effort. I also still have pencils and bookmarks to dispose of, and should be pleased to fill any orders sent on. I keep hearing of Lyceums who have small sums set apart in their treasury for the Effort. Let me appeal to any of these Lyceums to send on what they have in hand because whilst it may be small, and possibly earning nothing in their Secretary's hands, a few small sums added together soon begin earning when they get in our Treasurer's hands. Please note a record is kept of what each Lyceum is doing for the fund, so send on whatever you have if it is only small. Best wishes to all Lyceumists.

W. BURROWS,
Hon. Sec. £2,000 Effort.

The Twelfth Resolution.

I want to refer briefly to the Greeting Card which I sent to all Lyceumists at the close of 1923.

I wish to thank all those Lyceumists who have pledged themselves to assist in bringing to a successful issue, at least those eleven items enumerated. There have been too many replies for me to answer each one individually, hence the reason of my thanks being offered through the columns of *The Lyceum Banner*.

I have been agreeably surprised at the comments made in the various letters, and it has shown to me that a keener interest is taken in the various schemes launched by both the Lyceum Union and the Spiritualists' National Union, than I had thought. I am waiting now for the practical issue, believing that the Lyceumists will pull up arrears and that the respective projects will be benefited to a high degree.

Several Lyceumists have referred to the fact that only eleven resolutions have been given instead of twelve, which would have allowed one for each month. The twelfth was left out purposely. Suppose we now put on our thinking caps and find a suitable resolution to fill the vacancy. I should like all Lyceumists to write me and give some practical proposition that they think could be introduced as the twelfth resolution to assist the Lyceum Movement.

I expect that there will be many and varied opinions offered, but the more varied the opinions the greater the possibility of getting beneficial ideas, that will bring our movement to a higher standard of progression.

Now, let us see what we can do. Send up your ideas. Do not be afraid. Let us commence 1924 well

GEO. A. MACK, President, B.S.L.U.

The Management Committee at Bolton.

The Quarterly Meeting of the B.S.L.U. Management Committee was held at Bolton on Saturday and Sunday, 12th & 13th January, in the Deane Road and Henry St. Churches.

Mr. Mack, the President, presided, and expressed regret that Mr. Kitson was unable to be present through illness. The meeting wished him a quick recovery to health.

The Financial Statement showed a balance of about £300 on the past year. £2000 Effort, £319 18s. 3d. Lyceum Home Fund, £147 19s. 6d.

It is hoped that Lyceums have remembered Founder's Day and will be able to forward donations to the £2,000 Effort.

268 Lyceums were in affiliation at the end of 1923.

Greenock, Brighton (Old Stiene), Accrington (Argyle St.), Pemberton, Ilford, Dalton, Southampton (St. Mary's Rd.), Bournemouth, Crompton, Easington Lane Lyceums have closed during the year. Three others have not paid the annual fees.

There is a nett gain of 38 Lyceums; 6 new Lyceums were admitted into membership.

Belfast Lyceum has been transferred to the Scottish Area.

The invitation to hold the M.C. Quarterly Meeting in Oct. at Lincoln was cordially accepted.

Mrs. Venables passed to the higher life and the M.C. sympathetically endorsed the vote of condolence sent on behalf of the Union.

It was decided to call the attention of Lyceums to the utility of viewing the moral films when exhibited in their districts.

The Guild has presented the Education Scheme with 5,000 price lists and the "Banner" with the cost of "Plant Life" blocks now appearing in the 1924 issues of the "Banner."

The M.C. cordially thanked the Guild for the useful gifts.

An increase was reported in the sales from the Publishing Department.

The Gen. Secretary's total cash turnover to the funds of the Union for 1923 was £1899: a large increase on the 1922 total.

"Modern Spiritualism", by Mr. W. H. Evans was reported ready for sale and many copies had been sent out for review.

The LYCEUM BANNER had printed 65,850 copies, an increase of 1100 during 1923.

Miss Hesp has had to temporarily relinquish her duties for the Union owing to a serious breakdown in her health. The M.C. regretted to learn this and voted their strongest sympathy for Miss Hesp's complete recovery.

The S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. Joint Committee's Recommendations were reported and are being considered by both Unions.

Mr. Owen, the Union's Treasurer, gave notice he will be leaving this country for Ireland shortly and will not be continuing his Treasurership after the next Annual Conference.

The M.C. expressed their gratitude for Mr. Owen's long and

faithful services to the Lyceum Union and wished him every success in his new home.

It was decided to commence the next Annual Conference at 8-0 p.m. in Hull, on June 7th, 1924.

Consideration is being given to the affiliation of the B.S.L.U. to the International Union.

The Annual Conference Forms were submitted and approved.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given to the Bolton friends, Churches and Lyceums, for kindly providing the entertainment and accommodation.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

The afternoon services were conducted at Henry St. Church by Miss Elliott and Mr. Burrowes; at Deane Road Church by Mr. Jones and Mr. Hunter. A massed Open Session was held in Bradford St. Church, and the combined Lyceums gave a vigorous display of Marching and Calisthenics. Mr. G. A. Mack (President) conducted the Session. Invocation by Mr. Owen, S.C.R. by Mr. Knott, Connective Readings of the M.R. by the conductors of the three Lyceums; Mr. Walsh, Mr. Bearman and Mr. Johnson; Golden C.R. by Mr. R. A. Owen (Treasurer), with comments.

Through an avenue of Lyceumists, Mrs. M. E. Pickles led a baby into the Lyceum and gave her the name 'Lily'; under influence the spirit name Zaida was added. Mrs. Pickles appealed to all present to build power and influence around the child.

Evening Services were conducted at Henry St. Church by Mrs. Pickles and Mr. Jones; at Deane Rd. Church by Miss Elliott and at Bradford St. Church, by Mr. Hunter and Mr. Knott.

During the day pearls and recitations were plentiful. Mr. Mack appealed for the best thoughts for Mr. Kitson's health as he could not attend the meetings through sickness.

Mr. Owen, the Union's Treasurer spoke of his departure for Ireland and consequent separation from Lyceum work.

The meeting supported Mr. Hibbert in expressing general regret in losing the future services of Mr. Owen, wishing him God speed and good luck in his new sphere.

The total expenditure of the visit was cleared by the collections: the Lyceumists and friends were most hospitable and the visit a general success.

Notice to Lyceum Secretaries.

There are quite a number of new Lyceum Secretaries have been appointed. A few particulars of their duties in relation to the B.S.L. Union have been prepared in a circular which was sent to all Lyceums a few months ago. Copies can be had on application.

Every year complaints reach this office that too little time is allowed for selecting Candidates for the official positions and for area representatives. The notice is now given so that Lyceums may not be unprepared when the nomination papers are sent out. It should be noted that Mr. R. A. Owen, the Union's treasurer, is not allowing his name to go forward for re-nomination, owing to his removal to Dublin. Secretaries will save Mr. Owen the expense of postage in replying if this fact is noted. (A stamped and addressed envelope should be sent to all persons when written consent is desired for nomination of officers or area representatives).

The Statistical Form for each year is sent to Lyceums during the last week in each year.

The Annual Fees are due on the first of January.

An endeavour should be made to pay the Annual Fees not later than March 1st.

During the first week in March the General Secretary sends out a Nomination Form to each Lyceum in the Union so that each Lyceum which wishes to do so can Nominate a Candidate to sit for the Area on the Management Committee of the Union.

No Candidate's name can be submitted without the Candidate's written Consent. The consent must be obtained on the Nomination Form before being sent to the General Secretary.

About the 1st March all Secretaries should read the B.S.L.U. Constitution (5d. post free). Articles vii, viii, ix, and x. Bye-laws 5, 7, and 10. The final dates for each event should be particularly noted.

The trading terms for books, etc., are CASH with ORDER, except for the LYCEUM BANNER. The BANNER accounts are sent quarterly, and six months' supply is the limit of credit.

All postal orders must be made payable to G. F. Knott, at Wardleworth Post Office, and correspondence must be addressed to the General Secretary,

Our Lyceum Guild.

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

OUR AIM:—To develop ourselves—physically, mentally, psychically, and spiritually.

AMENDED AIMS AND RULES.

Yielding to the requests and suggestions of many of our members, we have altered a few of the Guild Aims and Rules, viz:—

(i). The performance of the calisthenics at home during the week is no longer required.

(ii). Taking the Education Examinations Grade by Grade is still *expected*; but members are exempt if they have a good excuse (e.g., ill-health, pressure of home duties, and long distance from the study groups).

(iii). The Guild Badge need only be worn on *special* Lyceum occasions, instead of at all Lyceum functions and sessions.

OUR RIBBON BADGES.

There has been a good deal of feeling about the Guild badges, and especially the bands on them, signifying examination attainments. Quite sound reasons *against* these bands have been given, and it has been decided not to issue any more. Therefore, from now, all Guild ribbon badges will consist of just the plain ribbon and will indicate the grade passed, but not the standard reached.

A PERMANENT BADGE.

Requests are becoming more and more frequent for the Guild to issue a permanent badge (a small enamel one of appropriate design) either *instead of* or *in addition to* the ribbon one.

Before such a step can be taken it will be necessary to have the opinion of not fewer than 1,000 of our members. To obtain this, will leaders of Guild Classes please bring the matter before their members, and let the Guild Leader know their decision (and number of members).

We will wait about three months to allow of these decisions being sent in, and then act according to the decision of the majority. But those members wanting a permanent badge must pledge themselves to buy one; as the bigger the order we can place the smaller the price per badge.

AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

The Management Committee approves of the Guild holding competitions for prizes but objects to entrance fees being charged. These fees were to help to buy the prizes, so now the Guild needs money to come in from other sources to defray their cost.

The Guild has other expenses too, as it is paying each month for the illustrations in its Nature Article, and pays for its own printing, stationery, postages, etc.

Who will help? Donations of any amount will be welcome from those interested in the Guild and in its work.

Our esteemed President, Mr. Mack, has expressed his sympathy in a practical manner by sending along *ten shillings* towards buying the prizes. We thank him very much and hope other names will soon be added to the list of donors.

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITIONS.

(a) For Junior Members (under 10).

One prize (value half-a-crown) will be sent to the Junior Member who sends in the best written copy of the Chapter "What is a medium?," as given on pages 22 and 23 of the *Oral Grade Primer*. Efforts may be in either print-writing or ordinary writing.

(b) For Members from 10 to 14.

A copy of Rudyard Kipling's new book for boys and girls, *Land and Sea Tales* (value 4s.) will be sent to the boy or girl who makes the best pencil, or ink, drawings of the five illustrations in this month's Nature Article, by Miss Lawton.

(c) For all members over 14.

(i) One prize, value five shillings, is offered for the best design to head *either* the Education Page *or* the Guild Page.

(ii) One prize, value five shillings, will be given to the writer of the best essay on "How to increase the efficiency and value of our Lyceum Guild."

RULES FOR THE COMPETITIONS.

(i) Each competitor must be a Guild member.

(ii) All efforts must be written in ink, and on one side of the paper only. Drawings may be in pencil.

(iii) Each effort must be accompanied by:—

(a) The front blue cover of a copy of this month's *Lyceum Banner*, (b) a separate sheet of paper, giving name, address, age, Guild number and Lyceum. Where choice of prize is allowed, state what you would like, if you should be the winner.

(iv) No letter must be enclosed.

(v) The word "Competition" must be written in the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

(vi) Efforts to be posted not later than 28th February. (Results will be announced in the April *Banner*).

(vii) No effort will be returned to the competitor; and the Leader reserves the right of publishing winning efforts, if space allows.

(viii) Each competitor must accept the Judge's decision as final.

(ix) The prize will only be awarded in each case if there are not fewer than twenty entries for that competition. (The Guild has over 1,600 members.)

(x) If you have any ideas for further competitions, write them down on a separate sheet of paper.

HOW TO BECOME A JUNIOR MEMBER.

Children under 10 (but over 5) may join the Guild as Junior Members by sending 3d. for the ribbon-badge (pale pink), 1½d. for postage; and writing on a sheet of paper (i) name, (ii) address, (iii) age, (iv) Lyceum, (v) when taking Oral Grade examination. (If this has been passed, give results).

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE SENT TO:—

The Guild Leader, (Miss) M. E. KITSON, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Batley (Yorks.)

Baby Plants, and how they are born,

(The Lyceum Guild Nature Study Article).

By MARGARET E. LAWTON.

II.—SEAWEEDS.

All seaweeds belong to the same great family of plants as the Blue-Green and Green Algæ, for all three groups of plants are especially fitted for living in water. Just as in the Green Algæ, many one-cell plants joined together to form "threads," so we can think of seaweeds as arising from many "threads" becoming matted together to have increased size and thickness and greater strength.

Seaweeds flourish best on rocky shores; and the rock pools which receive fresh water at each tide, abound in beautiful specimens. It is usual to group seaweeds according to their colour, but the colour also shows the home of the plants. The *green* seaweeds are found in the shallow waters nearest the shore. The pretty Sea Lettuce is one of the commonest of these. The *brown* seaweeds found on most shores grow between the high and low tide marks. Amongst this group are the well known Wracks—the Flat Wrack, the Notched Wrack (with jagged edges), the Holy Wrack, and the Bladder Wrack, with its familiar air bladders. The *red* seaweeds grow in the deeper waters furthest away from the shores. These colour zones amongst the seaweeds are quite distinct, and if an occasional plant strays out of its own zone, it usually shelters under the cover of another seaweed. Thus brown seaweeds are sometimes found sheltering under green seaweeds, or red plants take cover under brown ones. If brown or red seaweeds are soaked in fresh water they become green in colour, showing that they do contain some of the green colouring matter found in most plants. It has been discovered that the use of the brown and red colouring enables the seaweeds to take advantage of the sunlight, even through the depth of water covering the plants.

All the plants studied last month, were only one cell in thickness. Seaweeds are several cells in thickness and usually grow in a flat ribbon-like form. The flat ribbon is known as a thallus, and though it has a strengthening midrib, it has no veins. In the older parts of seaweed plants, the thallus decays and the strong midrib remains to act as a stalk for the younger parts. Many seaweeds can float freely in the water, but some, especially among the Wrack family, are attached to rocks. Land plants are anchored to the ground by means of roots, which also help to feed the plants, but the anchor of the seaweeds is more like a sucker and does not help to provide food. The seaweeds can drink in all their food through the tiny pores that abound in every thallus. Figure I shows a small piece of Bladder-Wrack.

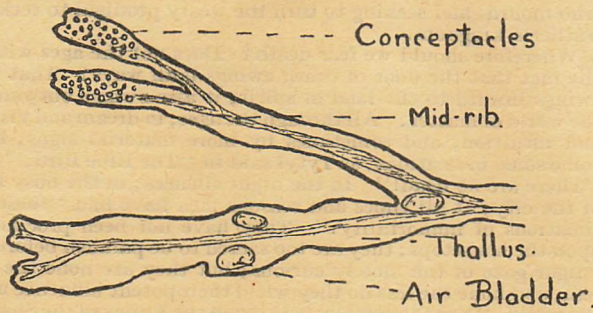


Fig. I Bladder-Wrack.

Plants living in the sea must be prepared to endure constant movement, and seaweeds are wonderfully adapted for such a life. A seaweed thallus is both strong and tough and can withstand very rough movement. At the same time the thallus and its midrib are so pliable that they can sway with the slightest motion in the water.

The coming of the seaweed babies is most interesting, and, since brown seaweeds are the best known, it is their story that we are to know this month. The brown seaweeds are much more advanced than the Algae in their methods of bearing baby plants. One very important difference is that the seaweeds have father and mother germs, and it is quite easy to recognise which is which. The Wrack babies come into the world in late summer and early autumn. At that time, tiny wart-like spots appear on the undersides of the ends of the thalli. Some of these spots can be seen in Figure I. Each "wart" is really the doorway to a little rounded room, and each room is known as a CONCEPTACLE. The fathers and mothers of future seaweed plants live inside these conceptacles. In the Bladder-Wrack, the fathers, or male germs, and the mothers or female germs live in separate conceptacles, but in the other brown seaweed, both kinds grow together in the same conceptacle. Figure II is a conceptacle drawn many times larger than its real size.

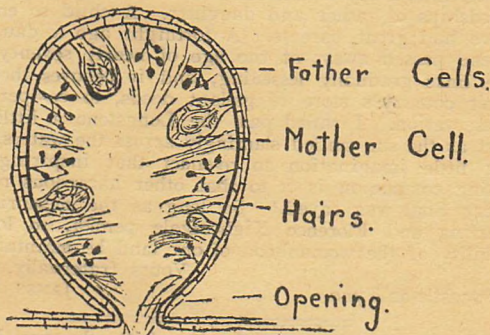


Fig. II A Conceptacle

From Fig. II. we can see that each conceptacle is an oval shaped room, the door of which opens out on to the underside of the thallus. Growing from the wall of this room are three kinds of growth, and each kind has its own important duties. The rounded cells which grow on short stalks from the wall of the conceptacle are the MOTHER CELLS. When one of these mother cells is ripe, its skin bursts and from it come eight rounded egg cells known as OOSPHERES. Each oosphere contains one nucleus and can become a seaweed mother. Fig. III shows one of these oospheres.

The father cells grow on branched hairs, the end of each hair having a swollen club-shaped tip. When a father cell is ripe, it bursts and discharges a large number of tiny bodies known as ANTHEROZOIDS. Each antherozoid has one nucleus and it also has two fine hairs, unequal in length, which help it to swim. Each antherozoid can be a seaweed FATHER.

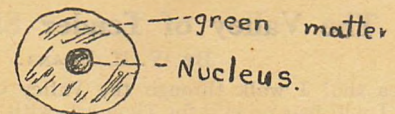


Fig III An Oosphere

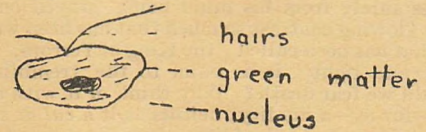


Fig IV An Antherozoid

The rest of the conceptacle is occupied by fine hairs, and a tuft of hairs protrudes from the mouth or opening of the conceptacle. The hairs assist the oospheres and antherozoids to swim.

Although these tiny mother oospheres and father antherozoids grow in the protection of the conceptacles, they do not unite to form baby plants until they are outside the seaweed plant, and floating in the water. Then a number of antherozoids swim towards each oosphere and surround it. We must remember that an oosphere is a mother and an antherozoid a father, and that only ONE mother and ONE father are needed to create a baby plant. Therefore one of the antherozoids penetrates the oosphere; the nucleus of the antherozoid unites with the nucleus of the oosphere, and a baby plant is born as a result of this joining together of a father and a mother germ of life.

At first the new plant is egg-shaped, but without waiting for a rest, it commences to grow into a proper seaweed plant. The lower part of the baby form a number of root-like fingers and these, by clinging to a rock, secure the young plant in its home. The upper part of the young plant becomes the thallus.

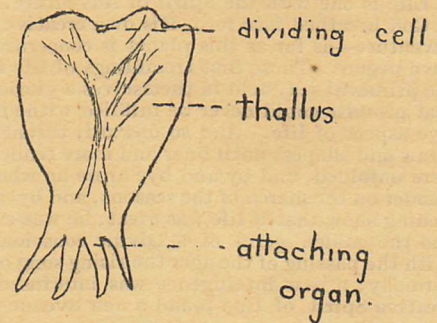


Fig. V The Baby Plant

At the top of the thallus is one particular cell which divides (as in the Blue Green Algae) so that the thallus forms its two first branches. There is one of these cells at the tip of every ribbon of every thallus, and it is by means of these cells that seaweeds grow in length and always branch into two "ribbons." Thus the baby plant develops into a fully grown seaweed plant, when it, too, can become the home of future seaweed fathers and mothers.

(To be continued).

The Editor requires 36 copies of the "Lyceum Banner" for April, 1923; and 20 copies for June, 1923. Payment will be made for any clean copies sent to the Union's office, 39, Regent Street, Rochdale.

The Valley of Tender Shadow.

By W. H. EVANS.

‘Yea tho’ I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death I will fear no evil for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.’—*Psalm 23*. 4.

The words of the ancient singer falls upon our ears as a soft melody. The simple trust in the wisdom of God, the serene confidence that even though the ‘shadow of death’ may fall upon him, he will find the comfort of the Lord is with him, arises surely from his mind being ‘stayed on God.’ It is in such glowing contrast so much that has been written and spoken of what has been called ‘the King of Terrors,’ that its ‘sweetness and light’ is as balm to the trembling heart. Why should we fear death? Why think of it with trembling? It is not—for us—a finality, neither is it a *cul de sac*, but a process in the upward march of life. It is liberation from the thralldom of matter. It is a necessary event, and should not be regarded as a dread executioner cutting us off from all our high hopes and lofty ideals; neither does it effect a real separation from those we love if the spiritual consciousness is awakened. For the intuition that penetrates beyond the valley destroys the sense of separateness. ‘‘And there shall be no more sea.’’

The past is strewn with dead forms lying on the shores of Time. The moving spirit ever going onward and upward, discards the form as soon as its purposes have been served. Whether it be religions or philosophies or civilizations, we see their outworn garments lying in ruins at our feet. We dig and delve in the graves of past ages, eager to read some little from the indications therein, of the peoples who once lived, and flourished; who dreamed their high dreams of conquest; who explored their little portion of the world; who worshipped their gods and had their appointed vestal virgins; who danced in the glades and thickets and worshipped the Great Unknown in various ways; disputed and wrangled over points of philosophy and doctrine, and in due course fulfilling their historic mission passed through the door of death down the ‘valley of the shadow’ to the land of ‘‘light and glory’’ beyond.

The past is not dead. The essence of its spirit distilled in travail and sorrow, in war and conquest; wrung out of the tears and laughter of men, lives in the present. All that is of value is conserved by the Spirit of Life which through countless deaths brings to fruition something of its glorious ideal. The Spirit of Life is one with the Spirit of Adventure. When the Spirit of God breathed into form His own creative energy, the great adventure—as far as this planet is concerned—may be said to have begun. Those first tremblings of life in the oozy bed of the primeval sea, held in themselves a glorious promise. And that promise could never be fulfilled without death, the negative aspect of life. And so onward, through what monstrous forms and shapes, until finer and more tender shades of beauty were unfolded, and by and by arose he who was to gaze with wonder on the march of the seasons, and by his untiring questioning show that if life was great, he was even greater; for he had the golden germ of a Divine consciousness within him. With the passing of the ages the rising song of life gained a new harmony, a new intelligence was interfused with it, and the creative Spirit of God found a new avenue of expression, and man took matter and moulded it into new and wondrous shapes; harnessed the lightnings, ‘put a girdle round the earth,’ imprisoned the echo, and sent his songs and dramas through the trembling ether. How great he is, and how audacious he has been! He has stood before the mystery of Being and questioned undauntedly as to its why and wherefore? and in spite of great achievement and all its promise has sometimes ‘declared in his heart there is no God,’ and that ‘‘the dead know not anything.’’ There was no ‘valley of the shadow’ then, but only blank negation. For if there be a valley then there must be a way through it; but in his materialism man declared there was no way through: it ceased to be a valley and became a pit wherein was buried the great ideals of the race.

Sorrow has a ministry as real as joy. The chastening influence of grief will oftentimes break through the clouds of darkness and bring the soul nearer the tender light of Eternal Love. Hope sits ever beside man, and seeks to turn him to the contemplation of brighter things and assure him that life triumphs over the tomb, and like a ship carries the soul into new oceans and to new lands, where the light of the spirit of God falls in even greater splendour than it can upon this world of ours. And from that world ‘‘beyond these voices’’ is ever streaming spiritual influences prompting a new idealism; comforting those

who mourn, and seeking to turn the weary prodigal to seek the Father’s kingdom.

Wherefore should we fear death? Does not the ages witness the fact that the door of death swings both ways? That if it swings inward to the land of spirit, it also swings outward to the world of matter. All through the ages, in dream and vision, and intuition, and sometimes by more material signs, have come some indications, as Tytyl said in ‘‘The Blue Bird,’’ that ‘‘There are no dead!’’ In the night silences; in the busy hum of the city; at all times and seasons men have had ‘‘these intimations of immortality.’’ They have not been proclaimed upon the housetops; they are too sacred to be paraded before the vulgar gaze of the merely curious; but they are none the less real, and none the less do they wield their potent influence upon the world, ‘‘Yea though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death Thou art with me,’’ and many a heart has been raised in thankfulness by the knowledge which these psychic realities have brought; and verily they have felt ‘‘the rod and the staff’’ of the Eternal One in their hands. Death has become ‘‘the valley of tender shadow,’’ with the soft and glowing radiance of Divine Love suffusing it, and the soft tinkle of the stream of life meandering through it, reflecting in prismatic hues that light, has given a new joy in living; and at the end of the valley are those whom they had ‘‘loved and lost awhile.’’

Letter Box.

GRACE DARLING.

To the Editor,

Sir,—I was pleased to note the communications from Mrs. Pickles and Mr. Robson, relative to this heroic daughter of wild Northumbria, especially as at one time the former was inclined to be sceptical as to the authenticity of the story of the noble girl, thanks to the disparaging remarks of persons who either do not know the facts, or who are indifferent to the honour of England’s wonderful peasantry. I sent her several cuttings and other items of value on the subject, and am delighted that Lyceumists have been able to come to closer knowledge of one so daring, yet so modest. It was my fortune to have the acquaintanceship, during her later years, of one who was for long an inmate of the Darling household, and whose hands performed the last offices to Grace. She herself long outlived her youth’s idol, passing away two years ago at the venerable age of ninety-seven.

We had many a conversation concerning the work and the hardships of father and daughter. A child so endowed must have had great parents. A fortnight ago a daughter of my friend passed away, at the age of nearly seventy. Thus are the links gradually lessening, and it behoves those who love their country’s store of gallant deeds, to co-operate in their preservation. I sailed past the Longstone a little while ago, just as the sun smiled slantingly across the waters, and it took but little imagination to re-enact that inspiring rescue. A fitting companion is it to that other hazardous rescue, ‘And every Soul was saved.’ So long as the memories of Grace Darling and Florence Nightingale persist, so long will the nobility of the womanhood of our land be maintained.

Yours fraternally,

JAMES LAWRENCE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. Reg. Bowmer, 5, Percy Road, Goodmayes, Essex, would like to hear from any Lyceumist who has any copies of the LYCEUM BANNER from 1914 onwards. He is willing to buy or exchange copies and can send copies from 1906 of some numbers, but has missed some copies through being away during the late war. (Bound volumes are in stock for 1921 and 1922, price 5s. 6d. post free.—ED.)

There are at present on exhibition a number of moral sex films approved by the Ministry of Health. The General Secretary has had an interview with one of the officials and whilst our numbers are not large for a special show in any given town, Lyceumists over 16 years are requested to view these films when opportunity offers.

The National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases are responsible for the films, and some of the titles are: ‘‘The End of the Road.’’ ‘‘Damaged Goods.’’ ‘‘The Public Health Twins at Work.’’ ‘‘How Life Begins.’’ ‘‘Social Hygiene for Women.’’ ‘‘Whatever a Man Soweth,’’ etc.

The offices of the Council are at 102, Dean Street, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Revision Notes.

It is to be hoped that as a New Year resolution every District Council has decided to appoint a District Revision Committee, and thus prepare to take a proper share of the work and responsibility of bringing the *Manual* thoroughly up-to-date in its philosophical, scientific and religious teachings. It will hardly be fair to allow three or four districts to do all the work of the next ten years, and then, when the results of their work are submitted to Conference, for those who have done nothing to arise in criticism and say:—"We don't want this. We won't have that. What we wanted was so and so, and so and so." If we all start now and all work loyally and harmoniously—exchanging opinions and discoveries through the pages of the *Banner*—at the end of the ten years we shall be able to approach Conference with a *Manual* which has practically been compiled and approved by the whole Movement. And we must never forget that the *Manual* belongs to the whole Movement, and therefore it is the duty of the Movement to see that it is the best and most reliable book that can be produced. To secure this desirable end the whole Movement must combine for progressive work; and I feel sure that we shall all rise to the occasion.

Let me insist that this is really a ten years' job and will perhaps take much longer; so those who think that they will be able to do all that is necessary in the last six months will find themselves woefully mistaken, and will take part in the Conference discussions without being qualified to express opinions; as only diligent searching and discussion with others can provide us with the knowledge of what is wanted—and what is not wanted.

The London District Committee has started its meetings; and at the very first discovered that if the work was to be done properly, one meeting a quarter would not be enough. So it at once decided to meet once a month, and the members are going through the *Manual* literally word for word. In next month's Notes I shall publish some of their suggestions, but this month I have only space to record the resolution which is governing all the work done:—

(1). "The object of Lyceum teaching is to instil into children, at the earliest age, the knowledge that they are immortal spirits; and of the *Manual* to teach them, as such, how to conduct their lives on the highest principles and the purest moral code."

(2). "That we deal with the subject from a universal standpoint, starting at first principles."

It was then decided to go through the *Manual* item by item, and classify the readings in three categories (A, B and C):—

A.—Suitable for the child mind (say of 5—9 years).

B.—Suitable for the adolescent mind (say 9—15 years).

C.—Suitable for the semi-adult and adult mind of 15 and upwards.

If this principle were adopted each reading in the *Manual* would be prefaced by a statement for which category or categories it is most suitable—a great help to new or young Conductors.

Will Lyceumists, Lyceums and District Councils please think the matter over and let me know their opinions?

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

District Council Reports.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD.—The Annual General Meeting of the above Council will be held at Sowerby Bridge Lyceum on February 10th, to commence at 10-30. The following are the Nominations for the meeting: President, Mr. T. Ellis, Mr. Bramall, Mr. Ackroyd, Vice-President, Mrs. Browning, Mr. Ellis. Secretary, Mr. France, Mr. Manning. Treas., Mr. A. E. Kershaw. Auditors, Mr. J. Willy, Miss Manchester, Mr. France.—J. Manning Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 16th, at Wakefield, 3-30 p.m. Business: Open Hymn, Invocation, President's Address, Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, D.V.'s, Conductors, Treasurer's, Secretary's, Delegates' B.D.C. and L.D.C. Presidents' Report, Field Days, Secretary's Report, Competition Business, Notice of Motion. (Holborn Hall, Hull) That no notice be given on the occasion of the Adjudicators visit *re* Silver Bell Competition, but where notice has to be given

for accommodation same to be kept secret by Secretaries. Associate Members L.L.D.C., Election of Officers, President, Secretary, Treasurer, D.V., Delegate to Conference, U.D.C., B.D.K., and L.D.C., Nominations for B.S.L.U. President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Areal Representative, Chairman of B.S.L.U. Conference, Editorship of LYCEUM BANNER. Open Council. Vote of thanks to local friends. Date and Place of next meeting.

Presentation of Silver Bell took place at Wakefield on Saturday, January 5th, but was only very poorly attended. The President, Mr. Lilly, in presenting the Silver Bell to Wakefield Lyceum congratulated them on winning it once again, and said he did not like the word competition and thought that word ought to be altered; we all knew what the word competition meant in the industrial world, and it had brought evil in its trail. He thought it was really instituted to bring out the best in every boy and girl, and gradually raising the worst to the best. In presenting the Bell and Certificate to the Conductor of Wakefield he hoped they would do their best to win it again. Mrs. Harding said she also was very pleased to accept it again on behalf of the Lyceum and was going to try to hold it for three years and then it would become their own. Mr. Gascoigne accepted the Certificate on behalf of their Lyceum and congratulated Wakefield on winning the Bell, and said only half-a-point separated Psycho from Wakefield. Mr. Nixon, of Dewsbury, accepted the Certificate on behalf of Dewsbury which was placed 3rd, and he also congratulated the winners; he thought they at Dewsbury had a good Lyceum but Wakefield had a better one. The President called upon Mr. Barnes, Adjudicator, to say a few words. Mr. Barnes touched upon several points where Lyceums shone most and points where Lyceums had failed. Look to your boy and girl leaders. Harmony. Noise. Help one another by helping ourselves as it is only by looking through different glasses that we become more perfect. Social Evening followed. The sum of £2 15s. was realised towards Council Fund.—A. W. HARDING, Sec.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting of the above, will be held on Saturday, 9th February, at 3 p.m., at Daulby Hall, Daulby Street, Liverpool. Election of Officers, Reports, etc. Will all Delegates do their best to be present. Associates heartily invited.

GLADYS OWEN, Sec.

LONDON DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Lausanne Hall, Lausanne Road, Peckham, on Saturday, 9th February, at 6-30 p.m. Will all delegates and Associates please note, and do their utmost to attend.

A. T. CONNOR, Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the above council will be held on Saturday, February 9th, in the Higher Openshaw Church, Old Lane, Higher Openshaw, at 3-0 p.m. prompt.

Agenda: 1 Opening Exercises. 2. Minutes of last annual meeting. 3. Correspondence. 4. Presidential Address. 5. Reports, (a) D.V.'s, (b) Adjudicators, (c) Financial, (d) Auditors. 6. Election of Officers and Auditors. 7. Appoint Delegates to Conference and U.D.C. 8. Nomination of Area Representative. 9. Open Council. 10. Invitations for quarterly meetings. 11. Vote of Thanks. 12. Closing exercises. Fees are now due and should be paid in at this meeting. Teas will be provided.

G. A. DIXON, Sec.

NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

The above Council will hold the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, 16th February, 1924, in the Lyceum at 268, Lancaster Road, Preston.

Agenda: Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, Election of Officers, Notices of Motion *re* adjudication, Demonstration 1924.

Lyceums are requested to make their returns to Gen. Sec. as early as possible; and that fees to Council are now due. Associate fees are also due. Tea provided at nominal charge. A full attendance of Lyceum representatives is requested as business is very important.—J. S. Sec.

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.

The above Council conducted very successful Propaganda Meetings on Jan. 13th in the Mechanics Hall. A united Open session was held in the morning conducted by Mr. L. Shipley,

ably supported by the Council members. The Golden and Silver Chain Recitations were explained by Miss Green and Mr. Jarvis. A solo was beautifully rendered by Miss Lovegrove, recitations were given by Mabel Harman, Gladys Whalley, and Alec Brown. Pearls were given and explained by the children. There were a fair number of visitors present.

Mr. L. Shipley presided over a crowded congregation in the evening. Addresses were given by Miss Rayner, Mr. Peel, Mr. Masters, and Mr. Johnson, also Mrs. Brown who in addition gave Clairvoyant Descriptions. The Choir of the Mechanic's Hall Lyceum rendered "Daybreak," under the conductorship of Mr. Harnath. Mrs. Harnath rendered a solo, "The Holy City" very beautifully.

The Council had a very successful Social Evening on Jan 19th. to raise funds for the £2,000 Effort. Items were rendered by Miss Nora Carr of Sutton-in-Ashfield and from the local Lyceums by Miss Vera Clark; Master Albert Buckley, Miss Kathleen Kiddy, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Malta. A very enjoyable evening was spent and thanks are due to all who helped. The effort realised will be a substantial amount for the fund.

VICTORIA G. RAYNER, Sec.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

The above Council will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, February 24th, 1924, at Chesterfield, in the Old Falcon Assembly Rooms.

Business will commence at 10-30 a.m. prompt. Lyceums please send along strong representation, and specially invite Associate Members to Council. Usual catering arrangements; members bring their own lunch; tea provided by local arrangement.

Agenda: Standing Orders, etc., Financial Statement, Auditors' Report, Election of Officers' and Delegations. Adjudicators' and Auditor, Reports from Lyceums *re* subjects referred back to them out of U.D.C. report given at Mexboro'. Chesterfield notice of Motion, "That the system of pooling all Delegates' expenses *re* Council be adopted." Reports: Credential, Progress, D.V., Area, S.D.C., etc. Will Lyceum secretaries please send on Affiliation Fees with delegates if not forwarded before this meeting. Associate Fees of 2s. per year will be due also. Open Session 2-15 p.m.; Presentation of Banner and Bell to Adjudication Scheme winners.

Evening service will be conducted by Council. Record meeting expected, two monthly meeting plan hopes for a good start.

Please note change of address:—C. H. Saxelby, 40, Fairthorn Road, Firth Park, Sheffield, Sec.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.

Annual Meeting will be held at Witton Park on Sunday, Feb. 10th, at 11 a.m.

A good attendance is desired. Important business.—G
GEO. A. FRINSON, Sec

TYNESIDE DISTRICT.

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the above D.C. will be held on Feb. 10th in the High Shields New Church—Co-operative Hall, Beatie St., Tyne Dock—at 10-45 a.m.

Agenda will include—Election of new members, Testimonial to Mr. Hall, result of Drawing, Balance Sheet and Reports, result of Shield Competition, Election of Officers, etc.

A full attendance of Delegates and Associates is desired. Refreshments will be provided as usual. Any Lyceum Secretary or Associate who has not now received a copy of Agenda and Credential Card kindly write at once to me.

Delegates travel to Tyne Dock Station.

N. E. AINLEY, Sec.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

I paid my second yearly visit to Bury (King Street) Lyceum on December 16th. Owing to arrangements having been made between the Adjudicators and the Conductor the start was delayed half an hour so as to enable the above-named officials to be present. Opening song, fair; Silver Chain, Musical Reading and the Golden Chain moderately explained. Marching, very fair; calisthenics, fair; pearls, recitations, and solos, good. General conduct, good.

On December 30th I paid my second yearly visit to Bradford Street (Bolton) Lyceum. Prompt start with 38 present; 7 came late. Opening song, good; Silver Chain and Musical Reading were splendidly explained by various readers. Golden Chain nicely dealt with by Conductor. Marching, very good; calis-

thenics fair; groups, general conduct, good; closing song, very good.—F. Jones, D.V.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

Clarence Street, Broughton. Not yet affiliated. Conducted by self. Present 17. Recitations: Girls, 3; Boys, 1; Adult, 1; Pearls, 7. The marching and calisthenics need improving, and hope they will take steps to put them right. Attention very fair. Officers seem to have the work at heart and with perseverance should succeed.

Openshaw, Old Lane. Prompt start. Present 45; late 10. Attention fair; efficiency very fair. Recitations: Girls, 4; boys, 10; pearls, 21; marching, good; calisthenics, very fair; shield and first movement incorrect; guards a little slow; singing, rather mechanical. Very good attendance of boys.

Longsight. Attendance, 71; late, 3. Prompt start. Attention, fair; efficiency, very good. Recitations: Girls, 7; boys, 3. Solos, 3; marching, fair; calisthenics, very fair; remarks on readings, good. Mr. Knott, our General Secretary, was present on this occasion.

New Manchester, 65, Brunswick Street. Present, 27; attention, good; Efficiency, very fair. Recitations: Girls, 3; boys, 2; adults, 2. Comments on readings, good. Very bright session.

Princess Road, South Manchester. Attention, fair; efficiency, good. Recitations: Girls, 10; boys, 2. Singing could do with a little improvement. Marching, fair; calisthenics, fair; Answers to questions very good.

Pendleton, Ford Lane. Prompt start. Attendance, 52; late, 9. Attention very fair. Efficiency good. Recitations: Girls, 4; boys, 1. Pearls, 6. Marching, very fair; calisthenics, slight mistakes in 1st movement and shield movement, otherwise good. Very fine idea of essays on the various readings, silver chain, golden chain, and musical readings; whoever takes the reading, whether old or young, after the reading give an essay on the particular reading.

Clarence Street, Broughton. Seeking affiliation. Present, 20. Attention, very fair. Efficiency, Conductor, very good; others, very fair. Recitations, girls, 8; boys, 2; adults, 2. Solos, 4; jearls, 8; marching, fair; calisthenics, very fair. There were no mistakes this time in the shield and 1st movements. Session gone through thoroughly. Much improvement since my last visit.

Newton Heath, Allen Street. Prompt start. Present, 69; late, 4. Attention, good; efficiency, very good; marching, very good; calisthenics, very good; Leader, excellent. Recitations: Girls, 7; boys, 3. Solos, 3. Comments on readings, good. Altogether a real good and bright session.

Taking the whole of the Lyceums there is a marked improvement all round, although there are still several points to look to, and there is always room for improvement. My remarks made in previous reports *re* reading *Banner* and *Manual* thoroughly still stand. I am now awaiting the results of the Education Scheme to see if Manchester and Salford are progressing as they should be. As this is the last of my year's reports may I take the liberty of thanking all Lyceums for the courteous way they have received me on all occasions, and if I have been of any service to anyone, then the work has been worth while. Total visits to Lyceums, 35.

The very best of wishes to all Lyceumists for future welfare and success.—J. Ernest Hart, D.V.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES DISTRICT.

I visited Exeter (Devon), a small but excellent Lyceum, conducted by Miss Violet Munday, assisted by Mr. C V. Tarr. Conduct, singing and responses, very good. Conductor able to draw comments from each member. Good social programme. One girl of 10 gave a nice poem of her own composition. It should have been recorded in the *Banner*, but has not been forwarded to me. Hope to send it later. This Lyceum will make its mark, and is well supported by the parent Church. A delightful visit. Distance travelled, 500 miles; week-end fare, £1 13s 9d.

I visited Brighton (Mighell Street), November 4th. Commenced prompt with silent meditation for Conductor's mother, who passed to Higher Life on October 28th. 70 members present, over 100 on Roll Book. Invocation and Lord's Prayer. All under 12 adjourned to ante-room for simple lesson. S.C. 78 and G.C. 108 were taken to help those entering for Grades I and II. Good responses and discussion. M.R. readings by members. Marching fairly well done. Social programme: Pianoforte solo, Alma Cox; Violin duet, Messrs. H. Jacobs and A. Scoggins. D.V. addressed them. A farewell was given to Alma Cox who had been pianist for the year, but was going out to business and would be prevented from attending.

Announced a Remembrance Service to be held following Sunday—Armistice Day. Benediction. Closing salutation. Session well conducted by Miss A. Scoggins. Lyceum viewing with pleasure visit of Council to Brighton on February 2nd for Annual General Meeting.

I visited Reading December 30th. Being a very wet day attendance was rather small. Conductor, Mrs. P. R. Street. Commenced prompt with Roll Call. Invocation and Lord's Prayer. Hymn 322 was well commented upon by Conductor. Members taking readings of S.C., G.C. and M.R. Seven Principles were recited. Some very good pearls were given. D.V. spoke upon New Year's prospects. Reading Lyceum sends New Year greetings to all Lyceums. Session well conducted. Singing, responses and conduct, very good. Distance 180 miles. Week-end fare, 10/3. Best wishes to all Lyceums.—Ernest C. Cager, D.V.

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.

ACCRINGTON, Pearl Street.—On New Year's Day we held a Coffee and Bun Social which was well enjoyed by young and old.

On January 6th we held an Open Session. Solos and recitations were rendered by Lyceumists. The session was very well spent. The D.V. was with us and a visitor from Great Harwood. Our Lyceum wishes success to the Lyceum Movement. Our motto is:—"We live to learn and learn to live."—Miss S. J. Woolmington, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM, Stirchley.—Our first Christmas Tree and New Year Tea Party was held on Wednesday, January 2nd, at which 80 children were given tea, our own Lyceumists being augmented by inviting other children of the district. 80 presents were distributed from the Christmas Tree, after which 14 prizes were distributed to our Lyceumists for regular attendance and pearls during the year 1923. A Concert and Social were held after and 12 Lyceumists contributed pianoforte solos, songs and recitations. Our party was augmented by 60 church members and friends, several of whom contributed to the programme. The presents and prizes were distributed by Mrs. Reginald Hope and the chair ably occupied by Mr. Reginald Hope, who congratulated the children on their efforts. We feel very proud of our first effort in this direction, especially at the fine part taken in the programme by our Lyceumists, the youngest being 7 years and the oldest 14.—B.P.M.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—January 6th, Open Session, conducted by Mrs. Sugden. A good assembly of Lyceumists and friends. The following contributed to an excellent programme: Mrs. Abbott, Jack Robinson, Mrs. Babbs, Miss Lillian Long, Miss L. Farnell, Miss L. Whitley, Sam Robinson, Mrs. Hartley, Miss W. Long, Miss E. Dixon, Joseph Farnell, Mr. Hargraves, Mr. Brewerton and others. Thanks are due to Mr. Fred Babbs, for his services at the piano at our "At Homes" on December 14th and 15th, by the Church and Lyceum, resulting in a profit of £28 17s. 4½d.—J. Babbs, Sec.

CALGARY, Canada.—We held our Annual Meeting after the session on December 30th. Fairly good attendance, in spite of it being 20 below zero. The following were elected for the coming year:—Conductor, Mrs. G. H. Garrad; Assistant, Mr. C. Adam; Guardian, Miss M. Adam; Assistant, Miss Q. Rushton; Musical Director, Miss T. Kneeshaw; Assistant, Miss A. Garrad; Physical Director, Mr. V. Garrad; Assistant, Mr. C. Adam; Treasurer, Mrs. A. Rushton; Secretary, Miss M. Adam; Captain of Guards, Master W. Garrad; Assistant, Master Fred Robinson; Librarian, Mr. C. Adam; Assistant, Mrs. A. Rushton. We all felt very satisfied after our meeting, and promised to do better work in the new year. Calgary Lyceumists send their best wishes to all Lyceumists for a more prosperous year, always remembering it's the "Workers that Win."—Ada M. Garrad, Sec.

DONCASTER, Spring Gardens.—Open Session held on Christmas Day, conducted by Mr. Ockleford. Pearls were given by Norah Whitley, Doris Eastwood, Harold Stubbings; recitations by Arthur Baker, Fred Keightley; duets by Norah Whitley, Lillian Woodcock, also Bertha Moseley and Mary Glover; quartette by Doris Brooks, Gladys Eastwood, Mona Godber and Lillian Woodcock; solo by Doris Eastwood. Mr. Twole opened the service with prayer and afterwards ably presided at the piano.—W. Moseley, Sec.

HULL, Holborn Hall.—On January 20th we held our Annual Election of Officers, which resulted in very little change. Mr. G. Smith was again elected Conductor; Miss Leng, Guardian; Miss Headey, Treasurer; Captain of Guards, Muriel Millson; Guards, Maud Millson, Vera Smith, Joe Lawson and Donald Buckton; Librarian, Joe Lawson; Musical Conductor, Miss Neale; Marching and Calisthenics Conductor, Mr. Buckton; Auditors Mr. Robinson and Mr. Halstead; Leaders, Miss Elliss, Miss Brown and Vera Smith.—M. J. Brown, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—On December 29th we held Joint Christmas Tea, the children being entertained by Mr. Sutton, of Rugby, who gave a very fine entertainment as a ventriloquist.

On January 6th we held our Open Session. Solos by Messrs. N. Buckle, N. Townsend, Edna Smith; duet by Miss P. Smith and Miss Richardson; recitations, Messrs. M. Salmon, L. Lucas, and a reading by Mr. Wells. We had a good session, conducted by Mr. H. Cartwright, and supported by a good number of visitors. We express our thanks to all who helped with donations towards the Christmas tea and presents for the benefit of the children.—A. Hurst, Sec.

LONDON, Hackney.—On December 29th, Tea, Entertainment and Christmas Tree; over 70 Lyceumists present. The Lyceum invited 12 poor children of the district, and our children made their little visitors welcome, and everyone did their best to give them a real good time. Mr. Banfield arranged competitions for singing for the children and games with bon-bons, etc. Father Christmas (Mr. Cushway), with clown (Mr. Behrens) rode in. After shaking hands with the children, Father Christmas gave presents to all from the tree. The girls were each made happy with a doll and Edie Osborne, a little Lyceumist picked the Fairy Doll. We have to give our thanks to all workers, and also to the Church, for the splendid help they gave us.—M. Hester, Sec.

LONDON, Surbiton.—London has added yet another link to our Lyceum Movement. On January 20th, a most interesting Session was conducted by Uncle Bert (of the LYCEUM BANNER), assisted by several of his nephews and nieces. Greetings were read from Mr. and Mrs. Clegg, representing the B.S.L.U., and given in person for the L.L.D.C. by Mrs. Barnard (Vice-President); the London Lyceums, Mr. Miles; Battersea, Mr. Clements; Clapham, Mr. Barnard; Kingston, Mrs. Hart and Mr. A. Kirby; the Spirit World, Mrs. Sanders; Surbiton Church, Mr. Turner. Marching and calisthenics were ably led by the Kingston Lyceumists. An interesting number of individual efforts included a descriptive welcome, solos, recitations and musical items by Lyceumists. Uncle Bert concluded the session with suitable wishes for success to Miss Connie Brown, the future Conductor. Lyceumists are requested to note that sessions will be held at 11 a.m. for the present.

MANCHESTER, Collyhurst.—We held our Children's Annual Party on New Year's Day, and everyone had a delightful time. Father Christmas paid us a visit and presented 36 children (3 to 14 years) with a present from two of our late Lyceumists, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, of New Zealand, who also presented every child with a present from the Christmas Tree. Our Conductor presented the prizes for regular attendance.

Election of Officers as follows:—Conductor, Mrs. Ashton; Assistant, George Jaggard; Secretary, Miss Bragg; Treasurer, Mrs. Mellon; Guardian, Miss Bracewell; Musical Conductor, John Ryder; Assistants, Mrs. Mellon, Misses Ashton and Gethings; Marching Conductor, Tom Taylor; Assistant, Ernest Lees; Calisthenics Conductor, Lewis Mutton; Assistant, Miss Croft; Leaders (first), Amy Carter and Fred Wilson; Leaders (second), Beatrice Locke and Jack Gethings; Captain of Guards, Mr. Ryder; Guards, Miss Bigley and Mr. Reddon; Liberty Group Secretary, Miss Bragg; Delegates (B.S.L.U.), Messrs. Ryder and Reddon; Delegates (M.&S.D.C.), Mrs. Ashton and Miss Gethings; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Ashton, Misses Timperley, Gethings, Byrne and John Ryder; Teachers (girls, first, second, third), Misses Wilson, Bracewell, Gethings; Teachers (boys, first, second), Messrs. J. Ryder and Davies.—Amy Bragg, Sec.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Heaton and Byker.—On January 20th we held our yearly meeting. Report given by the Secretary showed a very successful year. Our Lyceum Guild Stall at Church Sale of Work amounted to £19 9s. 1d., Lyceum Concert Party £6, collection £2 11s. 1d., all handed over to the Church Building Fund, showing how anxious our Lyceumists are for a church of our own. Officers for 1924:—Conductor, Mr. Hunter; Assistant and Marching and Calisthenics Conductors, Miss Shadforth, Mr. Lunn and French; Guardian, Miss L. Wardle; Musical Conductors, Messrs. Shadforth,

Fenwick and Wootton; Treasurer, Mr. Shadforth; Captain of Guards, Messrs. J. Wootton and R. Fenwick; Guards, R. Nicholson, J. Wardle, J. Ronaldson, S. Gregson, M. French and Martha Angus; Leaders, Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Horn, A. Shadforth, M. Wardle, B. Groves, M. Lunn, French and C. Dixon; Auditors, Messrs. Lunn and Fenwick. With such a band of workers we are hoping to do some good work this year.—Mr. R. Hunter, Sec.

NEWPORT, Mon.—A Tea and Christmas Tree Entertainment was given to the Lyceumists and friends, organised by Mrs. Armstrong, and carried out by a band of willing workers: Misses L. Young, Osmond and Walker; Messrs. Gamlin, Taylor and Miles; Messrs. H. Miller, S. Silverthorn, J. Reade, F. Hodge and A. Taylor. After tea prizes for good attendance and good conduct were presented by Mr. L. Silverthorn, the President of the Church. A special feature of the evening was a wedding presentation of a silver tea pot, to Mr. Frank Hodge and Miss Dean (both Lyceumists), on the occasion of their marriage. Miss L. Young made the presentation.

The children of the Lyceum contributed items. Games were indulged in and all had a fine time. Then Father Christmas arrived (Mr. J. Reade ably carried out the role of Father Christmas) and distributed gifts from a large Christmas Tree to each child present; also oranges, sweets and nuts.—Kate Armstrong, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH—On December 27th we held a Christmas Party. A good number were present to tea, other friends arriving later. At 7 o'clock Santa Claus arrived and presented each child with a present from the Christmas Tree. Fruit and sweets were given. Games were arranged during the evening and the party broke up at 10-30 p.m.—M. Fielder, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Darnall.—January 6th saw our third Anniversary. The services were conducted by our new Assistant Conductor. The hymns, recitations and solos and remarks in the afternoon were well rendered. The marching and calisthenics were exceedingly well performed.

The evening service was taken by the Lyceum. Recitations and solos were given by young Lyceumists. Remarks on musical readings were made by the elders. Altogether a most enjoyable day was spent in the service of the angels.—M. Jones, Sec.

Late Reports.

DEWSBURY.—On the 1st, 2nd and 5th of January we held a series of At Homes, when "Pearl, the Fisher Maiden" was given with great success. The Hosts and Hostesses for the three nights were: Mr. and Mrs. Squires, Mr. and Mrs. Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Peel. Much credit is due to our coach, Mrs. W. Holdsworth, who took a principal part herself, got the other principals to as near perfection as possible, and finished a good week by handing over £25 4s. to the Building Fund.—J. E. Nixon, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—On January 6th we held our Open Session. S.C. by Walter Taylor. M.R. by Mr. Baxter, Clara Waterhouse and Herbert Thornley. G.C. by Sydney Hudson. Marching and calisthenics were gone through. Recitation from Maggie Nelson. Conductor spoke a few encouraging remarks, appreciated by all.—H. Baxter, Sec.

LANCASTER.—The Election of Officers took place on Dec. 30th, the result being:—Conductor, Mr. Stephenson; Assistant Conductor, Mr. John Kirk; Guardian, Mr. Kirk, Sen.; Secretary, Miss Swale; Treasurer, Mr. Bleasdale; Musical Conductor, Miss M. Townson; Captain of Guards, Mr. A. Nelson; Guards, Leslie Rushworth, Robert Brown, Sarah Townson, Bertha Dodd, Isobel Dodd; Assistant Guard, Mrs. Spiers; Assistant Musical Conductor, Miss V. Such; Banner Secretary, Mrs. Thompson; Group Leaders, Mr. F. Ball, Miss Makin, Miss Swale, Mrs. Beatty, Miss Boushill, Miss Sharples, Mrs. Ball, Miss Horne; Mr. J. Kirk, Mr. Bleasdale, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Kirk, Sen.

On January 5th we held our Lyceum Treat, which was a huge success. We seated about 180 to tea, and afterwards there were games and competitions for the young Lyceumists. For the little ones under 10 years the men erected a chimney, down which Father Christmas sent each one a toy. It was a very busy but happy time. Greetings.—Marion Swale, Sec.

LONDON, Clapham.—Our New Year Party on January 10th, at which about 130 Lyceumists and friends were present, was voted a huge success. A good tea, followed by games, in which Uncles Bert and Smiles heartily joined. The distribution of gifts from the large Christmas Tree, and songs, banjo solos, and a sketch by Lyceumists brought a very happy evening to a close.

On January 20th our A.G.M. resulted in our Conductor (Mrs. Barnard) entering her 7th year of office, and our finances satisfactory.—(Miss) G. M. Todman, Sec.

LONDON, Walthamstow.—On January 19th we had our Annual Tea, seventy-two Lyceumists and friends taking part. After tea we were joined by Church members, and all spent a happy time together.—(Mrs.) M. Chignell, Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—Election of Officers for 1924:—Conductors, Mr. Edmunson and Mr. Leigh; Secretary, Mr. Rushton; Registrar, Mrs. Challinor; Musical Conductors, Mrs. Pimblott and Miss Hulley; Guardian, Mr. Stanley Fearick; Leaders of Groups, Mrs. Halstead, Holland, Read, Rushton and Mr. Leigh; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Halstead, Miss Olliver, Mr. Edmunson and Mr. Leigh; Librarian, Mr. Edmunson.

PRESTON, Progressive.—On Boxing Day we gave an Operetta, entitled "Santa Claus in Japan," with great success, and by request repeated same on December 29th and January 5th. Much praise was given to the organisers, Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Davies, and Mr. W. C. Mason as musical director.—D. G. Davies, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—On January 6th Open Session. There was a remarkable attendance of scholars and friends. The marching and calisthenics were very good, also pearls and recitations. We had visitors from Baker Street and also the Conductor from Denton, who wished us success in the future.

At 6-30, Mr. W. Turner read a service of song, entitled "The Answered Prayer," which was much appreciated by all. We are hoping that he will write another before long, this being his first attempt.—E. Joules, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Heaton Norris.—We held our Annual Tea Party and Concert on December 29th and had an enjoyable time.

On January 13th we held our Open Sessions. Pearls, recitations and solo were given by the children; a few friends present. At evening service we had a service of song, entitled "The Answered Prayer" written by Mr. Willie Turner. We thank our brother for his services and all Lyceumists who helped to make our children's day a great success.

WEST MELTON.—Open Session. Mr. Lee conducted. Invocation by Mrs. Trigger. Recitations and pearls by M. Staley, Mr. Lee, M. Walton, M. Farrar, N. Hallworth, M. Peat, H. Kenning, M. Fielding, E. Rawlinson, M. A. Speight, J. Kenning, D. Paskell, J. Farrar, J. Staley, L. Hullworth and G. Peniluna. Mr. Lee conducted marching and M. Walton conducted calisthenics. Jos. Darby gave the Benediction.—Harry Trigger.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

RULE 1.—Reports must be written in ink or typed on one side of the paper only. Commence the Report by stating the name of your Lyceum, and sign your name at the end.

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after Jan. 23rd.

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

Additional words to be paid for at the rate of 6d. for every nine words. This Rule does not apply to Lyceums numbering fewer than 30 members.

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than Feb. 20th, to ensure insertion in the March issue.

RULE 5.—Colonial Reports, if posted to the Lyceum Banner within 7 days after the events reported, will be inserted in the next issue after receipt at the "Banner" Office.

BEDWORTH.—Open Session on January 6th. Recitations given by P. Allsop, F. Ison, M. Wood, V. Walker, S. J. and C. G. Chapman, a song was given by the Liberty Group.—Mr. H. Wood, sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On January 6th, we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists recited: Charlie Ellis, Margaret Ellis, May Duman, Gladys McClelland, Ethel George, Edna George, Eva Williams, Mabel Proffit, Ida Hemsall, Letty Simpson, Florrie Leighton, and Esther Dunn. Mr. Edwards also obliged, and we had a solo by Percy Woodley. Many pearls were given and we are giving every encouragement to the very young ones, and they are making great efforts for such small people.—A. M. Hemsall, Sec.

BIRSTALL.—On December 30th, a very impressive Dedication service was conducted by Mrs. H. Spencer, of Ossett, the child named was Evelyn Rawson: Spirit name, Faith. The

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rawson. The child is a member of our Lyceum.—Mr. H. Spencer, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—Our Family enjoyed to the full the annual New Year's Tea Party, when aged and young were just happy children sending forth sunshine, smiles and thoughts of progress to all. All enjoyed the little gifts from the Xmas Tree, when it was felt that accompanying them was the real power and gift of eternal good from the Lyceum. It was just a gathering home of Brothers and Sisters, a scene the world might do well to look upon. A picture of pure Spiritual joy, a gathering of souls released and in the flesh, displaying a power and strength unknown in its entirety but insistent upon sending forth Lyceumism and Spiritualism with great impetus into the coming year.—T. Connor, Sec.

BRADFORD, Boynton Street.—We held our Lyceum Tea on Boxing Day and Mr. Robinson distributed the Prizes to the scholars. Father Christmas gave each scholar a present from the Christmas Tree and we all spent a lovely evening together.—Mrs. Ward, Sec.

BRADFORD, Harker Street.—We held our Open Sessions on January 6th. All the Lyceum scholars responded well. Trio: B. Hirst, F. Kellett and G. Worsman. Duets: E. Farrow and M. Simpson, M. Leach and O. Hodgson. Recitations: M. Thompson, V. Lightowler, M. Bowers. Solos: N. Cousins and Mr. Farrow.—Miss Farrow, Sec.

BURNLEY, North Street.—We held our Open Session on January 6th. We are pleased to report another well attended Session. The following Lyceumists contributed to an excellent programme: songs by Molly Daly Lofthouse, Hilda and Ada Coates, Harry Dugdale, recitations by Edith Blakey, Clara Cowban, Ada Dugdale, Alice Ann Wolfenden, Emma Cudworth, Lizzie Davies, Violet Clemence and Arthur Clapham. Credit is due to our Guardian, Miss B. Laycock, for the able manner in which she fulfils her duties on our Open Sessions. Greetings to all.—May Wagner, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On January 6th we held our Annual General Meeting. The following were elected. Conductor, Mr. Heath; Assistants, Mr. E. Hobster and Miss G. Hemingray; Secretary and Treas., Mr. J. J. Hobster; Guardian, Mrs. Siddall; Capt. of Guards, Lily Marriott; Guards, W. Webb and Irene Marriott. Session Secretary, Harold Lee; Librarian and Delegate, Mr. C. Pleasance; Marching Conductor, Mr. E. Hobster; Group Leaders, Mr. Heath, Mr. Pleasance, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Beckett, Mr. E. Hobster, Mrs. Heath, Miss Hemingray, and Gladys Machment. Fraternal greetings are extended to all Lyceumists throughout the world.—John Jos. Hobster, Sec.

DARWEN.—On January 6th we held our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. The principal officers elected are: Conductor, Mr. T. Harwood; Secretary, Mr. J. Nightingale; Treasurer, Mr. G. Kirkham; Guardian, Miss M. Leaver; Calisthenic Leader, Alice Simm; Marching Leader, Alan Howarth; Librarian, William Howarth. Greetings to all Lyceumists.—Mary Allen, Banner Sec.

DENTON.—January 13th, we held our Open Session. We had a very pleasing ceremony, when the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Cobourne was named by Mr. Wright. Spirit name, Truth. School was full. Praise was given to the Leaders. Great praise is due to the medium, Mrs. Burtenwood, for the uplifting she gave to the people.—Miss J. Ogden, Sec.

DONCASTER, Spring Gardens.—January 13th, Open Session. Conductor, Mr. Ockleford. Invocation, Miss Moseley. Pearls, duets, solos and recitations by M. Overton, G. Taylor, N. Whitley, L. Woodcock, H. and F. Keighley, G. and D. Eastwood, A. Baker, H. Stubbings, R. Smith, Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Quinton. Mr. Fowle ably presided at the piano. Very good attendance.—W. Moseley, Sec.

EARBY.—On January 6th we held our Open Session and the following recitations were given by girls: A. Taylor, M. Aldersley, Elsie Clark, P. Hunter, M. Ennis, Q. Dawson, E. Tillotson, E. Taylor, D. Haynes, M. Nicol, E. Murray, E. Clark, D. Nuttall, A. Greenhalgh; Boys, H. Foster, R. Haynes, S. Warrington, A. Lodge, G. Millward, W. Moore, B. Taylor, A. Bannister. Songs were also rendered by the young Lyceumists; also a solo by Mr. Geo. Bradley, which was appreciated. A very enjoyable Session.—T. Clark, Sec.

EDINBURGH, 9, Forth Street.—On December 21st, we held an excellent and successful Christmas Tree Party. About 100 Lyceumists and friends were present, each received a gift from

the tree. We were delighted to have with us Mr. E. Spencer, of Brighton, who made an excellent M.C.

On December 23rd and 30th we held Open Sessions; all items being well rendered.—Edith Riddell, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—On January 5th we had our Lyceum Tea Party, which was enjoyed by all present, close on 200 sitting down to tea. On January 6th we held our Open Session. Recitations were given by Phyllis Jordan, Alice Yates, Isabella Church. Solos by Agnes Cristopherson and Edna Shaw. Pearls were given by many of the children. We had with us Mrs. Pickles, the speaker for the day, also Mrs. Nurse. Both of them spoke a few words to the Lyceumists, giving them some good food for thought. We had a very pleasant afternoon.—Mrs. F. Benson, Sec.

FOLESHILL, Broad Street.—Open Session held on January 6th. Recitations by Lyceumists, also Shore Group sang Bright Spirit Star. Solo Miss D. Orton.—E. Hutton, Sec.

JARROW.—On Christmas Day, we held our Annual Lyceum treat, about seventy children sat down to a good tea. We had a Christmas tree, well laden with presents. Mr. W. Harrison, Assistant Conductor, as Father Christmas, gave the children their presents. When leaving each one received a bag of fruit, bringing a happy day to a close.—Mrs. R. Overton, Sec.

KETTERING.—The Xmas Party was held on December 27th, 88 children sat down to tea. After tea the children indulged in games and later in the evening Father Xmas visited and delighted the children with giving them all presents from the Xmas Tree. The parents of our Lyceumists were invited to the social evening, and quite a merry time was spent. Refreshments were supplied later. Success is due to all those who have our Lyceum movement at heart.—Frank Holland, Sec.

LEEDS PSYCHO.—At our Election of Officers held on December 30th, 1923, the following Lyceumists were selected to hold office for half year ending June, 1924: Conductor, Miss Lucas; Asst. Conductors, Miss Byers, Mr. Gascoigne, Miss H. Battersby; Treasurer, Mr. Russell; Secretary, Mr. A. Daisley; Captain of Guards, Mr. F. Hunter; Marching Conductors, Mr. J. Gascoigne, Jr., Mr. S. Hancock; Leader of Calisthenics, Miss Ivy Brown; Leaders of Marching, Misses Daisley and Gascoigne and Masters Smith and Webster; Delegate to Church, Mr. Jenkins; Guards, Misses Brown, Daisley and Gascoigne, Masters Sissons, T. Webster, A. Webster, H. Daisley; Pianist, Miss Hudson. Best wishes to all Lyceumists.—A. Daisley, Sec.

LEICESTER.—Rupert Street.—On December 30th, we had our election of officers: Conductor, Mr. J. H. Wicks; Assistant Conductor, Miss A. Clarke; Leaders, Mr. J. Jayes, Misses E. Wicks, Alice Clarke, P. Goldsmith and C. Greenough; Treas., Miss Doris Goldsmith; Guards, Mr. S. Smith, Master E. Clarke, Alice Bingley.

January 6th, Open Session. The following Lyceumists took part: Misses Starton, Sargent, P. Goldsmith, P. Smith, A. Bingley, Master L. Kenny and Mr. A. Wells.—J. Wicks, Sec.

PLAISTOW.—On January 13th we held our Annual Tea and Prize Distribution, and had a most enjoyable time. Miss E. Connor distributed the prizes, the attendance medal being won by Mabel Cobham. Our President, Mr. Wright, gave us a few words of encouragement in conclusion.

On Sunday 14th, Election of Officers: Co-Conductors, Miss Ward and Mr. Manning; Secretary, Mr. C. Giles; Treasurer, Miss H. Giles; Guardian, Miss V. Causeway; Group Leaders, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Chapman and Master F. Giles. Wishing a successful year to all.—C. H. Giles, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Cheetham Hill.—The Lyceum held their Annual Party on January 1st, and had a most enjoyable time. A large number sat down to tea, after which we had games, two sketches and some fancy dancing from the children, all enjoyable. Mr. Tinker presented the prizes.—Sam Briggs, Sec.

MOSTON.—On January 6th, 1924, we held our election of officers: Conductor, Mr. A. Collinge; Asst., Miss A. Eden; Secretary, Miss E. Eden, Asst., Mr. Settle; Treasurer, Mr. Shearsmith; Musical Conductor, Miss Mackay, Asst., Mr. Cooper and Miss S. Halland; Marching Leader, Mr. Smith; Calisthenic Conductor, Miss E. Eden, Asst. Miss A. Stevens, Mr. A. Pearse, Misses E. Haith, P. Gaith, D. Haith; Group Leaders, males, Mr. Hall and Mr. Parkinson; females, Mrs. A. Eden and Miss Parkes; Guardian, Mr. A. Pease; Captain of Guards, E. Haith; Guards, M. Daniels and N. Parkinson; Marching Leaders, males, 1st, Mr. A. Pearse, 2nd, Mr. H.

Cooper; Deputy Leader, Mr. Hall. Females, 1st, E. Haith, 2nd, A. Stevens; Deputy Leader, Miss L. Halland; Flower Secretary, Miss E. Eden; Delegates for Council, Mr. Hall and Mr. Settle. A vote of thanks was given to all retiring officers.—Miss E. Eden, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Pendleton.—On January 13th we held our Open Sessions, and they were both well attended by visitors from other Lyceums. The whole of both sessions were well conducted by the children and there were two pianoforte solos, one in the evening and the other in the afternoon. Visitors were well pleased and commented favourably on the children's efforts. All friends welcomed.—J. Shaw, Sec.

MOORTHORPE AND SOUTH ELMSALL.—We had an Open Session on January 6th. Prizes to the number of 60 were presented to our scholars by Mrs. J. E. Ward, of Castleford, who also conducted the services. On December 30th we held our Election of Officers: Miss Dorothy Poxton was elected Conductor; Hilda Dawson and Cris. Roberts Guards; Mr. Roberts, Marching Conductor; Miss Eva Kelly, Treasurer; and Mrs. Dawson, Secretary.

NELSON. On December 23rd we had our Annual Prize Distribution, when Mr. Spencer, an old Lyceumist, presented 53 prizes to Lyceumists. May this event live long in his memory.

On January 6th our Open Session was held. Various items were given by the following: Misses Boothman, Leach, Terry, Lloyd, Middlebrook, Poutney, Ellis, Pearson, Jackson, Atherton, Greenwood and Higgins, and Masters Forrest, Ellis, Horsefield, Haythornwaite, Pidwell and Mr. Pearson (Conductor). An old Lyceumist, W. H. Eyre, was with us on this occasion. He opened out past memories by rendering a poem and speaking a few words of encouragement.—Mrs. Parkinson, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Rutherford Street.—During Lyceum Session, January 20th, a very impressive service was carried out by our Conductor, Mrs. Price, in the naming of a child, third son of Mr. Geo. Sample Dawson. Material name of Cecil Hugh Magill given, and the Spirit World gave it the name "Courage." Flowers were presented by all younger members of Lyceum.—A. Carr, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—January 6th, Open Session conducted by Mr. Wood, S.C. by Harold Ogden, M.C. by C. Howarth, A. Hoarwrth, Lena Ogden, G.C. by Mr. Wood. Service rendered by the following Lyceumists: Mrs. Chappell, Fozzard, Norbury, Misses Fielding, Pointon, Norbury, Palmer, Woods, Mr. Norbury, Mr. Woods, R. Chappell, F. Chappell, Leonard Ogden, F. Henshaw, Mr. Handish, H. Bayliss. January 6th, Social and Distribution of Prizes.

On February 16th, our Jazz Band will give a grand Concert and Social, all Lyceumists and friends invited.—E. Norbury, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott Street.—On December 30th we held our Election of Officers, which resulted as follows: Conductor, Mrs. Platt; Assistants, Miss Renshaw and Mr. Platt; Secretary, Mr. V. Slater; Assistant, Mr. R. Ashworth; Calisthenic Conductors, Miss Renshaw, Winnie Rooks, Fred Millward and Richard Ashworth; Guardians, Miss Whittles, Winnie Rooks, Mr. Clayton, Mr. R. Ashworth.—Victor Slater, Sec.

OLDHAM, Hooper Street.—First Lyceum tea party, and prize distribution, held on January 5th. Children gave concert entitled "Dream of Nursery Rhymes." Great success, large attendance.—A. W. Goulden, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH, Francis Avenue.—Well rendered items given by Masters J. and W. Hunt. The Misses Violet, Rhoda and Rose Haggard. Cyril Fletcher and Alfred Harman.—H. C. Guy Jan.

QUARMBY.—Open Session held January 13th. We were favoured with a song by our youngest Lyceumists, also two solos by Miss Illingworth and Miss Shaw. Recitation, Miss Jury.—H. Baxter, Sec.

READING.—I have to record with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow the passing into higher life of Mr. House, father of six of our Lyceumists. Our Lyceum shows improvement in many respects. We are working for greater efficiency. Our Christmas Tree was a huge success. "The Workers Win."—C. R. Churn, Sec.

SALFORD CENTRAL.—Annual Social and Prize Distribution, 26th December. Many friends spent an enjoyable evening. January 13th, Assistant D.Vs. present, giving a mixed

report. Next Open Session 3rd February. Fraternal greetings to all.—W. E. Bennett, Sec.

SOUTH MANCHESTER.—On New Year's day the above Lyceum held their Annual Tea Party and Festival. Over 200 members and friends sat down to an excellent tea. Great credit was given to our caterer, Miss L. Eastwood and assistants, for a hearty repast. The children enjoyed themselves immensely and the elders joined in the fun and frolic. Much enjoyment was caused by the shower of ribbons and balloons among the children and King Carnival reigned supreme until Father Xmas came along to distribute the presents from the Xmas tree which was very heavily laden. Each child received a gift from Father Xmas. Those not present through sickness were not forgotten.—Albert Hope, Sec.

SCARBOROUGH.—On Thursday, December 27th, we held a Social and Christmas Tree. Good attendance and a very enjoyable time. A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all Lyceums.—H. Middleton, Sec.

SOUTH SHIELDS, Fowler Street.—The Election of Officers for 1924 resulted as follows: Conductor, Mr. Robertson; Assistant, Mrs. Bell; Secretary, Mr. Smith; Treasurer, Miss Short; Musical Conductor, Mr. Ainley; Organist, Miss Short; Assistants Misses Dagg, Gillart, Stanger, Atkinson; Guards Capt., Mr. Berry; Guardian, Miss Robertson; Auditors, Mr. Givens, Miss Dagg.—R. Smith, Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Brunswick Street.—On December 28th we held our Annual Christmas Party. After a most enjoyable tea Mr. J. Brown came in as Father Christmas. While everything was quiet Mrs. Harrison assisted the children with some paragraphs entitled Christmas Tide which was most enlightening. Later Mr. J. Brown with the assistance of Mrs. Westbrook distributed presents from a large tree loaded with toys. Afterwards we had games and dancing. A most enjoyable and successful time.—Geo. Tuck, Sec.

STOCKTON, Cecil Street.—On December 26th a Treat was given to the young Lyceumists, sweets, games, refreshments, etc., provided a grand time for 90 happy people. The Conductor and his helpers were appreciated.

January 6th, Open Session. The weather spoiled the Band Parade which precedes our Open Sessions. All readings were well rendered. Motto for 1924 is "Love one another."—G. A. Atkinson, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Hillsboro Bridge.—On Sunday, January 13th the following Officers were elected: Conductor, Mrs. Organ; Assistant, Miss E. Organ; Secretary, Mrs. Jennings; Treasurer, Mr. Gregory; Guardian, Miss Sargent; Marching Conductor, Miss Congreaves; Musical Conductor, Eric Organ; Assistant, Bertha Wilson; Captain of Guards, Gladys Charlton; Guards, Phyllis Middleton and Albert Hindle.—Mrs. Organ.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—January 1st we held our annual Children's Treat, when about 200 sat down to tea, afterwards played games and a very enjoyable time was spent together.

January 6th, monthly Open Session was held conducted by Mr. Armitage, our new Conductor, assisted by Mrs. Thwaites and Mr. Goodhall. Mr. Bacon, president of the Church, also Mr. Saxelby, our retiring conductor, spoke very nicely to the children. Pearls and recitations were given by Lyceumists. Our thanks are extended to all who took part in making this a successful day. Best wishes are accorded to retiring officers.—J. F. Smith, Sec.

SUTTON IN ASHFIELD.—On January 20th the services were conducted by Lyceumists. Calisthenics, solos, recitations and speeches were given by the children. Collections amounted to £2.

February 3rd, Open Session and Prize Distribution. A cordial invitation to all.—E. Carr.

WISBECH.—The Annual Tea Party took place on January 9th, and was well attended. We enjoyed a happy evening and wish to thank all helpers and friends.—H. C. Butter, Sec.

WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—On 16th January we held our Annual Tea and Prize Distribution, when 55 scholars received prizes for attendance and efforts. A very happy evening was spent. Games of all sorts being heartily entered into. Mrs. Myers Clegg presented the girls' prizes and Mr. Khron, the Past President of the church, to the boys. Mr. Khron also gave two prizes himself to the scholar who has written the best essay on the word, "Amen." After the tea the parents of the scholars were invited and turned up in good numbers.—H. Watthey, Sec.