

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

## ICELAND.

By JAMES KNIGHT.

**Plants.** The vegetation presents the characteristics of an Arctic-European type. There are over 400 species known; many of these have but a struggling existence. Birch and Willow and Mountain Ash are almost the only trees and they are very dwarf, from 3 to 10. ft. in height. A few attain 13 to 20 ft. The grasses are of the greatest importance to the islanders, for the summer and winter food of their live stock. Grass is only found in the warmer valleys, which penetrate to a considerable distance inland; and in patches, here and there all over the island. Heather is also plentiful, and plays a prominent part in the feeding of sheep.

These, among others are also found. Alepemilla, Wild-Geranium, Saxifrage, Iceland Moss, Poppies, Parnassia, Avens, Gentians, Harebells, Forget-me-nots, Yellow Bedstraw, Guerns, Renunculus, Wild Thyme, Campion, Catchfly, Asphodel, Meadow roses, Meadow Rue, Clover, Meadow Sweet and Buttercups.

**Fish.** There are some 70 species around the coasts, and in the Lakes, Rivers and Streams. The whale, cod and shark fisheries are amongst the most important in the world. You may get some idea of the importance of these fisheries, when I tell you that they export near 20,000 tons of fish, and near 80,000 barrels of fish oil, valued at over £350,000 annually. These fisheries give employment to about 20,000 people. I want you to understand they have free trade, free fishing, free shooting; there are no signboards 'trespassers will be prosecuted'; you may go anywhere; no walls, no hedges. So it is no wonder that foreign fishermen have come with their boats and nets, in increasing numbers every year. France sends some 350 boats manned by about 6,000 men and boys. There are also boats from Norway, the Faroes Islands, and steam trawlers from England. They have developed the herring, cod, halibut, and plaice fishing to such an extent that enormous quantities of fish are carried to their several markets all over Europe.

**The People** are mostly Lutherans in religion, and very conservative in all their ways, superstitious and shy, but kindness itself to visitors. They have few schools, but every home where there are children, is a school; so that they are fairly well educated. They are great readers, and have well stocked libraries, and their own newspapers. The population numbers about 96,000; but, like the Isle of Man, many of its sons and daughters have to seek a living in other lands. They are hard hit for travelling, they have no trains, trams, or wheeled conveyance, and what roads they have are like sheep tracks, mostly made by the horses in their journeys over the island. Almost everything has to be carried on horseback, making it almost impossible to develop trade or manufactures. The postman goes his round four to six

times a year. He usually has ten horses, he rides the leader and to its tail is tied the next horse, and to it the next, and so with the remainder. Each, with the exception of the leader, have huge baskets or boxes, painted red, hung over their backs on each side, and in this way they cover very long journeys over mountains, snowfields, glaciers, marshes and valleys, their loads never growing less, for when they deliver letters or parcels they receive others for despatch. Breakfast is the great meal of the day. It is called *Dagmal*—the day meal, with the exception of a drink of milk mid-day meals are unknown.

Nearly the whole of their food has to be imported, though in recent years they have grown large quantities of potatoes, turnips, and rhubarb. The shortness of cereals have caused the Islanders to partake largely of fish, including whale and shark and other kinds and some of the sea birds. These are not good for children or the old people and cause considerable sickness. Another source of sickness is their want of cleanliness, especially outside their homesteads; all manner of refuse is flung outside causing endless work for the doctors. Another cause of sickness is their shoes which are made of sheepskin. They are really but tectotallers, bringing many varieties of rheumatism and fevers. But brighter days and wealthier times are coming.

Coal and wood have to be imported, so for fires they gather the dung of sheep, horses and cattle, fish-oil, blubber, or anything that will burn. A friend tells me that great changes regarding fire and light and motive power, are on the way.

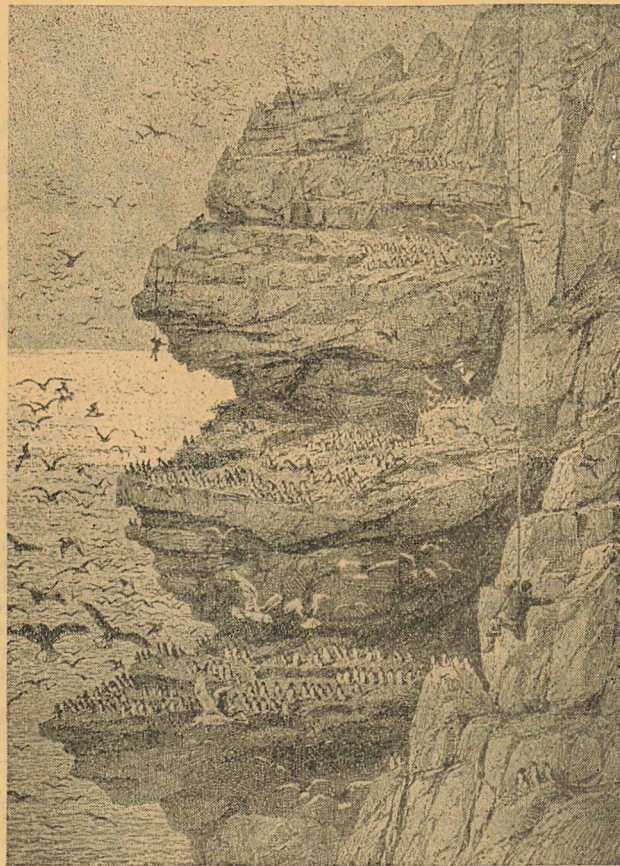
A company is being formed to make use of the principal rivers and falls to convert their energy into electric power and for capturing Nitrogen from the air, and by it producing a valuable fertiliser for the soil, so that bigger and better crops may be grown. The power it is proposed to generate will be sufficient to provide light and electric fires for a large area and produce, for export, large quantities of artificial manure, thus adding greatly to the wealth, not only of Iceland, but of the world. There are almost inexhaustible materials, for the production of enormous quantities of nitrates and sulphates, that must benefit the whole of Europe, and bring great wealth into Iceland, enabling them to drain the marshes, make better

roads, and develop their woollen factories, and other productive agencies.

Who shall say what these changes shall do for these Icelanders? They must change the condition of their homes, making them sweeter and healthier, to enable them to do many things for the welfare of the whole community.

May the angels bring them a religion of Love, and an absolute assurance of a continuity of life, in a Heaven of Progress, where all shall have the opportunity of improving their spiritual condition and usefulness.

Yours,  
JAMES KNIGHT.



### Baby Plants, and how they are born,

(The Lyceum Guild Nature Study Article).

By MARGARET E. LAWTON.

#### III.—LIVERWORTS.

The *Liverworts* are amongst the lowliest of land plants, and seem to form one of the first stages in the change from life in water to life on land. So far, in the Green Algae and the Seaweeds, we have considered only plants whose lives were spent under water. The *Liverworts* can live either in water or on land, but, since part of their life story can only happen in the presence of moisture, they are to be found in damp surroundings. Moist woods, dripping walls, low on hedgerows, or the banks of streams, are all likely homes for *Liverwort* plants. They are lovers of pure air, and so thrive best in the countryside away from the smoky air of busy towns. Some species cling tightly around tree trunks, others creep along bare soil, whilst others again flourish near waterfalls, where they are frequently splashed or even submerged.

Like most lowly plants, the *Liverworts* have no stems, leaves or true roots. As in the *Seaweeds*, the plants are flat and ribbon-like, but are of a beautiful shade of green. Each individual plant consists of a small green thallus in which the upper and lower sides are clearly distinguished. The underside is marked by a brown, strengthening midrib, and numerous, fine brown hairs grow from it. These hairs anchor the plant to the ground. The plants grow in crowded colonies, frequently overlapping each other, and the overlapping parts often act as little water pockets. When growing on walls, the plants form quite a thick covering which completely hides the stonework. Quite a cluster of plants may be torn in one piece from such a home, but they quickly shrivel in a dry atmosphere. The upper surface of the thallus is pitted with tiny pores, which open into air cavities in the plant. These air cells are particularly numerous when the plants grow in strong sunlight. On the other hand, there are few air cells when the plants grow in shaded homes. Fig. I. shows a cluster of *Liverwort* plants, drawn at their natural size.



Fig. I. *Liverwort* thallus with male discs and gemmae cups.

*Liverworts* have two methods of forming new plants. The first method belongs to just a few species and, since it takes place without using the organs of sex, it is known as "vegetative reproduction." In higher plant life, the growth of potato plants from potatoes, and of flowers from bulbs, are other instances of "vegetative reproduction"—or reproduction by bud-like growths. In the *Liverworts*, this form of growth comes from some little cups known as "Gemma cups." Some of these can be clearly seen on both Fig. I. and Fig. III. Each gemma cup has a toothed edge. Growing within the cup, on short stalks, are a number of flat, green biscuit-shaped bodies, each of which is known as a "Gemma." The word "gemma" means a bud. When the gemmae are fully grown, they become free, and if they are scattered on to suitable ground, grow into new *Liverwort* plants.

The real *Liverwort* babies are brought into the world with care. In the *Seaweeds*, the "fathers" and "mothers" grew in special little cells—the conceptacles. In the *Liverwort* plants these germs grow on special structures which can be seen quite easily with the naked eye. The seaweed male and female germs often grow, side by side, in the same conceptacle, but in the *Liverworts* they are always found on separate plants.

The male germs grow on a flat disc, rising from the thallus like a little yellowish umbrella. Some of these can be seen in Fig. I.



Fig. II Male disc cut downwards (enlarged).

Fig. II. is an enlarged drawing showing one of these male discs cut in half downwards, so that the parts can be seen. In the top of the disc are several small spaces, and these form the dwelling-rooms of the father germs. A little club-shaped case can be seen in each room, and when a case is ripe, its skin bursts, and numerous possible father germs are discharged. These are known as "Spermatozooids," and, like the *Seaweed* antherozoids, each one is able to swim by means of two fine hairs.



Fig. III Thallus with female discs.

The female germs also find a home in special stalked discs. Their discs are made up of nine rays or arms, so that, from the distance, they look like tiny green flowers. Some of these are shown in Fig. III. In Fig. IV. one of these female discs is drawn, cut in half downwards, but many times its true size. It can be seen that the mother eggs are formed in flask-shaped bodies which grow in between the rays of the disc. These flasks have long narrow necks, and grow neck downwards. Each flask contains one mother egg. They are well protected by a sheath which grows between the disc rays.

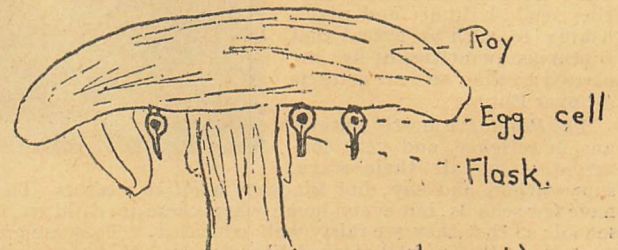


Fig. IV Female disc (enlarged)

In the Spring, both the male spermatozooids and the mother egg cells are ripe. The egg cells attract the spermatozooids towards them. The male germs swim in drops of rain or dew towards the necks of the flasks. Only one spermatozoid father can swim along the neck of the flask to reach the mother egg, to unite with it. This union of the male and female germs is

called *fertilisation*. After fertilisation has taken place, the egg cell becomes a case or capsule, containing not one but many Liverwort babies. Each of these babies is known as a "Spore." The capsule is still connected to the disc by a stalk, and through this stalk it absorbs its food. The old neck of the egg flask becomes disorganised until it is only a protective sheath around the capsule.

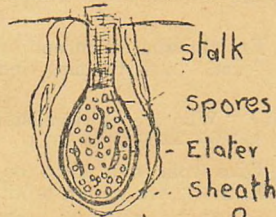


Fig V. A capsule of spores.

Fig. V. is an enlarged drawing of one of these capsules. When the capsule is ripe, the spores must be scattered. For this purpose, special long, thin bodies, known as Elaters, grow in amongst the spores. If moisture touches a capsule, the elaters commence to move, so that, when a capsule bursts, these elaters scatter the spores.

As soon as the spores are free, they commence to germinate or grow. Each spore sends out a tiny tube. At the top of this tube, a small green plate grows, which develops into the new Liverwort plant. The little plant soon anchors itself to its bed, by tiny brown hairs. Then as soon as the plant is established, the spore and the tube decay. Their work is over, for another little plant is now able to take care of itself and lead an independent life amongst the other occupants of the plant world.

(To be continued).

## Our Lyceum Guild.

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

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

### RESULTS OF JANUARY COMPETITIONS.

#### (a) Entries.

From Junior Members (under ten) only three efforts came in; from Members from 10 to 14, six efforts came; from those of 15 to 20 years, five efforts came; and from adults there came in eleven efforts.

#### (b) Prizes.

As a minimum of ten entries was fixed for the prize to be given, there were only sufficient efforts in the adults' section. The winning essay on "All religion has relation to life, and the life of religion is to do good," was sent by Mr. A. Collinge, of Moston Lyceum; to whom the prize, value 10s., has been sent.

The Guild congratulates Mr. Collinge on his success; and also Mr. A. Bramall, of Slaithwaite, and Miss O. Wood, of Keighley, whose essays came second and third respectively, and were highly commended.

#### (c) Comments.

Competitors who disregard the rules spoil their chances of winning. In the event of two or three efforts being equal in respect of subject matter, the prize goes to the competitor who has taken the trouble to write legibly, to spell accurately, and to use the English language correctly.

Verbosity (look it up in a dictionary) weakens the force of a statement.

Some so-called essays received were merely notes, or outlines for essays.

Some lacked originality, 75 per cent. of their matter being quotations from, or paraphrases of, the *Manual Readings*.

Some essays wandered far away from the subject, and so stood no chance of being considered.

### COMPETITION FOR THIS MONTH.

(a) *Drawing* (open to Juniors, and members up to 12).

For the best copy (pen or pencil) of this month's Nature Article illustrations will be given one prize, viz., a six shilling

book, entitled "Verses for Children" (contains 340 pages, and 48 coloured illustrations).

(b) *Essay* (for Members from 13 to 16).

Choose any three proverbs, suitable for pearls, and write a short explanation of each. For the best effort will be given one prize, value five shillings.

(c) *Essay* (for members over 16).

For the best essay on "Everyday kindness to animals" will be given one prize, value five shillings.

### 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.

Do not write *across* a double sheet. Use single sheets, and fasten them at the top left-hand corner.

(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 30th March. (Results will be announced in the *May 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 and if the best one sent in scores not fewer than 75 marks out of 100. (The Guild has 1,662 members.)

### WANTED—FROM MEMBERS.

The Guild Leader will be pleased to receive (i) accounts of work being done, etc., by Guild classes, and (ii) suggestions for future competitions likely to appeal to members.

### OUR SERIES OF ARTICLES.

We have pleasure in giving (elsewhere in this issue) the third instalment of the *Serial Story* for children, and of the *Nature Articles* on plant reproduction. Also, this month, we give another contribution from our tireless worker and faithful helper, Mr. James Tinker. By request, he is writing for the Guild essays on the several subjects set for the Merit Competitions last year, as a guide to future competitors, and also as good general information, of great value to thoughtful Lyceumists. The Guild thanks Mr. Tinker for his willing response and his continued help.

### DONATIONS.

The Guild sincerely thanks the member who generously sent on ten shillings but who wishes no name to be given. Other members, please play up, and help the Guild to continue its efforts, especially paying for the illustrations of the Nature Article (averaging a cost of nineteen shillings per month); and giving prizes for competitions. Any donation, from sixpence upwards, will *help*, and be very welcome.

### ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE SENT TO:—

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

### SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

Since the last Council meeting on Dec. 1st, 1923, I have visited Heywood William St., on Dec. 9th. Five minutes late start with 15 scholars present; 5 more coming late. S.C., M.R. and Golden Chain very good. Pearls numerous, solos and duets good. Marching and calisthenics dispensed with on account of business meeting. Improved from last visit.

On Jan. 13th a new Lyceum opened in the Helliwell St. Church, assistance being given from the Penn Street and Reger.t Hall Lyceums also on the 20th. This Lyceum with capable officials using tact and discretion should be of great assistance to the Church. They were very thankful for the help from the Council and the two Lyceums mentioned.—A. HUDSON, D.V.

## The Education Examinations.

### THE EXAMINATIONS.

On 17th February the B.S.L.U. Education Examinations in six Grades were held at 117 different centres. There were just over 1,500 entrants, and the papers of those who took the examinations are now in the hands of the Examiners. As all the Examiners are voluntary workers, and with but little leisure time, they cannot mark all the papers in less than six weeks. After then, at least another three weeks are needed to enter up each candidate's marks, to compile the Lists of Results, to make out over 1,000 certificates, and to dispatch them to the 117 Lyceums concerned.

Will candidates please note this, and wait patiently till about the third week in May to learn their results.

The Committee sincerely thanks all candidates, all Tutors, all Conductors, and all Secretaries for their interest, their help, and their efforts in the cause of Lyceum Education.

### THE QUESTIONS.

The questions set are given in full, as a guide to candidates' future studies and preparation; and also in the hope of convincing all present non-candidates that the work is within the scope of every Lyceumist of average ability, and is worth the studying, to lay a foundation of fact and knowledge for future work in and for Lyceumism.

### ORAL GRADE QUESTIONS.

From the *Oral Grade Primer*, each child was required to repeat—

1st (20 marks). *Either* S.C.R. 19 (on page 6), *or* S.C.R. 15 (on page 5).

2nd (20 marks). The Principles of Spiritualism, in answer to Question 31, on page 21.

Marks.	If over 8 years.	If under 8 years.
3rd (10)	Answer to Question 2, on p. 11, or Question 1, on p. 11.	
4th (10)	" " " 5, " 11, " " 2, " 11.	
5th (10)	" " " 10, " 13, " " 5, " 11.	
6th (10)	" " " 15, " 16, " " 10, " 13.	
7th (10)	" " " 23, " 18, " " 23, " 18.	
8th (10)	" " " 29, " 19, " " 25, " 19.	

### GRADE I. QUESTIONS.

1. Explain the meaning of one of these verses:—

(a) "But when the heart is full of din,  
And doubt beside the portal waits,  
They can but listen at the gates,  
And hear the household jar within."

(S.C.R. 66, verse 4.)

or (b) "Not high-sounding words of praise  
Does God want 'neath some grand dome;  
But that thou the fallen raise;  
Bring the poor from life's highways

To thy home."—(S.C.R. 93, verse 3.)

2. What is meant by either:—(a) "A beautiful home, musical with loving voices, is the nursery of heaven."—(M.R. 208.)

Or (b) "Never mix thou thy pleasure or thy pride with sorrow of the meanest thing that feels."—(M.R. 211.)

3. Say all you can about either:—(a) How children are taken care of when they enter the Spirit world,

Or (b) How children are taught their lessons in the Spirit World.—(G.C.R. 139, and Handbook No. 1.)

4. Either:—(a) Pretend that you are one of the little daughters of Mr. John David Fox, and tell your experiences in the haunted house up to the time of leaving it to go to Rochester:—(Handbook 1.)

Or (b) What would you tell a friend, who is not a Lyceumist, about what A. J. Davis saw and learned in his visions that caused him to start Lyceums on earth?

—(G.C.R. 148, and Handbook 1.)

5. Either:—(a) Write out the principles of Spiritualism; and explain the meaning of the Principle you like best;

—(Handbook 1.)

Or (b) Say all you can about three of these Pioneers—Mr. E. W. Capron, Mr. George Willetts, Mrs. Tamlin, Rev. S. B. Brittain, and Judge Edmonds.—(Handbook 1.)

### GRADE II. QUESTIONS.

1. Explain either:—

(a) How we can be "A true disciple  
Sitting at our Father's feet."—(S.C.R. 4.)

or (b) What is meant by:—

"It does not foster vanity, by fashion is not owned;  
But makes you love the angels more—by them ~~it~~ has been  
crowned;

It will not bring you gold or power; ambition it won't feed;  
But to sweet peace and happiness triumphantly will lead."

—(S.C.R. 78, verse 6.)

2. Either:—(a) Explain what is meant by "Vicarious atonement for sin," and "a partial and vindictive God."

—(G.C.R. 136.)

Or (b) Answer "Who are Spiritualists?" and How is man "a threefold being?"—(G.C.R. 137.)

3. Either:—(a) Give your own ideas on the teachings and lessons of M.R. 218 "Are we not brothers?"

Or (b) Tell any three of the nine things that M.R. 210 gives as "heavenly" and as "leading into the delights of heaven," and explain how it is true of each of the three ways that you have selected.

4. Either:—(a) Explain the meaning of "All true aspiration, all noble effort, is worship," and give your ideas on how this is true;—(G.C.R. 142.)

Or (b) Name two things in which reform is needed (according to Handbook 2); show why it is needed, in each; and how it could be brought about.

5. Either:—(a) Answer:

In the Handbook (No. 2) the Teachings of Spiritualism are given as seven, viz. :—

(i) Human immortality proved by Spirit Communion.

(ii) The existence of a Spiritual Universe.

(iii) The Naturalness of Mediumship.

(iv) All Spiritual Life and Manifestations are Natural.

(v) Babes Survive in Spirit Life.

(vi) Human Rights are Spiritual Needs.

(vii) Our Duty is to Obey the Laws of Our Being.

Say what you can about any two of these statements;

Or (b) Answer—Of the Principle (No. 4) "The proven facts of communion between departed human spirits and mortals," the Handbook (No. 2) says—"It is the one most necessary to be mentioned. It is our especial principle and practice."

Do you agree with this claim? Give reasons for your answer.

### GRADE III. QUESTIONS.

1. Write a Connective Reading, of about 100 words, to follow one of these verses. Either:—

(a) "Thus, with deeper meaning fraught,  
Viewless mansions all are rearing,  
On their shadowy walls appearing  
All the work our hands have wrought.  
Though we build for scng or story,  
Carve our cross or crown of glory,  
Silently, and very slowly,  
Build we on foundations lowly,  
Laid with word, or deed, or pen,  
Hidden in the hearts of men."

—(S.C.R. 51, verse 2.)

or (b) "Deeds are powerful, mere words weak,  
Battering at high heaven's door.  
Let thy love by actions speak;  
Wipe the tears from sorrow's cheek;  
Clothe the poor."—(S.C.R. 93, verse 5.)

2. Either:—(a) Answer—How does G.C.R. 138 answer the question, "Is it best to die young, or live to old age?" (Use your own words.)

Or (b) "Our proper bliss depends on what we blame."—(S.C.R. 1.) Do you agree with this? Give your reasons for your answer.

3. Either:—(a) Write a summary of the teachings of M.R. 212, "Hand in hand with angels";

Or (b) "He who seeks the truth, and trembles at the dangers he must brave, is not fit to be a freeman, he at best is but a slave."—(M.R. 236.) Explain the meaning of this quotation, and give an example to illustrate the truth of it.

4. Either:—(a) How does G.C.R. 140 answer the questions, "Has the medium influence on the phenomena?" and

"Has the spirit manifesting much effect upon the phenomena?" (Answer in your own words);

Or (b) Explain, as if to an enquirer, what is meant by Trance and Clairaudience.—(Handbook No. 2.)

5. Either:—(a) Christianity teaches that Jesus is the only Saviour of mankind; Spiritualism teaches Personal Responsibility. Show how the two beliefs are directly opposite, and can never be held by one person at the same time.—(Handbook 2.)

Or (b) Give a brief account of the difficulties of the early pioneers of the British Lyceum Movement.—(Handbook 2.)

#### GRADE IV. QUESTIONS.

- (15 marks). You have been asked to prepare a Lyceum Session Programme, and to conduct the Session. Give what songs (hymns), Chain Recitations, and Musical Reading you would select, and state briefly the teaching running through your selections.
- (10 marks). Write out a suitable (brief) Invocation and Benediction.
- (15 marks). Makes notes for a ten minutes' address on G.C.R. 148.
- (15 marks). If you were taking S.C.R. 66 with a Group, preparing for Grade I., to what points would you give special attention, and how would you deal with them?
- (15 marks). Suppose you were taking Musical Reading 236 with a Group studying for Grade III. Give what are, in your opinion, three of the most difficult points, and your explanation of each.
- (15 marks). In the essay on "Love" (Handbook 2) we read, "As our loves are, so we live, but, however long and painful the struggle, the 'ape and tiger' must die, and the manhood be perfected 'from the Divine Love by the Divine Wisdom.'" Give briefly your opinions, in the light of the teachings of the Handbook, about this.
- (15 marks). Give a brief account of the two stalwarts, Harry A. Kersey and Alfred Kitson; and show how the Lyceum Movement is indebted to them.

#### GRADE V. QUESTIONS.

(Four questions to be attempted).

- In Handbook 3, it is claimed that, "It is desirable that students should have some knowledge (obtained at first hand) of the phenomena forming the body of evidence on which Spiritualism stands." (Page 5.) Give accounts of experiences (personal, if possible), of two different phases of Physical Mediumship, and show their evidential value.
- Write an essay on—Spiritualism, philosophically, ethically and religiously considered. (Pages 15 to 18.)
- Show how, "on the basis of mediumship," we can "build up the central principle in our philosophy—The Continuity of Conscious Individual Existence, after the Death of the Physical Body." (Page 21.)
- "They rest from their irksome toils, but their congenial activities follow them." Show how it "has been left for Spiritualism first of all to show the real significance" of this, and secondly "to demonstrate its truth by actual evidence from the other side." (Page 33.)
- How would you answer the usual arguments against Spiritualism put forward by a Materialist?

NOTES.—For all the written examinations (Grades I. to V.), 3 hours were allowed. A maximum total of 100 marks is possible in each Grade.

Only Grade IV. candidates were 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.

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

MR. R. A. OWEN.

Owing to business reasons Mr. R. A. Owen, the Treasurer of the B.S.L.U., is removing to Dublin. As he will be away from Lyceum activities, he regrets he will not be able to continue to serve the Movement as Treasurer after the Annual Conference of the B.S.L.U.

## The Child.

By MRS. M. E. PICKLES.

If we studied the environment of the child and his family more, we should come to the conclusion that he is in just that condition which is best for his development. Education helps to train the character or it may distort it; can enrich his temperament or stunt it.

All along his childish career parents need to observe the varying phases of growth, and help or feed his finer powers. I do not believe in the system of crushing evil habits by harsh methods, but rather helping him to grow out of them, by being exemplars of the highest characteristics.

As I mentioned last month the influences which will affect the growth of the child come into operation in the pre-natal period.

In the drawing together of parents by love, will come the emanations for the building of the psychic and spiritual influence that will be the foundation of the child's whole future.

The purer, the stronger, and the more forceful and spontaneous the love, the purer and the stronger is the physical body likely to be.

A great fact of nature is demonstrated through the physique of the child by the ardent affections of the parents. So, children who owe their physical existence to pure and forceful love, are healthier, and more beautiful than those whose pre-natal life begins in opportunity and unwillingness on the part of the mother. Love in this, as in all else, is the fulfilling of the law.

In the "Sacrament of Sex," by Ernest Marklew, is this dedication:

"To all those who believe, as I do, that in the making and building of men and women

THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN IS LOVE.

Seeing either sex alone is half itself, and in the true marriage lies,

Nor equal, nor unequal, each fulfills,  
Defects in each, and always thought in thought,  
Purpose in purpose, will in will they grow,  
The single pure and perfect animal,  
The two-celled heart, beating with one full stroke—  
Life."

## The Britten Memorial.

OBJECTS:—To establish in Manchester the headquarters of the British Spiritualist Movement, and a National Spiritualist Institute, Museum and Library, to commemorate the lives and labours of our Pioneer Workers.

Trustees:—Mr. J. Burchell (Morecambe), Mr. E. W. Oaten (Manchester), Mr. J. Venables (Walsall), Mr. E. A. Keeling Hon. Treas. (Liverpool).

WE EARNESTLY APPEAL FOR 100,000 SHILLINGS  
BY 2nd OCTOBER, 1924.

MRS. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN, OUR GREATEST PIONEER, passed to Spirit Life on October 2nd, 1899, and we would like to see a start made with the Memorial on the 25th Anniversary of her ascent to the Spirit World.

REMEMBER! MR. HARVEY CARTER has very kindly promised another £500 as soon as a further £1,000 is raised, and against this we have already received £150.

A SOUVENIR BOOK is provided upon which will be inscribed the Donors or Collectors of 100 shillings or more. (This applies to past collectors as well as future).

Remittances are to be sent to the *Honorary Secretary*, by crossed Cheque or Postal Order.

If Treasury Notes are sent letters should be registered.

The Secretary will be pleased to forward further collecting sheets if required.

JOHN JACKSON, Hon. Sec.,

30, Buxton Road, New Mills, nr. Stockport.

## Spirit Children Join in the "Founders Day."

Founders Day was celebrated at Runcorn on January 27th. During the marching, the Lyceumists formed A.J.D., as a special tribute to our beloved Andrew Jackson Davis. A symbolical link was made in the march, between Andrew Jackson Davis in the spirit world, and Alfred Kitson on the earth plane. When the letter K was formed, spirit children filled up the empty space between the points of the K and completed a monogram of the letters K and D. This remarkable manifestation was witnessed by a trustworthy clairvoyant who was present.

# 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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MARCH, 1924.

## Informative Notes to Conductors, Secretaries and Delegates.

The B.S.L.U. Annual Conference has been invited to hold their meetings on June 7th and 8th in Hull. The invitation has been cordially accepted and preparations are being made for a useful Conference. Our previous visits to Hull give us confidence that we shall enjoy the visit and Lyceumists who are fortunate enough to be elected Delegates will require to travel early as the Conference opens at 3 o'clock.

There are a few things for local Secretaries to remember. Forms are being sent to all Lyceums who have paid their annual Fees and should be delivered to the Lyceums before this issue of the BANNER is circulated. The forms include B.S.L.U. Officers nomination Form: Area Representative Form: and Delegates Form. It is imperative that the date of return to the General Secretary should be carefully observed as the Forms will not be operative if sent later.

If any Lyceum fails to receive the forms before March 1st, the Secretary should immediately write to the General Secretary. Last year a few Lyceums did not get the Forms delivered and no Lyceum should be disappointed if the Annual Fees have been paid.

A notification of arrears will be sent during the first week in March to all Lyceums who have not paid the Fees for 1924.

The election of the Area Representative will be conducted under the following regulations:—

### Bye-Law 10.—Election of Management Committee.

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

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

(as defined by the Management Committee). Each area shall elect one representative to the Executive Council in the following manner:—

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

Sec. 3. The names of all the candidates in any area shall be submitted to each Lyceum within the area, at the Lyceum session held in the second Sunday in April in each year, and be voted on by the Lyceumists of voting age then present. The

number of votes cast for EACH candidate shall be recorded by the presiding officer and entered on the ballot form, which shall be returned to the General Secretary within seven days, duly signed by the Lyceum Secretary and Conductor.

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

Sec. 5. In the event of the successful candidate for any area being elected to office in the Union at the subsequent Annual Conference, the candidate in the same area receiving the second highest number of votes shall be co-opted to fill the vacancy thus caused in the Management Committee. Should the successful candidate have been returned without opposition, new nomination forms shall be issued in the area concerned and a new election held not later than 6 weeks after the date of the Conference, or in such time as will allow the new area Representative to take his (or her) place in the Management Committee for July meeting—whichever may be shorter.

The Election of Officers will take place at the Annual Conference. Nominations must reach the General Secretary not later than March 23rd. The official forms must be used in all the nominations and elections and the consent of the nominees must be included with the Nomination Form before sending to the Union's office.

Motions for the Conference Agenda and other conditions are enumerated below.

### Article VII.—Representation at Conferences.

Lyceums in good financial standing with this Union shall be entitled to be represented in its Conferences as herein provided, by

One delegate for each fifty, or part of fifty, names on their register, but three delegates shall be the maximum representation of any one Lyceum.

All delegates must be elected by the Lyceum they are to represent not later than six weeks prior to the Conference, and must be active workers in the Lyceum movement.

Written notice of such election, giving full names and addresses of all delegates, must be sent to the Secretary of the Union, not later than five weeks prior to the Conference, duly signed by the Conductor and Secretary of the Lyceum concerned.

Upon the receipt of such notice the Union's Secretary shall forward to the delegates elected, proper credentials carrying the right to a seat in the Conference.

Affiliated District Councils shall be entitled to two (2) representatives, who shall be elected at the Annual Council Meeting in February, and whose election shall be subject to the foregoing, and subsequent regulations so far as they apply.

The United Districts' Council shall be entitled to one representative whose election shall be subject to the foregoing and subsequent regulations so far as they apply.

### Bye-Law 6—Delegates.

If, because of sickness, or unforeseen circumstances, a delegate is unable to attend any Conference, the Lyceum shall have power to elect another one in his or her place, and apply for the credentials to be exchanged.

### Article VIII.—Business.

All business pertaining to the Union shall emanate from

- (a) The Management Committee;
- (b) The Trustees;
- (c) The Lyceums;
- (d) The District Councils;
- (e) The United Districts' Council;
- (f) Any specially appointed Conference Committees elected by an Annual Conference,

as represented in each Conference. General Business shall be introduced to the Conference by notices of motion and the said notices of motion must be lodged, in writing, with the Secretary of the Union not later than March 23rd, and be included in the published list of motions issued for the Conference.

### Invitations for Conference.

Lyceums or District Councils may invite the Union to hold its Conference meetings in their locality upon agreeing to the following conditions:—

- (a) That the Lyceum Union take all receipts and pay all authorised expenses.
- (b) That all arrangements involving expense shall be

approved and (or) authorised by the Union's Management Committee before they are put in hand.

- (c) That the inviting Lyceum or District Council provide, if possible, hospitality for all accredited members of the Conference.

A few facts and figures are given, which denote the growing strength and activities.

Dec. 31st, 1919.	Lyceums in membership,	213.
Dec. 31st, 1923.	Lyceums in membership,	268.
Dec. 31st, 1919.	Total Lyceumists	.. 10911
Dec. 31st, 1923.	Total Lyceumists	.. 15462

LYCEUM BANNER, 1919: 57,750 copies, 12 pages (without cover) and 12,000 words were contained in each copy.

LYCEUM BANNER, 1923: 65,800 copies, 16 pages and 4 page cover, contained 27,000 words in each copy.

During 1919, BANNERS were supplied to 228 Lyceums.

During 1923, BANNERS were supplied to 251 Lyceums.

1923 Balance to carry forward is £308 12s. 7d.

The valuation of the Union is: General Publishing and BANNER Funds and assets, £1141 17s. 8d.; Lyceum Home Fund: £147 19s. 6d.; £2,000 Effort: £319 13s. 8d.

TEN YEARS' FINANCIAL ANALYSIS B.S.L.U.

General Secretary's Cash to Treasurer.

Yearly Balances and Deficits.

Valuations.

Year	General	Banner	Publishing	Total	Balance	Deficit	Assets	Home Fund	£2000 Effort
1914	41 5 8	181 16 5	268 12 7	509 14 8	33 11 0½	—	1059 12 2½	102 8 2	—
1915	43 15 8	206 18 9	315 6 3	566 0 8	—	57 15 2½	1001 17 0	105 10 10	—
1916	41 5 9	216 5 4	296 1 7	553 12 8	—	59 5 7¾	942 11 4½	108 18 2	—
1917	40 7 11	238 0 11	296 7 2	574 16 0	—	110 11 2	832 0 2½	113 18 0	—
*†1918	81 3 6	310 10 3	651 7 10	1043 1 7	144 19 9½	—	977 0 0	119 0 3	—
1919	95 15 1	296 12 9	646 19 6	1039 7 4	69 19 2½	—	1046 19 2½	124 10 4	—
1920	121 2 0	429 8 3	825 6 5	1375 11 8	—	65 8 2½	981 11 0	130 3 8	10 0 0
*†1921	202 9 3	459 5 3½	836 9 10	1489 4 4½	—	51 11 1½	929 19 10½	136 3 3	171 18 8
1922	195 10 0	400 19 3	583 19 5	1193 4 11	—	96 15 2½	833 4 8	142 7 1	298 2 5
1923	207 19 6	522 1 9	1169 18 2	1899 19 5	308 12 7	—	1141 17 3	147 19 6	319 13 3

\*Increase of Annual Fees.

†Increase of Prices of Publications.

Any Delegate to the Annual Conference can compare the above figures by referring to the Balance Sheets for the period enumerated.

Manual Revision Notes.

Owing to the London motions not having been considered by last Conference, there has since then been no meeting of the National Revision Committee, so that any Revision work that has been done has of necessity been confined to the Lyceums and the District Councils. London is the only Council from which I have received any reports so far, but I am hoping for early news from Sheffield and Tyneside, who some months ago announced the formation of a Committee. Will the Secretaries of these Committees please forward me a copy of the reports presented to their A.G.M.'s?

May I again point out the wisdom of having all ideas and suggestions published in this column, so that they shall be placed before the whole movement. Any Lyceum or Lyceumist is eligible to send in suggestions—for the Manual belongs to us all, and we are all interested in making it the best book in the English language. Also, I should be very pleased to answer any queries of general interest. So be alert, Lyceumists! We don't want to have it said that we don't care what is done to our Manual, so long as somebody else takes the trouble of doing it.

Last month I promised to give some of the London proposals (I do wish they weren't the only proposals); so herewith I present one or two, as suggestions for other Manual-lovers.

It was decided that the Committee's work should be divided into six sections, to be taken in the following order:—

- 1.—Deletions, alterations, substitutions or additions;
- 2.—Bringing the science teachings up to date;
- 3.—Bringing the philosophy teachings up to date;
- 4.—Simplifying the wording, where necessary and practicable;
- 5.—Preparing suggested (a) Children's (b) Adults' Sections;
- 6.—Classifying the whole book for special Sessions, etc.

(It will be seen that there is a full ten year's work mapped out).

The first suggestion arose over S.C.R. 1, "The Divine Order." It was considered that the first reading in the Manual should be the key-note of the book; that No. 1 was hardly that; and, any how, that it was very difficult, and should be removed and a simple metrical version of the Principles put in its place. (The

London Council approved this view, and has offered a prize to the writer of the best S.C.R., not exceeding 28 lines, explaining (or rather stating) the Principles in simple language).

It was also suggested that all S.C.R.'s which were also Musical Readings should be deleted from the section, and a note placed at the beginning of the M.R. section that "M.R.'s . . . can, if desired, be used as S.C.R.'s" (with or without the Connective readings); and that all other S.C.R.'s which could be sung should be removed to the Songs section, with a similar note. This would provide room for additional Silver Chains, without altering the numbering of the other sections.

Each S.C.R. considered has been carefully scrutinised, word by word and line by line, with particular reference to the sense conveyed and to whether the teaching was Spiritualistic. On the latter count S.C. 20 was recommended for deletion, and under the former the first four lines of S.C. 44, verse 3, came in for criticism:—

"Though hearts brood o'er the past, our eyes  
*With smiling features* glisten;  
 Lo, now the dawn lights up the skies,  
*Lean out your souls and listen.*"

The words in italics were criticised as not conveying any sense. Eyes don't have features; and even if we could lean out our souls (whatever that could possibly mean), it would be difficult to hear the dawn lighting up the skies (the original word, however, was "bursts"). On reference to the 1889 edition, it was found that "features" was a misprint of "futures"—which made the sense plainer; but the other lines were the same. The London proposal is that the four lines should be altered to read:

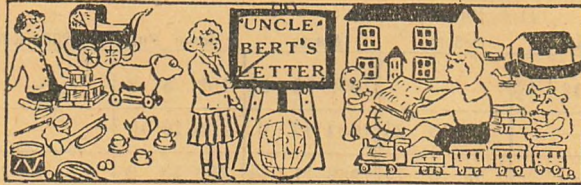
"Though hearts brood o'er the past, our eyes  
 With future hopes are shining:  
 The dawn must soon light up the skies—  
 Away with sad repining!"

These lines have the merit of not only making sense, but of fitting in with the four that follow. But—they are not what Gerald Massey wrote! This raises a problem that must arise

over and over again, if our revision is to be thorough: is it permissible to alter an author's words, and still use his name—even if we say "adapted from"? Would it be wiser and better to omit every reading that will not bear retention without alteration; or should it be frankly declared that ours is only a "version based on ———'s poem?" PLEASE send me your opinions.

Whether London's suggestions (and the above are only some of them) are found acceptable or not, it must be admitted that they are tackling their task earnestly and courageously. Won't the other Districts come in and help?

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



MY DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

As I walked into my garden the other morning I was greeted by a small cluster of tiny white faced friends, surrounded by a host of green spikes. "Good morning, young Snowdrops," I said, "what brings you here again so early in the year?" "Why! we are the forerunners of Spring Messengers, we have come on a mission of love. We are the tiny tots of Spring Flowerland, and very soon, older members of our family, the Crocus, Daffodils, etc., will continue this mission. We shall teach the 'Fatherhood of God,' setting an example to your boys and girls, showing them how they can become messengers of love and sunshine to others."

"That is wonderful," I said, "tell me how you intend to carry out this work of yours, so that I can tell all my boys and girls about you; then I am sure they will look out for your coming, and give you a real Lyceumist greeting."

"Why yes, of course we will, because we are coming to help them to do such a lot of good deeds. You see, we want to visit the sick, your homes, your schools, your Lyceums, we want to brighten the dark places, also the many crowded slums where some children will not see us, unless some of your tiny tots and older members will take us."

"You must explain to them our example, we are loved by all because we are beautiful by nature, and they too, can be just as beautiful as we are if only they try to bring happiness to others by being good and kind at all times."

I fancy I can hear some of you kiddies saying: "It is all very well talking about all these beautiful virtues, but we do not always find it so easy to win good conduct medals every five minutes of the day, we are always trying to be good, and yet however much we try, Mamma has to say, 'Oh you naughty boy or girl several times in the day.'"

You run out to get some milk, and somehow the jug finds its way to the ground, and you return without milk or jug or else you return with an empty jug, having lost the sixpence down some nasty old drain, and you wonder why the drain was not put somewhere else, or again you accidentally tread on the cat's tail, you get blamed for being such a careless little thing, but you did not see pussy in the dark. Then at school you get the cane for talking, when you are only trying to be polite by answering a school fellow's query: Well, I do not wonder you sometimes think it is hard to be good.

Grown up people do not judge your character by the chapter of every day accidents such as these, but by your actions towards others, by the way you respond to the instructions of your parents, etc. These are the things which build up your general character, above all things "Be natural" always, avoid swank and cockiness, remember poorer children are not poor by their own choice; therefore treat them with kindness, accept the flowers' invitation to be used by them to conduct their mission to others, and as you look into the flowers, and say how beautiful they are, remember they have asked you to share their beauty. Try and follow their example, which is ON SERVICE FOR GOD AND HIS CHILDREN.

#### CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS.

This is my message for the older boys and girls this month. You have all heard about the changes in Parliament, in the formation of a Labour Government. Grown up people need not try and put their political corns under their chairs, I shall not

even try to tread on them, or even commit my own personal views to you. Nevertheless let us all hold what views we may, we must agree that it is doubtful if ever before have such a lot of men and women of humble birth been called upon to serve our country: mill hands, errand boys, shop girls, pit boys, etc. It is the message which was sent to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, from Lossiemouth, congratulating him, that I wish to pass on to you boys and girls, it said "AN OFFICE HE WAS FROM HIS BOYHOOD DESTINED TO REACH." This is to the boy who was born into poverty in a tiny two-roomed cottage, worked in the fields "lifting tatties," then climbing rung by rung of life's ladder until he has reached the rung of Premiership. The top of the ladder of life has not been reached, but what has been enough to show you boys and girls, what a great calling may be yours one day.

In passing I feel I must just refer to his wife, now in spirit life, and for whom her friends of all parties in a past Parliament, have erected a memorial seat showing Margaret MacDonald surrounded by a band of happy children, denoting love for children. To me it gives a setting for the whole picture. The lesson, I want you to learn from this, is that you too, have started to climb the ladder of life, and so much will depend on you yourselves how high you get. I want you to "Hitch your waggon to a star," as Emerson said, but that star, must not be self, such would only be descending the ladder, it must be service for other, if you would reach the top.

Some of you may yet become great leaders of our race in Education, Science, Art, etc. You are faced with two outlooks, Success or Failure. There is no reason why it should be the latter, unless you choose to let it, this you will do if you treat your opportunities in a careless manner, but if you always remember that you are on service for God and humanity, you will ever strive to live a clean straightforward life, ever trying to learn to help others to brighten their existence.

Too young to start, oh no! to-day is your golden opportunity, take it and use it. May it also be said of you, each one, in later years that you have reached the position, you were destined for from childhood.

#### COMPETITION.

Prizes this month for painting "My Favourite Fruit" (post-card size).

Liberty Section—Essays on Silver Chain 25.

#### 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 paper "Liberty Section." Address to Uncle Bert, 2, Villiers Road, Osterley, Middlesex, not later than March 18th. Prizes will be sent to your Conductor, receipt for same being requested. Enclosed stamped addressed envelope if reply is desired.

Answer to Puzzle, No. 2: "Hand in Hand with Angels."

#### PUZZLE No. 3.

Taking a footpath ramble, I wandered through a field, a park, a wood, then passing through a gate, I had a look round the castle grounds, and taking a new road I travelled East, crossing a ford, I reached the Sea where I saw the fleet. Herein you will find the names of six Lyceums, one was Hadfield; can you find the other five, if not, send as many as you find.

Prizes for last month's Competition awarded to:—

NORA WHITELEY, age 11, Doncaster.

GWEN JONES, age 13, Merthyr Tydvil.

Special Mention, ETHEL BISHOP, and LILY EMERY.

Correct answer to Puzzle No. 2.

John Plumb, Bradford.	Clifford Stock, Birmingham.
Annie Robinson, Cheetham.	Maggie Woodward, Bolton.
Milly Fuller, Fulham.	Wm. Morrill, York.
Elsie Pitt and Muriel Lamb,	South Manchester.
Margaret Essenoff, Dundee.	Ethel Fuller, Fulham.
Roma Lampon, Brixton.	Allen Carson, Ardwick.
Mrs. Hancock, Earby.	Mr. T. Wright, Leicester.
Doris Fruin, Battersea.	

Greetings this month from Battersea, who have just had their first Birthday.

I still want some more "Ever Ready" members, also note 1½d. is the correct postage, 1d. is not enough.

Let's have miles of smiles this month,

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 V.

Now we must return to Prince Trueheart and see how he is faring. As he rode along, he felt happier for the assurance that his good angel was with him, and that he had, so far, conquered all dangers, and had already vanquished one of the fair Princess's abductors.

He had ridden on in this way for some time when, suddenly, he heard a piteous cry, as if coming from someone in distress. He quickened his pace, and soon saw a beautiful young lady, with tear-stained cheeks, and her mouth drawn as if in great pain.

As our hero drew near he said, "Fair lady, what can I do to help you?"

"Oh, good sir, I pray you take pity on me. I have had the misfortune to fall from my horse, which has run away, and have sprained my ankle, and I am unable to walk. Will you take pity on me, good sir, by riding forward and summoning aid."

The Prince remembered the advice of the Sage as to keeping straight on his journey, and it hurt him very much to leave a lady in distress, so he said, "Fair lady, I am sorry at being unable to assist you. Duty calls me forward; each moment lost increases the danger and peril of one who is dearer to me than life. Therefore, I pray you, fair lady, to excuse me from granting your request, but I promise to send you help as soon as possible."

Now, when Hypocrisy heard him decline her request, she thought her prey was going to escape her wiles, and she at once looked at him appealingly, and said, "Oh, most noble sir, I beg of you, I beseech of you, not to leave me here at the mercy of the wild animals or robbers. What would you say if a knight, who saw the lady you love in such a dangerous plight as I am in, and refused to aid her!"

This appeal pricked his conscience very much, for he knew that any knight refusing to succour a lady in need would be looked upon as being a miscreant, and unworthy of his spurs.

She watched the effect of her appeal most anxiously, and exalted within herself as she saw the firm look upon his face gradually relax.

"Fair lady," he said, "I cannot withstand your appeal to my honour." So saying, he jumped from his horse and gently lifted her on its back. "I will restore you to your father's arms and then ride forward in my quest to rescue my beloved princess."

"Thank you, O noble Prince," she said, when she saw her arts and wiles had conquered the heart against the decision of the head, "I felt sure you would not act so ungraciously towards a helpless lady. My father will owe you a life-long debt of gratitude for your kindness to his daughter. But let me beg of you to mount your splendid steed, that we may make greater haste in reaching my father's castle, so that you may the sooner resume your journey. The road is good."

He was about to mount behind her, when she objected saying, she could hold on to him, and he could the better control his steed, if he sat in front of her.

They continued their journey in this way, Hypocrisy chatting in her blandest manner and most fascinating tones to entertain her intended victim and disarm his suspicions; and whenever the steed made a bit of a stumble she pretended to cry out with the pain it caused her.

As they approached the castle the great gates were opened, the drawbridge was lowered, and the guards stood ready to receive them. As soon as they had crossed the bridge it was drawn up, and the gates closed behind them. This was the signal for attack. Instantly Hypocrisy slipped a running noose of silken cord over the Prince's head, dropped it over his arms and made it tight, thus effectively rendering him helpless. The captain seized his horse's head, and the guards dragged him from its back, but not before Hypocrisy had jumped to the ground.

"What means this outrage?" cried the Prince, in a voice of righteous indignation. "One would think I were a robber by the way I am seized and dragged from my horse, instead of a Prince who has taken compassion on a lady in distress. Unhand me at once, and apologise for such gross rudeness that I may continue my journey."

"I have to inform you," said the captain, "that you are the prisoner of the renowned and powerful Mumbo Jumbo, who waits your appearance in his Council Chamber, whither I must now conduct you," and he at once led him away.

### CHAPTER VI.

"Welcome to my castle, oh, most illustrious Prince," mockingly cried Mumbo Jumbo, as the Prince was ushered into his presence.

"What means this outrage?" again demanded our hero, "Why am I seized and bound? Is this the way you treat your guests and repay obligations?"

"So, so, my young friend," blandly replied his crafty enemy, "Don't ask so many questions at once, or I am afraid I shall be unable to answer them. The reason why thou wast bound was to prevent thee from leaving until thou hadst seen me in order that I may pay a deep debt of obligation I owe thee for taking compassion on my most adorable daughter, Hypocrisy, as I was afraid thou wouldst decline my hospitality." There was an evil smile playing round the corners of his mouth, and a sinister light lit up his dark grey eyes, which had the boldness of the hawk, and the cunning of the fox in them.

"Thy craftiness and cunning is but thinly disguised," remarked the Prince, "for I now know that thy daughter, as thou callest her, was one of thy tools to carry out thy evil designs, and was shamming in order to decoy me into thy power."

When the old rascal saw that his subterfuges were in vain, he said, "Pledge me in a cup of wine to give up thy quest, and return to thine own dominions, and thou shalt be released."

"What! and leave the fair Princess Mab to a fate worse than death?" he replied in contempt. "Never!"

"I shall make thee but one more offer," hissed the old rogue, now white with passion. "Have a care how thou answerest, or it may go ill with thee. I have untold wealth, more than would buy up thy kingdom thrice over. My will is law, neither kings nor queens dare defy me, for they are my servants. Promise to serve me faithfully, swear allegiance to me, and I will bestow great riches upon thee. Refuse, and thou wilt never more see the light of day. What sayest thou?"

"What say I?" he cried in contempt, as he held his head proudly erect, "I spurn thy offer of riches and honours, as I fear not thy anger. Thou hast my answer."

"Away with him to the dungeons," he cried, now furious with rage, "Away with him. He scorns my favours, now let him feel my vengeance," and subjected to cuffs, kicks and jeers, he was dragged away and cast into one of the darkest and dampest dungeons of the castle.

When the door had been locked and bolted on him, he sat on a stone bench to reflect on his painful position.

Deeply did he repent disobeying Wisdom's advice to pursue the straight path and heed not the temptations along the way. He was sore with ill-usage; hungry and weary with his journey and battles. A great longing seized him for the freedom of his hands. Instantly he felt his bonds begin to relax; a good tug at the cords and he was free. He next felt for the elixir of life. He took a few drops and he felt it run through his body like electric fire and give him new strength.

(To be continued).

## Reply to Churchwoman.

(ESSAY FOR OUR LYCEUM GUILD.)

By J. TINKER.

(L.M. 136, 123, 106, 212, 242.—Apostles' Creed.)

An educated Churchwoman has said that she did not doubt the truth of Spirit Communion, but failed to see the need of it; that what is communicated is so trivial and contradictory as to be valueless; and that it is selfish to expect spirit people to leave their own spheres and to bother with our affairs. In reply, I am asked to prove the need for and value of Spirit Communion. I can only suggest lines of debate, with special regard to Church doctrines.

Churchwoman has very limited ideas about Spirit Communion. Besides the common forms to which she refers, it includes all modes of inspiration, aspiration and operation involved in communion with all spiritual states and peoples (137). To fail to see its need and value is a confession by Churchwoman that she is *not* a Churchwoman! For she deprecates the "inward and spiritual grace" communicated with the sacrament.

Churchwoman is reminded that Spirit Communion "proves

human immortality and the existence of a spiritual universe." The value of that proof is shown by the conversion of thousands of people who ignored or rejected Christian dogmas. Spirit Communion is religion. Hügel says: "Religion is the deepest of experiences of the deepest of facts." The deepest facts are spiritual, by which we get nearest to the Reality we call God, "the Father Almighty." And Evelyn Underhill truly surmises that "every apprehension of Reality comes from sympathetic communion between human souls, living or dead." Hence its value as the religion open to all.

It strengthens religious life by refuting foolish dogmas about "the resurrection of the body" and "the life everlasting," and establishing the rational truths of human survival and the progressive life hereafter. It helps Christians to understand how God can operate as "the Holy Ghost" in the "holy Catholic Church" (and out of it), and secure "the forgiveness of sins." Knowledge of Spirit Communion is necessary for the proper interpretation of the Bible and of the life of Jesus. We cannot understand how "the prophets wrote and spoke" and how Jesus did "miracles" if we have not felt the spirit power blending with ours in communion and exaltation and healing. The Church hath need of it!

We often fail to see needs because they are not ours—yet! That is one value of Spirit Communion. It impels us to minister to the needs of others. Millions rejoice that Spirit Communion "reunites those separated by death, strengthens the weak, cheers the afflicted," and warrants reliance on a compensatory world. Those are not trivial communications. Is it selfish to expect spirit people to leave their own spheres? We can extract every trace of "selfishness" from love? Why do spirit people come? Because *their* "love is stronger than death," and *they* prefer to "bother about our affairs." Do they leave their spheres? They often change localities to commune with us. But it is odd that one who accepts the ministry of angels who leave their "celestial" spheres should object to human ministry. Spirit Communion is of value to give us clearer ideas on these matters. "Spheres" are not detached globes. They are interpenetrable states. The "sphere" of the sun is not limited to its orb, or its planetary system, but includes its radiance into infinite space. Whatever states our spirit friends "leave," *we must be within their sphere or we could not commune.*

We are suns. We use the spiritual universe to send our living radiance to the utmost range, including "wherever a human heart beats in harmony, with mine" (103). The greatest value of Spirit Communion is its everyday *practical proof* that we are spirits in a spiritual universe. The Church is based on that truth. How can it prove it? Only by Spirit Communion, as Jesus did. Christians have always held false ideas about their inspirers. The Church was established and is sustained by Spirit Communion, including human Spirit Communion. One value of the latter is to destroy superstitions about superhuman and demonic inspirations. Our angels are human; but we are not limited to human inspiration. We get as much of the celestial as we can assimilate; enough to make us rejoice that the Universal Spirit is overcoming in us our material separateness and blending us with our kin. (142.) There is need.

If Churchwoman *knew* Spirit Communion she would see its value in providing a "Communion of Saints" that she could practise, and not uncomprehendingly chant about from a creed. She would see its use in revealing gleams of sainthood in some of those "cast into outer darkness." She would see that portions of their spheres intersect those in higher states, who, by "clinging to the strong ones, drawing up the slow," carry on their Christ-work of deliverance from evil. (212.) That fact is of far greater value than the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. (Luke 16, 19-31.) We rejoice in the Communion of Saints. Because it is joined firmly to the Communion of Sinners; so that all of us may rise in the evolution of humanity to "entire sanctification"—the fullest Spirit Communion.

Our communion is very human. So was that of Jesus. It includes the trivial and contradictory. So does the Bible. But to reject the Bible because of its brutalities is also to rob humanity of some of its finest inspirations. To reject Spirit Communion because it includes the trivial and contradictory is to confess ignorance of its best inspirations and of its ministry of angels of all races, who work for the betterment of humanity, developing our consciousness of the higher life and *our power to work therein*, healing our bodies and purifying our lives. That wonderful exposition of the Brotherhood of Man is not the least of the values of Spirit Communion. "Go thou and do likewise." (123.)

## £2,000 Effort.

Fellow Lyceumists,

The result to date (February 19th) of the appeal in January *Banner*, re Founder's Day, came to hand in the order given. Moston Lyceum 5/6, Halifax (Alma Street) £1 1s. od., Coventry (Bull Street) 3/-, Southampton (Cavendish Grove) 5/-. Heckmondwike 6/-. Marjorie and Kathleen Brownston and four adult Lyceumists of South Manchester 8/-. Mansfield Progressive Lyceum 7/-. Moss Side Progressive Lyceum 15/6; Rutherford Street Lyceum, Newcastle, 5/-; a total of £3 16s. od., for which response the Union gives very grateful thanks.

Frankly I am very dissatisfied. Just think for a moment! Only nine Lyceums have responded out of 268 Lyceums at present in the Union. One wonders what is the reason for the apathy, and whether Lyceums considered before they pledged themselves to embark on the Scheme. However, I still have hopes that other contributions will come in. I see reports in the *Banner* of Socials, etc., being held on behalf of the Effort, but nothing materialises at this end. Next month I propose to give a list of all contributing Lyceums and what they have done towards their quota, so I keep on smiling and living in hopes that my appeals may wear the apathetic stone away.

Yours faithfully,

W. BURROWS,

Hon. Sec. £2,000 Effort.

29, Kliffen Place,  
Coronation Road, Halifax.

## 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.

### BIRTH.

BOWMER.—At 5, Percy Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex. January 26th. To Maud (nee Robinson), wife of Reg Bowmer. The gift of a daughter.

ENGAGEMENT, NORTH LONDON.—Miss Janet Smallman, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smallman, of Canonbury, to Mr. Jack Tourell, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Tourell, of Upper Holloway.

### IN MEMORIAM.

COLBECK.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Joseph Colbeck, late of Hartley Street, Dewsbury, who passed away 17th February, 1922, aged 57 years, and was interred at Batley Cemetery, February 20th. "Treasured memories." From his loving wife.

FLEETWOOD.—Passed into higher life January 27th, 1924. Isabel Church, aged 7 years. "A bright spirit star." Mrs. F. Benson, Sec.

## District Council Reports.

### UNITED DISTRICTS' COUNCIL.

#### NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING.

The U.D.C. will hold the half yearly meeting on Saturday and Sunday, March 8th and 9th, 1924, in the Lyceum at Hyde, in the N.E. Cheshire District.

Will all delegates to the meeting please write Mrs. Edwards, 42, Shawcross Street, Higher Hillgate, Stockport, re billeting requirements.

Delegates from London, N.E.R., alight at Godley, and take car for Hyde terminus at the Market, and go to the Church in Clarendon Street, off the Market Square.

From L.M.S. Railway alight at Stockport, take car for Hyde. Yorkshire delegates alight Stalybridge, take car for Hyde. Delegates from Manchester take No. 19 car, Piccadilly to Hyde.

All business meetings will be held in the Hyde Spiritualist Church, and the Sunday's Open Session and Evening meetings will be held in the Town Hall, Hyde.

Will all delegates please write Mrs. Edwards without delay? —J. Shuttleworth, Sec.

## BRADFORD DISTRICT.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LAISTERDYKE, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th.

A large number of Delegates and Associate Members attended. All officers present.

Minutes of last Annual Meeting read and confirmed. Correspondence accepted.

Much discussion took place *re* letter from B.S.L.U. M.C. and Milton Lyceums, Wheatley Lane, decided resolution be sent to the M.C.

Election of Officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Hargreaves; Vice-President, Miss Stair; Treasurer, Mr. A. Neal; Secretary, Mr. E. Aked; District Visitor, Mr. Robinson; Auditors, Mr. E. H. Coles and Mr. W. Thistlethwaite.

Balance Sheet then read showing a balance General Account £4 10s. 0½d. Organ Fund, £1 10s. 0d. Field Day Fund profit, £2 13s. 7½d. £2,000 Effort Fund, £1 3s. 0d.

Auditors' Report accepted. Vote of thanks to Auditors, Secretary and Treasurer.

*Re* Judges: to be elected at next meeting.

U.D.C. Minutes gone into and our Delegates given instructions.

Confirmation of Associate Members made at last meeting.

Open Session held in the afternoon largely attended and conducted by Miss Stair. Mr. W. Burnet conducted G.C.R. and much enjoyed. Mr. Brewerton and Miss Magson rendered solos.

Evening Service, Chairman, Mr. E. Aked. Mr. Hargreaves, Miss Stair, Mr. Aked, Mr. Schofield and Mr. Hill addressed the meeting. Mr. Brewerton again rendered a solo. Vote of thanks given to our Laisterdyke friends.—E. Aked, Sec.

## BOLTON DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council was held at Bolton, Bradford Street, Spiritual Church, on Saturday, Feb. 9th, 1924. Meeting commenced at 3-30. Mr. Hibbert, the President, welcomed all delegates and associates present. E.C., 4; Delegates, 14; Associates, 10. Minutes were read and accepted.

REPORTS.—President's Address was very encouraging and helpful. Accepted, and best thanks were given to him.

Secretary's Report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report showed a small profit on the year's working, and was accepted.

D.V. Report for the year was very satisfactory.

Adjudicator's Report was given and after a lengthy discussion it was accepted.

Election of Officers for 1924:—President, Mr. R. Charnley; Secretary, Mr. T. Connor; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Johnson; D. Visitor, Mr. G. Walsh; Adjudicators, Mr. F. Jones and W. Kave; Auditors, Mr. Sharrocks and W. Johnson.

We then had to close the business as we had arranged a Carnival Dance. A large number of Lyceumists were present, and we had a good time together, carnival novelties being given to all present. The proceeds were in aid of Council Funds.

Vote of thanks to all retiring officers and local friends were tendered and accepted. Please note new Secretary, Mr. T. Connor, 55, Arkwright Street, Bolton.

## HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD.

The Annual Meeting of the above named Council was held at Sowerby Bridge on February 10th. The President, Mr. Ellis, was in the chair.

Minutes at last annual meeting were read and accepted. Mr. Garside and Mrs. Wilby were appointed scrutineers. President's address: a good survey of the Council's work, also pointing out that the officers could do more work if there was finance to meet the expenses. A few more points were raised in his address. Balance Sheet was read and accepted. Mr. Wilby gave the auditor's report, pointing out that the books were kept in good condition.

Election of Officers: President, Mr. Ellis; Vice-President, Mr. Burrows; Secretary, Mr. Manning; Treasurer, Mr. Kershaw; District Visitor, Mr. Ackroyd; Auditors, Mr. Wilby and Miss Manchester; Delegate to U.D.C. and B.S.L.U., Mr. Ellis; Area Representative: the District Council recommend to Lyceums Mr. Burrows as Area Representative for Area H.

Notice of Motions: "That each Lyceum affiliated shall contribute 2d. per member per Lyceum, based on the figures supplied to the Union. Voting resulting, nine for, against none."

"That delegates expenses to meetings at the Council be pooled. Result of vote, eight for, three against: to become operative at next meeting, May 16th.

Reports from Lyceums were very good.

## QUARTERLY MEETING.

Minutes of last quarterly meeting were read and accepted. Correspondence was read and accepted. District Visitor's Report, showing that he had visited the following Lyceums during the quarter: Quarmby, Slaithwaite, Sowerby Bridge, Alma Street, Hebden Bridge. Attendance record showed nine Lyceums represented by eleven delegates, one from District Committee and the five officers, making a total of seventeen. Statistical returns were read and accepted.

In the afternoon a Lyceum Open Session was held, the various readings being read by delegates and officers of the Council. Marching and calisthenics were conducted by Mr. Walker Wright. In the Open Session there was one recitation, one solo and two duets by young Lyceumists. Mr. T. H. Wright gave the Council a hearty welcome.

At the evening meeting the following officers and delegates gave short addresses: Mr. Ellis, Mr. Manning, Miss Halliday, Mr. Ackroyd, Mr. Garside. Thus another good time was spent.—J. Manning, Sec.

## LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting of the above was held on Saturday, 9th February, 1924. Mr. Keeling presided over delegates from Runcorn, Wigan, Birkenhead and Liverpool.

Minutes, correspondence and reports were accepted. The Election of Officers resulted in the following: President, Mr. Keeling; Secretary, Miss G. Owen; Treasurer, Miss M. Waring; D.V., Mrs. Raymond; Auditors, Mr. Watson and Mr. Thompson; Representative to S.W., Lanes. Group, Mr. Keeling; Representative to U.D.C., Mr. Watson. The question of whether the Council justifies its existence or not was discussed and it was decided that Lyceums in the District be asked to consider same. Collection and votes of thanks concluded the business.—G. Owen, Sec.

## LONDON DISTRICT.

The A.G.M. was held in Lausanne Hall, Peckham, on Saturday, 9th February, Mr. C. J. Williams presiding over a splendid gathering. Credential report: E.C., 10; Area Rep., 1; Dels., 18; Assoc., 8; Visitors, 5; Total, 42. The Sec. reported the opening of four new Lyceums during the year, and the near prospect of a fifth; also a splendid year's work by the London Area. The financial report showed a healthy balance in hand. The D.V.'s reports raised a discussion on how to retain our Lyceumists of 14 and upwards, and the general opinion seemed to be that the remedy lay in Churches and Lyceums attaining ownership of their buildings.

Mr. Ford, Area Representative, stated his determination not to stand again for the M.C., but was asked to carry on till Conference. It was decided to ask the London Lyceums to nominate and vote for Mr. C. J. Williams (Peckham).

Arising from Mr. Ford's report, it was decided to forward to Conference and the U.D.C. a resolution protesting against the discussion of the question of fusion of Churches and Lyceums until the Churches had given an indication of their attitude.

The Manual Revision report was accepted and the Committee re-elected, with power to co-opt from outside the Lyceum Movement.

The Silver Bell Committee submitted a change in the award of marks for 1924-25 Competition:—Marching and Calisthenics to be combined with 15 marks, and 15 to be given for the Session: Punctuality, 5; Excellence of Programme, 5; Conducting, 5; The suggestion was unanimously adopted.

The following E.C. was elected: Pres., Mr. C. J. Williams; Vice-Pres., Mrs. K. M. Barnard; Treas., Mr. R. T. Barnard; D.V., Mr. M. Clegg; Asst. D.V., Mrs. Clegg and Mr. F. J. Miles; Sec., Mr. A. T. Connor; Asst. Sec., Miss Eva Connor; Mrs. Drury, and Messrs. Drury, Barrington, Young and White.

The following delegates were appointed:—Conference—Messrs. Connor and Clegg; U.D.C.—Mr. and Mrs. Barnard; L.D.C.—Mrs. Clegg.

It was decided to nominate the following for B.S.L.U.:—President—Mr. Geo. A. Mack (Runcorn); Vice-Pres.—Mr. J. K. Jones (Sheffield); Treasurer—Mr. C. J. Williams (Peckham).

A vote of thanks to Peckham Church and Lyceum brought a most successful meeting to a close.—A. T. Connor, Sec.

## NORTH EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council was held at Lord Street, Stockport, on Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 1924. There were 24 delegates and Associate members from Macclesfield, Ashton, Hyde, Denton, Dukinfield and Stockport (Lord St.). The chair was taken by the Vice-President (Mr. Beech) who welcomed the friens from Denton and Dukinfield and in his remark s

touched on various points of the work of the Council and hoped that all Lyceums would take part in the Interchange of Conductors.

Denton and Dukinfield Lyceums were made members of the Council and Mrs. Levett, Mr. T. Tristram and Miss Mason became Associate members. Correspondence passed as read. Secretary's, Treasurer's and Auditor's reports accepted. D.V. reported (1) Jan. 13th, Lord St. (Stockport) 75 present; prompt start. Responses, pearls and recitations good. A good session. (2) Jan. 20th, Macclesfield: prompt start, marching and calisthenics good. (3) Denton and Dukinfield: promising Lyceum. Resolved that all reports be accepted with best thanks for all efforts put forth during last 12 months.

The report of "Silver Bell" Competition was accepted and best thanks given to adjudicators.

Election of Officers: President, Mr. Dransfield (Ashton); Vice-President, Mr. Beech (Ashton); Treasurer, Mr. Bowden (Hyde); Secretary, Miss Maltby (Glossop); Assist. Sec., Mrs. Edwards (Stockport); D.V., U.D.C., & B.S.L.U. Delegate, Mrs. Ennion; Auditor, Mr. Belcher (Hyde).

Invitations for Quarterly Meeting on May 3rd to be sent to E.C. *Re Annual Outing*, to be held at Reddish Vale or Middlewood. Delegates take matter to Lyceums and report to Sec. Vote of thanks to Stockport friends for hospitality.—Mary Maltby, Sec.

#### NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The above Council held the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, Feb. 16th in the Lyceum at 68, Lancaster Road, Preston. Invocation by President. The President appointed Messrs. Wagner and Bannister credential officers.

Secretary read minutes of last D.C. and E.C. meeting; same were accepted and adopted.

Correspondence was read from B.S.L.U. General Secretary *re* meetings and returns, Fleetwood Lyceum, Co-op. Society, Chief Constable, U.D.C., Town Clerk, L.M.S. Railway Co., F. F. Ball, Earby and London L.D.C. which were accepted and adopted. Resolved we support the London motion and that our own go to the M.C.

Reports: Treasurer's and Balance Sheet, Auditor's, D.V.'s, Secretary's given and accepted.

Northern D.V. reports that Ulverston Lyceum is definitely closed. That Dalton Lyceum is in a flourishing condition. Resolved that D.V.'s keep in touch with all Lyceums within the district, and report quarterly *re* absentees.

*Re* Scottish question: Statements were made *re* this. It was resolved: "That we recommend to the M.C. that no definite steps be taken *re* fusion (S.N.U. & B.S.L.U.) until a mandate is given, and the whole movement is placed in full possession of the facts pro and con before such mandate is asked for. Also the Scottish Area representative should give assurance either pro or con that the Scottish Lyceums are for or against the B.S.L.U."

President's address given and accepted. Spoke *re* the work of the D.C. and of progress made, of Education, Demonstration, and Organising of the District. Expressed thanks for support given and extended greetings to all Lyceums and Lyceumists.

Election of Officers: President, C. T. Batley; Sec., J. Shuttleworth; Treasurer, F. F. Ball; D.V. North, M. E. Lawton; D.V. South, G. H. Wagner; U.D.C. Delegates, President and H. Hopper; Delegates to Conference, President and Sec.; Area Representatives, Mrs. M. E. Pickles and Mrs. Nurse; Auditors, Messrs. W. E. Mason, R. Pearson. Demonstration Committee: Mesdames Pickles, Nurse, Miss M. E. Lawton, Messrs. Batley, Shuttleworth, Wagner, Mason, Pearson, Hopper, Ball.

Notice of Motions: (1) That for adjudication purposes the N.E. Lancs. L.D.C. be divided into three panels. To each panel an adjudicator shall be appointed, and shall visit each Lyceum in their panel. When all the Lyceums have been visited the reports shall be sent in to the E.C. The Lyceum in each Section receiving the highest number of marks shall be further judged by the chief adjudicator and as a result of such visits shall award the Shield. The E.C. to appoint the Chief Adjudicator and draw up the final programme.

(2) That the D.V. be assisted in his office by voluntary D.V.s. Such voluntary D.V.s shall visit each Lyceum once per quarter. The D.V. shall visit each Lyceum and shall make a detailed report of such visit, which shall be sent in to the D.C. Sec. when all the Lyceums have been visited; the usual procedure shall be followed, etc., etc.

For No. 1. Motion 16; against 3.

For No. 2 Motion 3; against 16.,

No. 1. upon being put as substantive motion was carried *nem. con.*

Appointment of adjudicators. Resolved that this matter be left to E.C.

Report was given *re* travelling facilities to Hull on Whit-Saturday, and it was resolved that Secretary enquire further *re* this.

Next meeting, May 17th. Nelson accepted for same. Brierfield accepted for Dec. and Earby for September.

Votes of thanks were moved and responded to for the local friends for their labours.—J. Shuttleworth, Sec.

#### SOUTHERN COUNTIES DISTRICT.

Delegates and Associate Members from Brighton, Portsmouth Temple, Portsmouth Francis Avenue, Reading and Southampton attended the A.G.M., held at the kind invitation of the Brighton Church and Lyceum at their Church in Mighell Street, on Saturday, February 2nd.

The President, Mr. G. R. Street, lead us in Prayer. The appointment of Scrutinizers, the reading and passing of the minutes and correspondence were followed by the President's Address which was received with the customary interest and accepted with the usual enthusiasm.

The Secretary, Mr. J. Jackson, included in his report accounts of pleasant, instructive and successful meetings during the year at Portsmouth, Reading and Bristol. Mr. Cager, D.V., and Mr. Ford, Area Representative, detailed visits to Lyceums within the Council. Mrs. Baker, Treasurer, drew attention to the increased balance in hand in spite of the fact that the travelling expenses alone amounted to £14 5s. 3d. Mr. Harry gave the Auditors' Report. All the reports were adopted with thanks.

The Officers for the ensuing year are:—President, Mr. G. R. Street (Reading); D.V., Mr. E. G. Harry (Portsmouth Temple); Treasurer, Mrs. Baker (Southampton); Secretary, Mr. R. B. Lang (Portsmouth Temple); Delegates to B.S.L.U. Conference, Messrs. R. B. Lang and W. J. Low (Portsmouth Temple); Auditors, Messrs. Elliott and G. Woodward-Saunders (Reading).

The question "How best to interest the young people until they become Church members" was brought forward, and after discussion was referred to the Lyceums and members for their attention.

The Delegates and Associates were entertained to tea by the local friends.

At the close of the business meeting the Council were presented with a well arranged programme, including songs, a dance by two young Lyceumists, ventriloquist, and violin solo, followed by dancing; many were present in Fancy Dress. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Refreshments were served to the Delegates and members of Council during the evening.

SUNDAY MORNING. Service opened by Mr. Cager, Local Conductor. Address by our President, Mr. G. R. Street, title, "What shall we teach the child," preceded by short but very interesting and instructive address dealing with "The Child," by Mr. Elliott, of Reading. Service well attended.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON. Session opened by the Conductor, Mr. Cager, who welcomed the Council and invited our President to conduct. Greetings and messages were given by Messrs. Reeves (Southampton), Low (Portsmouth Temple), Guy (Portsmouth, Francis Avenue), Churn (Reading), Hill (Brighton, also for Bristol), Mrs. Baker, Treasurer for the Council, and Mr. Harry, D.V. Pearls were given and social items, which included a song by a younger member and a selection by the orchestra of eight violins with the piano, which was encored.

The President extended thanks to the local friends and spoke upon the social side and emphasised the value and advantages of spirits.

EVENING. Church crowded. Invocation by the President. Mr. Ford representative for Area "H," spoke first. A solo was then rendered by a lady member. Mr. Street delivered an inspiring address entitled "Jesus, the Mystery of Deity." The Lyceumists who were present in large numbers sang "Shoulder to shoulder."

Our visit was very successful, and to quote the words of speakers at the Afternoon Session, "These meetings give us more encouragement and arouse in us the determination to work for more greater progress in our own units.—R. B. Long, Sec.

#### SOUTH EAST LANCs.

The Annual meeting was held at Regent Hall, Rochdale, on Saturday, February 2nd, 1924. Mr. Carter, of Bacup, was in the chair.

Credential Officer, Miss E. Elliott. Minutes and Correspondence accepted. Auditor's Report accepted. D.V. reported excellent progress in the Lyceums; report accepted; Election of Officers: President, Mr. J. Nurse, of Rochdale.

Secretary, Mr. T. Dixon, of Rochdale; Treasurer, Miss L. Isherwood, of Rochdale; District Visitor, Mr. A. Hudson, of Rochdale; Auditors, Mr. Cullen, of Middleton, Mr. Carter, of Bacup; Delegate to U.D.C. Meeting, Mr. J. Nurse; Delegates to Conference, Mr. A. Hudson, Mr. T. Dixon.

During the meeting Mr. H. Buckley, of Royton, handed to the Treasurer the proceeds of his efforts to raise funds for the Council. A hearty vote of thanks was given. Credential Report, 14 Delegates, 5 Associates, 1 D.V.; 1 Area Representative, 6 Visitors. Report accepted.

The next meeting will be held at Gilmour Street, Middleton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Vote of thanks to Regent Hall for entertainment.—T. Dixon, Sec.

#### TEESIDE DISTRICT.

Officers: President, Mr. Geo. Neale, of Stockton; Vice-President, Mr. Jackson, Darlington; Treas., Mr. G. Edwards, Middlesboro; Sec., Mr. Geo. A. Atkinson, Stockton; D.V., Mr. Foster, Gurney Valley; A.D.V., Mrs. Bonsor, Middlesboro; Representative to B.S.L.U. and U.D.C., Mr. Roeder, of Middlesboro; Auditors, Mr. A. Edwards, Middlesboro, Mr. T. Anderson, Stockton.

#### TYNESIDE DISTRICT.

The 12th Annual Conference took place in the Co-op. Hall, Tyne Dock, under the auspices of the High Shields National Spiritualist Church, on Sunday, February 10th. Mr. Slimin presiding.

The Conference was heartily welcomed by Mr. Fairbairn and the Secretary, Mr. Ainley suitably responded. The President then welcomed two visitors—Mr. Berry, Secretary, S.N.U., and Mr. J. Ridley, Pres., N.D.C., and granted them full speaking and voting rights.

After the President's address, Conference and E.C. Minutes, there was a good deal of discussion on U.D.C. report and re Motion 3 it was carried unanimously, "That our delegate vote directly against and protest against the principle and policy involved as we consider it derogatory to the prestige of a President and detrimental to the B.S.L.U." It was decided to support Motion 4, and to re-affirm Motion 2.

Re Ass. D.V.'s—after much discussion it was decided to empower the D.V. to appoint assistants or deputies as needed.

The E.C.'s recommendation that the Testimonial to Mr. Hall (Gateshead) should be an easy chair was endorsed.

Mr. Slimin gave the report of joint committee (N.D.C. & T.L.D.C.) and it was carried unanimously—"That we support the idea of a joint conference on a date as early as possible by delegates who must have full authority from Lyceum or Church represented." Arising from Correspondence, it was decided to send two delegates to B.S.L.U. Conference, and also to ask Lyceum and Associates to enable us to send our quota to Mrs. Young's Testimonial Fund.

The following Reports were given and accepted—Auditor's, Treasurer's, Shield Adjudicators, D.V.'s, N.D.C. delegate and Secretary.

As two Lyceums tied for first place for Shield it was decided that they hold Shield six months each. The Shield Competition results are:—Gateshead and Derwent St. (Sunderland), 90 9/16, Hirst, 89 9/16, High Shields, 87 1/16, South Shields, 85 11/16, Jarrow, 83 13 16, Sunderland (Victory), 78 1/2, North Shields, 76 1/2, Hetton, 76; Cambridge Street, 69 1/2, Dunston, 49 1/2, Chester-le-Street, 45 1/2.

The Officers elected were: Pres., Mr. Slimin; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Hall; Treas., Mr. Mather; Sec., Mr. Ainley; D.V., Mr. Hall; Shield Adjudicators, Mrs. Slimin and Mr. Woodall; Auditors, Mr. G. S. Dawson and Mr. Hall (Wallsend); Delegates—B.S.L.U., Messrs. Ainley and Mather; Y.D.C., Mr. Slimin; Teeside L.D.C., Mr. Hall; N.D.C., Mr. J. Dawson; Area Representative N. Mince, Mr. Hunter.

Open Council.—It was carried unanimously "That at all future Conferences we take both morning and afternoon for business."

The Picture was given to holder of ticket No. 248—Mr. Ainley, Woodside Cottage, Harton, S. Shields.

Invitation for Conference Feb., 1925, was accepted from Gateshead. Credential Report showed 20 delegates representing 14 Lyceums, 23 Associates, 2 N.D.C. and 1 S.N.U. Mr. Robinson gave details of the Rev. Vale Owen's tour in this district in March and April.

The Evening service was presided over by Mr. Slimin and short, pithy, addresses were given to a good congregation by Mrs. Slimin and Messrs. Hunter and Hall.

Invitations for Conferences in May, Aug., and Nov. this year

are needed. All Lyceums and Associates should send something to me for the Mrs. Young Testimonial Fund before March 7th.  
N. E. AINLEY, Sec.

## Special Reports.

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

BOLTON, Deane Road.—We regret to report the passing into higher life of Margaret A. Foster on January 25th. The interment took place at Heaton Cemetery on Wednesday, Jan. 30th. A very impressive service at the graveside was conducted by Mr. J. Hibbert (of Bolton). Our young friend, just short of seventeen years, was a staunch worker in the Lyceum, occupying various offices, and was appointed marching conductor for this year. She will be greatly missed as her genial manner won the hearts of members and friends.

A crowded congregation listened attentively to the Funeral Service on Sunday, February 3rd, conducted by Mr. Hibbert.

JARROW-ON-TYNE.—On February 10th we held our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Conductor, Mr. J. Abbott; Assis., Mr. J. Dunn; Secretary, Mr. B. Hardwick; Assist., Miss Riches; Cal. Conductor and Guardian of Groups, Mr. Harrison; Captain of Guards, Mr. R. Overton; Guards, Evelyn James and Stanley Holland; Librarian, Frances James; Auditors, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Hodgson; Sick Visitor, Miss Lewis; Group Leaders:—Liberty, Mrs. A. Smith; Excelsior, Mrs. Overton; Star, Mr. W. Harrison; Banner, Miss Riches; Beacon, Mr. J. Abbott; Shore, Miss Smith; Ocean, Mr. J. Dunn; Sea, Miss Lewis; Stream, Miss James; Fountain, Mr. James.

During the past year our Lyceum has made considerable progress, and sincere thanks are tendered to all who have made the necessary efforts.—B. Hardwick, Sec

LONDON, Brixton.—On January 12th we held our Annual Tea and Prizegiving. 110 Lyceumists sat down to tea. We had the pleasure of having Uncle Bert, Auntie Ruth, Doris and Mrs. Clegg with us. After tea our Minstrel Troupe entertained young and old with patter and songs. Prizes were afterwards distributed to each Lyceumist from the Christmas Tree; books, dolls, toys and games. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all.—G. Tuttlebee, Sec.

NORTH LONDON.—It is with pleasure we announce the engagement of Miss Janet Smallman to Mr. Jack Tourell, and wish them every happiness and prosperity. Both have long been enthusiastic Lyceum workers. Miss Smallman was ably filled various offices within North London Lyceum and upon the L.L.D.C., and has for some time past been our Treasurer.

Mr. Tourell, too, has efficiently served the Lyceum Committee, and although the electrical firm of which he is junior partner (Messrs. Stewart & Tourell, of Shaftsbury Avenue, W.) is now making heavy calls upon his time and energy, we look forward to his continued help in the years to come.

MACCLESFIELD.—February 6th was a Red Letter Day in our Lyceum history. We had the Mayor and Mayoress of Macclesfield to present our prizes. It was a very successful social in which the children (trained by Mrs. Pimblott and Mrs. Read) took part. "Felix the Cat" was undoubtedly a hit. The Jazz Band had to be heard to realise how energy could be used. Every Leader and Lyceumist did their bit, and did it well. A guessing competition—the weight of a cake given by Mr. E. Pilkington—added greatly to the funds and enjoyment.—Hannah Rushton, Sec.

SCARBOROUGH.—We held our Anniversary Services on the last week-end in January. Mr. Harding, of Wakefield, officiated at all services. On Saturday we had a Tea and Social. On Sunday, Open Session and Prize Distribution. A really fine week-end, all services being thoroughly enjoyed. A milestone in our progression and a stepping stone to greater things.—H. Middleton, Sec.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—On Wednesday evening, January 23rd, a social was held in our Church. Solos and recitations were rendered by the Lyceumists. Refreshments were given by Church members. Games and competitions were entered into by all, old and young. Altogether we had a real united Church and Lyceum Effort. The proceeds, 30/-, go towards the Lyceumists prizes.—E. Carr.

WIGAN.—On Saturday, February 9th, we had our Annual Tea Party and Prize Distribution. The prizes were distributed by Mr. W. Marsh, of Wigan.

On February 10th we held our Anniversary. Mr. Hibbert, of Bolton D.C., officiated at all services. Mrs. E. Clitheroe, our Conductor, occupied the Chair. The evening subject "What is a Lyceum?" was very ably dealt with by the speaker and much appreciated by all. The evening music included a solo by Mr. Watkins, entitled "Expectation." Organ voluntaries by Mr. Rossiter (Jun.) "Calm of Evening," "Rock of Ages," and March "Handel." All services were well attended and a very enjoyable time was spent.—Wm. T. Rossiter, Sec.

WISBECH.—On January 27th an Open Session was held in celebration of Foundation Day. Recitations were given by E. Kirby, N. and A. Emmerson; pianoforte solo, Olive West; and a musical item by the Misses M. I. and P. Emmerson, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Butter. Very happy afternoon, well attended. Collection for B.S.L.U.—H. C. Butter, Sec.

## LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after Feb. 21st.

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

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

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than March 26th, to ensure insertion in the April issue.

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

ACCRINGTON, Pearl Street.—We held our Open Sessions on February 3rd. They were well enjoyed by young and old. We had visitors from other Lyceums. In the evening we held a Musical Service by Lyceumists, which proved a success. In the afternoon there were 90 in attendance. We are progressing. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—Miss S. J. Woolmington, Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session, February 3rd. Pearls, Mr. Lord, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Tattersal, Kitchner Amyes, Harold Greaves, and Lucy Bolton; Recitations, K. Amyes, Harold Bolton, M. Patchett, R. Salt, M. McKenna; Song, Mrs. Lord, L. Alexandra; Trio, Eva Taylor, Molly Patchett, C. Tattersal; Piano Solos, Ivy Salisbury and Hugh McKenna. A session well spent.—B. Lord, Sec.

BARROW, Ramsden Street.—On January 6th we held our Open Session. Recitations by Jackie Howbrook, Lily Kirkpatrick, Sam Robinson, Mary Howbrook, Frank Fenton, Alick Miller, Gordon Haznell, Marjorie Chapman, Winnie Eccles, Nancy Kirkpatrick, Peggy Dixon, Mrs. Butterworth; Solo by Miss Miller.—L. Brown, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On January 13th a naming ceremony was performed by our Conductor, Mr. Thompson. The baby's earthly name is John Woodley, spiritual name "Forward."

We had a good attendance on February 3rd at our Open Session. Recitations by Margaret Ellis, Edna George, Charlie Ellis, Eileen Edwards, May Durman, Eva Williams, May Stretton, and Ernest Leighton. Solos by Mrs. Horlehouse, Percy Woodley and Mr. Hurst. Duets by Freda Whitely and Fred Westcott.—A. M. Hemsall, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On February 3rd we held our Open Session, marked by a good attendance of Lyceumists and friends from surrounding Lyceums. After the marching and calisthenics were gone through, all spent an enjoyable time during the open part of the session. Recitations were rendered by some of the younger Lyceumists. Best wishes to all other Lyceums and Lyceumists.—Jas. T. Smith, Sec.

BOLTON, Henry Street.—On February 10th we held the first of our Open Sessions this year. Our little Church was filled to its utmost capacity with numerous visitors from Bradford Street, Dean's Road, Horwich, Bury, Radcliffe, and Blackpool, who, together with about 70 of our own Lyceum, made quite a large gathering. Everyone played some little part

in the Session, which tended to make it a huge success. Pearls, recitations were plentiful, and a solo by Miss A. Sheffield was greatly appreciated. Mr. West, of Blackpool, was the speaker. It was indeed an hour well spent together. Our Lyceum tender hearty congratulations to Bradford Street on again winning the D.C. Shield for efficiency and for the third time in successive years. We finished a very close second  $3\frac{1}{2}$  marks behind. We have advanced since the last adjudication.—W. C. Bearman, Sec.

BRADFORD, Boynton Street.—We held our Open Session on February 3rd. Recitations and solos were rendered by all scholars. We had a good afternoon together.—Mrs. Ward, Sec.

BRADFORD, Harker Street.—On February 3rd we held our Lyceum Anniversary, and in the afternoon the scholars responded well. Mr. Smith, of Bradford, gave the evening's address, and scholars gave solos and duets.

Concert by the Lyceumists on March 22nd in the Broadway Unitarian Chapel, Manchester Road.—Miss Farrow, Sec.

BRADFORD, Ripley Street.—On February 3rd we held a most enjoyable Open Session. Amongst the Lyceumists taking part were the Misses Napper, Leng and Willis, and Masters John Plumb and Roland Wilkinson.—C. Bairstow, Sec.

BURNLEY, Hammerton Street.—On February 17th we held our Open Session, and the following Lyceumists helped to make it a success: Miss A. Barraclough, Mona Dean, Annie Gregson, little Mary Hocking, and Miss Lister; also Master H. Harts-horn. In the evening we held a Service of Song, "An Angel in Disguise," which was a great success. One feature of the day was the visit of Lyceumists from the surrounding district. A Red Letter Day in our movement. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—H. Brown, Sec.

BURNLEY, North Street.—On February 3rd we held our Open Session, which was well attended. We had a very pleasing ceremony when our Conductor, Mr. Latham, named the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pickles; we were also favoured with songs and recitations by the following Lyceumists: Evelyn Grey, Ada Dugdale, Hilda and Ada Coates, Mary Stephenson, Eleanor Parkington, Violet Clemance, and Jennie Moore.

On February 9th we held our Lyceum Tea-party and Prize Distribution. A past Conductor, Mrs. M. E. Pickles, of Blackpool, presented 76 prizes during the evening. Two pleasing events. Greetings.—May Wagner, Sec.

CALGARY.—We held our Open Session on January 6th. A good attendance of Lyceumists were present. Pearls were said by nearly every one in the room. Recitations by E. Rushton, D. Trumbly, N. Robinson, W. Garrad; Pianoforte solo by V. Potts; solo by Miss A. Garrad. The session was enjoyed by all.—Miss M. Adam, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On February 3rd we held our Open Session. The following Lyceumists contributed to an excellent programme: recitations by Francis Hobster, Sidney Hobster, Avis Bown, Edith Slater, Kenneth Bown, Cyril Percival, Marion Wagstaffe, Joyce Godley, Linda Heath, Ernest Heath, Lilian Slater, Connie Slater, Elsie Gore, Jack Wale, May Wheatley, and Mrs. Baston. An interesting session was brought to a close with a solo by John Slater.—Harold Lee, Session Sec.

COLNE.—On December 26th last, prizes were presented to the Lyceumists who had made the required number of attendances. Mr. Swinburne presented the prizes, and each Lyceumist received a word of encouragement to continue as Lyceumists. A special prize was presented to Mr. B. Hargreaves, an old worker, who has been connected with the Lyceum for 23 years, and he was presented with a walking stick on the occasion of his 21st prize as a Lyceumist—a record which is a credit to anyone.—J. R. Wrigglesworth, Sec.

DEWSBURY.—On Founders' Day we had Open Session which was well attended and enjoyed. At night the platform was occupied by Lyceumists. Miss Shearman presided and read a paper explaining Founders' Day. Amy Bentley, aged 10, read an essay, "The difference between Lyceum training to day school." Margaret Nixon, aged 10, read "The benefits of a Lyceumist to a non-Lyceumist." Both were very much enjoyed. A poem on Founders' Day, composed by Mrs. Bentley, was read. Solos were rendered by Miss Lily Wood and Miss May Hird. Mr. Alfred Kitson finished with a memorial service for Mrs. Dean.—J. E. Nixon, Sec.

DONCASTER, Wood Street.—We held our Open Session on February 3rd. It was conducted by Miss A. Johnson. Quite a number of Lyceumists took part with recitations, pearls, and solos, etc. We had a good time together.—L. V. Batt, Sec.

**EDINBURGH, Queen's Hall.**—On 3rd February we held our Annual Business Meeting, and the reports were exceedingly encouraging in spite of the fact that the past session has been fraught with many difficulties, but we approach the future with a feeling of confidence that our success is assured.

Sunday, February 10th, was our Open Session, when a most enjoyable musical programme was rendered by the young Lyceumists. Songs, recitations and pianoforte solos were ably done.—J. McIntosh, Sec.

**EARBY.**—On February 3rd we held our Open Session. Recitals were given by girls: M. Ennis, D. Nuttall, L. Clarke, Queenie Dawson, E. Tillotson, P. Hunter. Boys: H. Foster, S. Warrington, B. Taylor, W. Moore, H. Greenwood, K. Dewhurst, R. Haynes. Duets by D. Nuttall and E. Clarke, A. Bannister and A. Nuttall, M. Ennis and E. Taylor, T. Ennis and C. Blackburn, E. Taylor and M. Ennis, P. Iron and D. Haynes. Also a solo by Ann Dawson.—Miss Clarke, Sec.

**FLEETWOOD.**—Open Session February 3rd, when quite a lot of Lyceumists gave pearls, solos etc. An afternoon well spent. At such times as these we feel the want of a larger room, and are looking forward to the time when we can get into our new Church. We had A. J. Davis day with new faces at the services. It was enjoyed by all, the young Lyceumists gave solos.

On February 17th Mr. Batley named a baby, Laura Edith Mather, spiritual name, "Glory." Many of our Lyceumists are away with colds. We wish them a speedy recovery. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums. The workers win.—Mrs. F. Benson, Sec.

**GLASGOW PROGRESSIVE.**—We held our annual Business Meeting in January, when Officers for 1924 were elected. Mrs. Gentleman was elected chief Conductor, her assistants are Mrs. Kitson and the Misses Brown and Hunter. Mr. A. Howie retained the Treasurership. We tender thanks to all our retiring Officers.—Mrs. Gibbon, Sec.

**GREAT HARWOOD.**—Open Session held February 3rd. S.C. was led by Walter Taylor, M.R. by Mr. Baxter, Gladys Norris and Sydney Hudson. G.C. by Annie Thornley. Marching and calisthenics were gone through. Recitations and solos were rendered by the following Lyceumists: Maggie Nelson, Alice Taylor, Harold Crooks and Hubert Norris. An enjoyable session was witnessed by all who attended.—H. Baxter, Sec.

**HANLEY.**—On February 3rd we held our Open Session, with a good attendance of Lyceumists. The following contributed items in a most pleasing manner. Songs: Douglas Hall and Arthur Hand, Dolly Cordall and Evelyn Goldstraw. Recitations by Dolly Berrisford and Maggie Warrilow, Lucy Harrison and Maggie Warrilow, Dolly Baker, Dolly Cordall and Evelyn Goldstraw, Fred Berrisford and Cornelius Woollicroft, Alfred Berrisford. Poem by marching leader E. Brock, junior.—Wm. Pyatt, Sec.

**HORWICH, Chorley New Road.**—On February 3rd we held our Open Session. We had a good attendance, and it was a great success. Our speaker for the day was Mr. Will Edwards. There were some very good pearls given, also Miss E. Davies sang a solo.

At the evening service Mr. Will Edwards gave his subject, "Five minutes after death—What?" which I think went home to all who heard it. There was a good congregation.—W. Wilkes, Sec.

**HUCKNALL.**—On February 10th we held our Session, and prizes were distributed to scholars. Service conducted by the President; Mr. Allen, speaker; Mrs. Robinson, of Nottingham, pleasingly presented the prizes and showed her deep interest in Lyceumists. Two special prizes were given by the Conductor, Mr. Sidney Allen, for pearls and good conduct, and were won by Master Jack Bodsworth and Master Eric Mills.—A. Neal, Sec.

**HUDDERSFIELD, St. Peter's Street.**—We have had our Christmas Treat. Mr. Wallis (Santa Claus) was given a pipe and case in recognition of 30 years' service in the Lyceum.

On February 2nd we had our repeat Concert, and it was well attended and a great success.

On February 3rd we had our Open Session and Prize-giving. Our Conductor, Mr. Garside, gave the prizes to our scholars. We had 19 special prizes, 17 first class prizes and 8 second class prizes, out of 80 scholars. It was above half, and it was very good. Altogether we had a good time.—Miss E. Farnhill, Sec.

**IDLE.**—We held our first Open Session on February 3rd, when we had a very good attendance. Readings were well rendered. We were favoured with recitations by the following Lyceumists: Miss Mary Dawson, Miss D. Illingworth, reading by L. Illingworth. We had a bright session enjoyed by everyone.—E. Bottomley, Sec.

**KETTERING.**—We held our Open Session on February 3rd. Recitations were given by Lizzie Andrews, Irene York, Josephine Freisner, Phillis Hibbins, Kate Taylor, Olive Pitts, Amy Sharman, Lily Sharman, Brenda Underwood, Olive Boyson, Hilda Goode, Mary Bonham, William Herbert, Charles Taylor. Dialogue by Nellie Tear and Ivy Moore. Songs by Enid Boyson, Phillis Herbert, Elsie Taylor, Albert Hills, Douglas Calvert.—F. Holland, Sec.

**LANCASTER.**—February 3rd was our Annual Prize Day, and we held Open Sessions both morning and afternoon. We were entertained by recitations from young Lyceumists, and a good number of parents and friends were heartily welcomed by Mr. J. Kirk, Assistant Conductor, who presided owing to our Conductor being ill. There were about 60 prizes presented at the evening's service by Mr. Ball, senior, and Mr. Bleasdale, senior, both these being numbered amongst the pioneers in Lancaster. Our Church was full, and two of our leaders gave addresses. The day was a great success, and proved that in Lancaster the Lyceum is *alive and well*. Greetings.—Marion Swale, Sec.

**LEEDS, Armley.**—On Thursday, January 3rd, we held a fare well social to wish God-speed to our Sister, Miss Elsie Oisens, on her departure for New Zealand to join her sister. A suitable memento was handed to her in the form of a manicure set.

On February 2nd and 3rd we commemorated the 26th Anniversary of our Lyceum. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success.

**LEICESTER, Rupert Street.**—On February 3rd we had our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists took part:—Piano solo by Master Leslie Kenny. Solos by Misses E. Wicks, Phyllis Smith and Phyllis Goldsmith. Duets by Misses M. Smith and E. Richardson, Messrs. H. Wicks and A. Wells. Recitations by Mr. H. Cartwright and Miss N. Smith. Very good attendance of friends and Lyceumists. I am pleased to report good progress. Mr. H. Wicks conducted.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

**LEICESTER, Silver Street.**—On February 3rd we held our Open Session. Pianoforte solo by Miss M. Taylor. Solos by Misses N. Buckle and C. Lowe. Duets: Misses Ph. Smith and Richardson; Mr. Taylor and M. Smith; Master B. Parkin and S. Smith. Recitations by Miss L. Lucas and M. Salmon.

February 10th saw the distribution of prizes by Mrs. Tuckwood, supported at each session by a good number of friends.—A. Hurst, Sec.

**LINCOLN.**—We held our Open Session a week later than usual, to help the local workers taking that week-end's meetings. After a fair discussion on the Silver Chain, the President of our Church gave us a few well-chosen words on "Children," S.C. 79. The children who had learned recitations competed for prizes given by friends, Fred Willey, aged eight, with "The Windmill," winning the MANUAL, first prize. The consolation prize, a dainty silk handkerchief, was won by Violet Bailey for "Proud Pussy."—A. Bailey, Sec.

**LONDON, Clapham.**—New and re-elected Officers commenced duties, enthusiasm and harmony prevailing throughout well attended sessions. We, *en bloc*, joined Battersea in their first Anniversary Celebrations.—G. M. Todman, Sec.

**LONDON, Hackney.**—On January 31st we held our General Meeting and election of Officers. The balance sheet showed us in good financial position. Mr. Rist, our Honorary President, moved a vote of thanks to all retiring officers. Miss Beaumont was re-elected as Conductor. Two Assistant Conductors were elected: Mr. Banfield and Miss Dougall. Mrs. Hester was re-elected as Secretary, and Miss Smedley as Assistant Secretary, Mr. Cushway was re-elected as Treasurer and Mrs. Cushway as Musical Conductor, with Miss E. Rayment as assistant. Group leaders and Committee were duly elected. With fresh helpers we now hope to go along. We are having an Open Session the first Sunday in each month, and will gladly welcome visitors from other Lyceums.—M. Hester, Sec.

**LONDON, Hounslow.**—It is gratifying to report an increase of members during the year, being now nearly three times as

many as a year ago. We held our annual Christmas Party, about 40 being present, 27 of whom were of the younger generation. After tea, games were much enjoyed, then the event of the evening, viz., the Christmas tree, from which every Lyceumist received a present. Everyone agreed that we had had a real good time, and that to be a Lyceumist was one thing that made this material life worth the living. Greetings to all Lyceums.—A. J. White, Conductor.

LONDON, Woolwich and Plumstead.—Our sessions are bright and we are heartened by the presence of some adult members of the Church. Mrs. Bradley has kindly consented to take the tiny tots. Miss Ashley, of Fulham Lyceum, paid us a visit and gave instruction in calisthenics. Greetings to Lyceumists everywhere.—H. Watthey, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—Election of Officers: Conductor, Mrs. Ward; Assistant, Miss Bowman; Secretary, Mrs. Atherton; Treasurer, Mr. Stanton; Musical Conductor, Miss Jackson; Assistants Miss L. Beddows and Miss W. Payne; Marching Leader, Mr. Griffiths; Group Leaders, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Lowe, Nurse Birby, Mrs. Alsop; Guardian, Miss E. Teale; Guards, Mr. N. Scott, Mr. F. Law; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Bownian; Marching Leaders, 1st, Master F. Paye, Miss E. Ward; 2nd, Mr. Brookes, Miss Albeston; Auditors, Mr. Gears and Mr. Thorpe; Sick Visitors, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Gears, Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Lowe. A vote of thanks was given to all retiring Officers.—G. Atherton, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Pendleton.—Our Lyceum is steadily progressing week by week, but it is with regret that I have to record our Conductor, Mr. Lilliot, has had to send in his resignation through ill-health. We are all hoping that he will soon be restored to his normal health and strength again to lead us on to further progression. Best wishes to all Lyceums.—J. Shaw, Sec.

NEW MANCHESTER.—On January 27th we held our Anniversary and Open Session. Both the morning and evening sessions were well attended, and I am sure that the results of the sessions fully repaid all the workers for their efforts. We are progressing.—B. Jackson, Sec.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On January 27th our Lyceum took the evening service for the Church to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of the first Lyceum being opened. Our Conductor, Mr. Roeder, was in the chair and gave a short account of how the first Lyceum was formed. This was followed by recitations, solos and choruses by the Lyceumists, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.—Mrs. A. Edwards, Sec.

NELSON.—On February 3rd we held our Open Session amidst a good number of Lyceumists, when recitations, etc., were given by Misses Atherton, Greenwood, Higgins, Middlebrook, Ellis, Boothman, Forrest, Pearson, Sutcliffe, and Mrs. Haythornwaite, and Masters Hacking, Pidwell, Haythornwaite, Boothman, Forrest, Ellis, and Craig. Winnie Lloyd gave us a Lyceum poem out of 1923 *Banner*, in a very pleasing manner. This Lyceum is growing favourably in numbers. May it also grow in efficiency with individual efforts by Leaders, old and new, remembering that unity is strength.—Mrs. Parkinson, Sec.

NEWPORT (Mon.) Central.—On February 3rd we held our monthly Open Session, when the following Lyceumists contributed recitations and pearls: Messrs. Taylor, Hodge and Reade, Miss Osmond, Miss Walker, Mrs. Richards, Vera Jones, Nellie Jones, Ada Reade, Lorna Moise, Lily Wainwright, Leslie Reade, Willie Jones and Arthur Jones. We were also favoured with a solo by our Conductor, Miss Lily Young. Each item was very much appreciated. Mr. Taylor closed with prayer.—Harold F. Miller, Sec.

NORMANTON.—On January 27th we held our Prize Distribution. Mr. Rothery, our Conductor, spoke on "Foundation Day." Mr. Green very ably distributed the prizes.—E. Calcutt, Sec.

OLDHAM, Hooper Street.—Attendance number 62. S.C.R., M.R. and G.C.R. excellently rendered. Recitations and solos by Lyceumists very good. Marching and calisthenics good. Wonderful progress shown.—A. W. Goulden, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—On February 10th we celebrated our Annual Prize-giving. Our President, Miss March, presented books, etc., to the scholars. The session concluded with social items.—M. Fielder, Sec.

READING.—I have pleasure to report favourable progress in our Lyceum. Great changes are taking place here which will affect our Lyceum vitally. Keen interest is being taken in all social events. Our Scouts and Guides are working hard for the leading position in the town's organisations, and we're *getting there*.—C. R. Churn, Sec.

RUNCORN.—On January 27th we celebrated Founder's Day. Mr. R. P. Bostock (the first Conductor of Runcorn Lyceum, who has recently returned from journeying round the world), presented prizes to about forty of the Lyceumists. Mr. G. A. Mack, the President of the B.S.L.U., made a few remarks in keeping with the occasion. Harmony reigned supreme.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—On January 27th we commemorated Founder's Day, and to be in union with other Lyceums we took the Session as printed in the *Banner*. A very good time was spent together. Pearls, recitation and musical solo were well rendered by Lyceumists. This being Hospital Sunday in Sheffield, all our collections, realising £1 1s. 6d., were handed over to Hospitals.

February 3rd we held our usual Open Session conducted by Mr. Armitage, assisted by Mrs. Thwaites and Mr. Goodhall. Recitations were given by Cyril Cliffe, J. Le Noury and Ida Moaks. Musical solo by Miss M. Salmon, accompanied by Miss Stanford. Pianist for the day, Ernest Robinson.—J. F. Smith, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Gefford Road.—On February 3rd, 1924, we held our Lyceum Propaganda Day, when recitations, solos and duets were rendered by Lyceumists at the Evening Service. A most successful day.—George Porter, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—On February 9th we held our Annual Party and Prize Distribution when we had a most enjoyable time. After an excellent tea the children indulged in games, and much enjoyment was caused by the streamers, hats and balloons. Later in the evening each Lyceumist was presented with a toy from the Christmas Tree. Mrs. Lambert honoured us by distributing the prizes to the children and elder Lyceumists for recitations and attendance.—E. Joules, Sec.

STOCKTON, Brunswick Street.—On January 27th the pleasing ceremony of naming a child was performed by Mrs. Williams, our Conductor. The earthly name being Albert Kenneth and Spirit name Onward. The child was presented with a Christening Cup from the Lyceum. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidebotham, are old scholars.

Open Session February 3rd; fair attendance and a good session. A marked improvement in questions on the G.C. by children.—Geo. Tuck, Sec.

WAKEFIELD.—We held our Election of Officers on Sunday, December 30th. Conductors, Mrs. Harding Miss Stakes, Mr. Smith; Secretary, Mr. Hargate; Treasurer, Miss Ledger; Leaders, Mary Johnson, Annie Hardcastle, William Gunson and Thomas Hargate; Guardians, Fred Hault and Cissie Mincher; Librarians, Phyllis Gunson and James Hargate; Visitor, Mr. Harding; Delegates, Miss Jenkinson, Mr. Smith; Marching Conductor, Mr. Cope; Calisthenic Conductor, Cissie Mincher and Stanley Johnson; Musical Conductor, Dorothea Harding.

On Saturday, January 5th, we had the Silver Bell presented to us by the President of the Council. Nothing succeeds like success. Our Lyceum sends best wishes to all Lyceums. The workers win.—J. Hargate, Sec.

WEST MELTON.—Open Session February 3rd. Invocation by M. Elliot. S.C.R. by M. Farrar. Recitations by E. Rawlinson, M. A. Speight, M. Staley, M. Elliott, M. Jackson, E. Thornton, N. Hallworth, G. Warren, M. Peat, M. Darby, M. Fielding, J. Kenning. Boys, J. Peniluna, J. Staley, T. Walton. Marching conducted by Mr. Lee. Calisthenics by Maggie Walton. Conductor, Mr. Lee.—H. Trigger, Sec.

WINDHILL.—We held our Open Session on February 3rd, and the following items were rendered:—Readings, Masters W. Wyley and W. Sleep. Recitations, Mr. Atkinson. Songs, Miss H. Knight, Masters W. Sleep and W. Wyley, also by Mr. Robinson, the District Visitor.—D. Feather, Sec.