

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 899. Vol. XXXIV.

MAY, 1924.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

Transition of "Pa" Knight.

A few months ago Mr. James Knight paid us a visit. He was reminiscent and he wandered away to the early struggles and the great joys of "winning through" the opposition in many towns. Spiritualism has not only depended on a test, but has also been the making of many men of striking character, who have found their mark very late in life, because they have not known their capabilities sooner or had a chance to express their innate powers. Such an one was "Pa" Knight. Learning the educational rudiments late in life he found his sphere in nature. The fields and flowers and herbs and insects were his special friends and companions. "The best gift he ever had," so he told the writer, "was an old white table cloth his mother gave him." He invited himself to the homes of the dandelion, and spreading his cloth on the ground, laid on a waterproof sheet with food and blanket for twenty-four hours. The white cloth gave him sufficient light to watch the habits of the flowers, see the insect visitors, and bye and bye, follow the insects to their homes. He knew the likes and dislikes of some insects to special flowers. He wrote his story to the papers, and journals in other lands greedily reprinted his articles. One wrote to him about his views which contradicted the prevalent idea of windiferous pollination and gave the proofs that the fertilisation was insectivorous. "What kind of laboratory have you and by what formula have you obtained your evidence?" Mr. Knight answered that the whole of America could not find the roof which would cover his laboratory. "Look up," he replied, "and you will find the same roof covers us all and nature's book will find the formula around you."

Such was his methods and he was carried through the gates of death into eternity many years ago when he obtained the revelation of spirit intercourse. Children were to him like human buds and he found the great white cloth of God's eternal love illuminated the heart of man to discern the undeveloped goodness in every child. And so he spent his years and woke one morning whilst sat in his chair a few weeks ago to that greater life where the limbs begin again to respond to the eternal youth which filled his life.

There we were prepared to leave him to rest and recuperate, but even now he comes again amongst us and is with us still. Still in death, but with the quiet mobility of the gliding spirit who moves from place to place, carrying the sweetness of his life, till we feel the calm sweet wave of a spiritual zephyr wafting from his robe of immortality. And thus we rejoice in his emancipation. Not good-bye, we only greet him in a newer light, "Pa Knight."

G.F.K.

The Promotion of Mrs. Stair.

It is given to few of us to really know the Pioneers. Their vivid tales are all that we can have to link us with days gone by, days fraught with bigotry more violent than to-day. The thrill of pride and love and law which grips a martyr for the truth is not found in the blood of all. To those whom truth appoints its messengers the way is hard yet sweet. Sweet because externals do not count. The inner spirit feels the warmth and glow of progress burns within God's purposes. To those who feel his spirit lives within us all, there dawns a real Paradise to win within the heart of man. His sympathy responds and thus we find among such thoughts a space for Mary Stair. No life is lived in vain where the body lends itself to the eternal message and the medium always retains something of that sweetness which has passed through the organism of the soul.

Relatives may sacrifice the presence of the form or miss the homely comforts mothers give, but there's a charm in service all can share. 'Tis thus our consolations come. We stay at home whilst others bear the brunt of life's alarms and face its oppositions. The one who gives will get the most when spiritual values are understood.

For years we learned from Mrs. Stair the wounds and poverty of others. Her family is poorer for her absence now and so we give our sympathy. Others will tell how long she lived and where she died. Let us remember what she did and how she tried to soothe the weary days and wakeful nights of those who lived for others and then found themselves in want. A tribute to her mind would be to keep the open door through which should pass the sustenance it was her task to find for those who needed help.

We cannot let our leaders pass without a pang, and yet our sorrow quickly turns to song. The body's gone, the casket worn, and from the shell we see a stronger soul emerge. So shall we find in Mrs. Stair another friend who waits upon us with her love and bids us greet our lives anew. For all shall pass, and in that day we'll find our bearings and our friends and even now we see a brighter day for all this passing to and fro, through death to sweet communion once again. Death will not rob our thoughts of her. It will only strengthen what we have to do and make us feel there is one more soul to guide our destiny and foresee the way. We need this guidance. The spirits gave our cause its birth. Mrs. Stair brought joy to many lives and together we can still work in the same spirit for all the things and powers that we have always looked to the spirit-world to provide. Therein we find God's blessing which overcomes all bereavement and draws us nearer to the goal.

G.F.K.

Births, In Memoriam, and Marriages.

Ordinary intimations will be inserted as follows:—Not exceeding twenty-four words, free. 6d. will be charged for every additional nine words. Poetry 6d. per line. Payment must accompany all intimations of more than 24 words, or they cannot be inserted. In Memoriam for any previous year will be charged 1/- for 24 words, and 6d., for additional 9 words. Poetry 9 p. per line.

CRABTREE.—Bessie, beloved and only daughter of James and A. E. Tinker, of Higher Broughton, Manchester, passed to the Higher Life, April 27th, 1917, aged 32, at Sydney, Australia.—J. Tinker.

HEBDEN BRIDGE. HOULSTON.—We regret to report the passing of Mr. Harold Houlston on the 12th of April, the President of Hebdon Bridge Church. He was brought up in the Lyceum, a great worker and a past Conductor.

The interment was conducted by Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, J.P., and a large number of Spiritualists, Lyceumists and friends.

WALSALL. HARRISON.—The funeral took place at the Walsall Cemetery on Monday, April 14th, of Marie Harrison, aged 12 years, one of our Lyceumists who passed to the Higher Life. Deeply mourned by all in the Lyceum. A wreath in harp shape was sent with an appropriate verse from the MANUAL. She is the daughter of Mr. H. H. Harrison, the financial Secre-

tary of Walsall Spiritualists' Church and her three sisters also are members of the Lyceum. The Church members also sent a wreath as did the members of the Bakers' Operative Union of which Mr. Harrison is the local secretary. The funeral was conducted by Mr. P. Walshaw in the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. Venables, J.P., the President of the church, who was too indisposed to attend.

COMPLIMENTED BY PRIME MINISTER.

A sketch of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, drawn and forwarded by Willie Scott, 59, Lochee Road, Dundee, a promising artist, 12 years of age, has been acknowledged by the Prime Minister. Willie has received a letter from Mr. MacDonald's secretary stating that—"The Prime Minister was very glad indeed to receive the drawing that you have made of him, and he considers it an excellent piece of work. I think you have a real talent for drawing, and it may be advisable for you to go on with it seriously. I am handing the drawing to Mr. MacDonald's daughter for her to keep. I am sure she will be delighted with it, and also with the little photograph of yourself."

—Yours very sincerely, Rose Rosenberg.

The young artist is the son of the Secretary of the Scottish Lyceum District Council.

Dundee Courier.

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

The above Union will hold its

Thirty-Fifth ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On SATURDAY, JUNE 7th, at 3 p.m.,

and on

SUNDAY, JUNE 8th, at 10 a.m.,

in the

HOLBORN HALL, HULL.

President: Mr. G. A. MACK, of Runcorn.

AGENDA.

- (1) Opening Exercises and Welcome.
 - (2) Appointments, (a) Messenger; (b) Tellers (c) Scrutineers.
 - (3) Minutes of last Conference.
 - (4) Correspondence.
 - (5) President's Address.
 - (6) Unfinished Business.
 - (a) From N.E. Lancs. District Council.
 - (1) *Bye-Law 4. Sect. 6.* "That the Conductor and Secretary of any affiliated Lyceum which meets in a Church attached to the S.N.U., Ltd., shall be full members of that Church."
 - (2) *Bye-Law 7. Sect. 2.* "The General Secretary shall, during the last week in December in each year send to the Secretary of each District Council, or to the District Visitor in such cases where only a Lyceum District exists, a statement giving the financial standing of each Lyceum in the District Council or Lyceum District concerned."

J. SHUTTLEWORTH, Sec.
 - (b) General. From the M.C.
 - (1) "That this Conference views with grave concern the attempt to introduce compulsory measures for the suppression of heterodox instruction in certain Sunday Schools throughout the country, believing such measures to be direct interference with the rights of citizens to inculcate such teachings as are in accord with their highest conception of truth and right. We therefore Resolve to take the necessary steps to effectively register our protest against such iniquitous measures."
 - (2) "That we support the S.N.U. in any effort they may make to secure the abolition of Capital Punishment."

From London District Council.
 - (3) "That the Manual Revision Committee be authorised to proceed with the consideration and preparation of a revised edition of the Lyceum Manual, irrespective of its effect on the present edition."
 - (4) "That all Lyceums be urged to establish a "Revised Manual" Fund of ½d., per member per month, so that at the end of the Revision period each Lyceum will be in a position to purchase a full supply of the new edition."
 - (5) "That each District Council be urged to from a District Revision Committee—to meet at least once a quarter,
- and forward reports and suggestions to the Revision Secretary."
- A. T. CONNOR, Hon. Sec.
- (7) Reports: (a) Management Committee; (b) Treasurer; (c) Auditors; (d) Banner; (e) Education; (f) Trustees; (g) U.D.C.
 - (h) Manual Revision; (i) S.N.U. Conference and E.C.; (j) Our Guild; (k) Overseas; (l) £2,000 Effort; (m) Inter-relations; (n) Secretary's Interim;
 - (8) (a) Elect Officers; (i) President; (ii) Vice-President; (iii) Treasurer; (iv) S.N.U. E.C. Representatives.
 - (b) Declaration of Area Results.
 - (9) Elect Auditor.
 - (10) Elect Representatives to other Conferences.
 - (11) Select Date and Place of next Conference.
 - (12) Motion. From London Lyceum District Council.
 - (1) "That this Conference approves of, and urges, the harmonious interworking of Churches and Lyceums, where such co-operation can be established on a voluntary basis—but declares that the COMPULSORY FUSION of Lyceums with the Churches to which they are attached (for purposes of Lyceum Government) should not be considered as a NATIONAL POLICY; and further, that under any system of co-operation Lyceums should remain independent in the management of their internal affairs."

A. T. CONNOR, Hon. Sec.
- From Tyneside Lyceum District Council.
- (2) "That this Conference recommends to the Education Committee, that at as early a date as possible Examiners be chosen from those who have obtained at least first class in a higher grade: Examiners for Grade V. to be recognised Lyceum Workers."
- N. E. AINLEY, Sec.
- From Sheffield Lyceum District Council.
- (3) "That all motions before being submitted to Conference for vote, shall be written on paper and signed by the mover and seconder, and read out to the Conference by the presiding officer, after which they shall be retained by the Union Secretary."
- C. H. SAXELBY, Sec.
- (13) Notices of Motion for next Conference.
 - (14) Votes and thanks to Retiring Officers, Executive Council, Auditor, the local Societies and Lyceums.
 - (15) Closing Exercises.



MY DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

I hope you have all had a happy Easter, I expect you are all looking fat and well, chuckling all over your faces, after those delicious Easter eggs. Now you can crow for another year, but what have you to crow about, Why! The Lyceum movement, of course. You know, how the old rooster wakes you up in the morning. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," so they say, so just wake everyone up to the importance of your own Lyceum. Let those who try to oppose you see that we really have something worth crowing about. "That's the stuff to stuff 'em with."

Once upon a time, there lived in a wood two little people, who decided to build their own house. They gathered together a supply of wood, straw, clay, and such like materials, and agreed that the safest place to erect their house was in the branches of a tree. Day by day they worked, until the building was completed. At this stage the woodland fairies came to their assistance, telling them of three wonderful ornaments to add to its interior beauty, they said these ornaments would one day bring them three wonderful gifts; thus they agreed to carry out the fairies' suggestion.

Each day these wonderful ornaments were closely guarded, by one of these little people, while the other supplied the store cupboard with daily food. What could these wonderful gifts which the fairies spoke of, really mean, did it mean that one day they would be ever so rich? or was it that they should own the wood. Alas! While they were discussing these things they hear sounds of wood cracking in the distance; as these sounds came nearer, they could hear voices speaking in a foreign language, fear stole into their hearts as they climbed to a higher branch of the tree in order to keep one eye on their home and precious ornaments, and one on the intruders. Alas, all too soon they knew the truth, at the foot of the very tree in which their home was built, stood a number of giants, considering which of their number should climb the tree and ascertain if their was any treasure within the beautiful building to add to their store.

What could these little people do, against such strong forces. All was lost, they would never see what the wonderful gifts were, and so it was their greatest treasure was stolen by giants. We must find out who these giants are, and see if we cannot get a law passed to stop such crimes, they said.

I will tell you who they were, they were just unkind children stealing eggs from a beautiful bird's nest; eggs which one day would be children in birdland. STOP! boys and girls, think of the sorrow and pain caused by the evil habit of birdnesting, would you like your home broken down, and all your beautiful toys stolen? Why of course not: then even if you are not guilty yourselves, always try and show other children, the lesson you learn in your Lyceum and you will be doing a great service to God's little creatures in birdland.

This month I want to say a word about the batches of letters we continue to receive from you each month. Auntie Ruth and I appreciate every one, and each is carefully filed and often referred to, but I want to ask you all, to only write on one side of your paper, then they can be read at a glance in my file.

My letters in these pages are limited to space, but there is no limitation to correspondence. I have been requested by some of my co-workers to write to each child direct instead of the present system of a general letter to the Lyceum.

I have a self-filling pen, and ink is cheap and providing stamped addressed envelopes are enclosed, I shall be only too pleased to meet the wishes of co-workers. The work of direct correspondence is increasing, forming a closer link between us and the children in all parts. Our one object is to be the friends of the children, and I want each boy and girl to feel that we are interested in your toys, games, hobbies, school life, books, as well as your own Lyceum. Write each month apart from the Competition and Puzzle Efforts. We love your letters.

We have also a like interest with all who are working amongst these little ones, and appreciate your letters and efforts in the Liberty Section; while tiny tots' letters are especially appre-

ciated, let this be your motto "Write and tell Uncle Bert about it."

Just a brief thought on Progress of Service, for my older boys and girls.

Progress is a subject as you know upon which an unlimited number of books are written. Even if you look back over the few years of your own life you see progress has been made on every hand including Art, Travel, Science, etc.

Coming to our own individual lives in the Lyceum Movement the question is, Have we progressed? Go back a few years, think of one of your open sessions where you took part in individual efforts by saying a simple recitation, singing some childish song, or playing some easy melody. You put your very best into your effort as our tiny tots do to-day, and it was appreciated by those of older years, but you have now grown up and again Open Session comes round, what are you doing to-day, are you leaving everything to the little ones, or are you giving an effort according to your age.

I see four stages, which I should like everyone of you to be able to look back on one day.

Stage 1.—Once I said Ten little Nigger Boys.

Stage 2.—Then I gave an essay on Ten Laws of Right.

Stage 3.—Then I gave a Ten Minutes' Address on the public platform.

Stage 4.—Now I am Conductor or Officer of a Lyceum.

That is progress reached stage by stage, and it is within your own power to reach up to the next stage from the one you are now in.

Never attempt to stand still: it cannot be done. If you do not press forward you will slip backward, so give heed to these brief thoughts and press forward to conquer.

COMPETITION.

Prizes and Awards of Merit to both sections this month for Essays on "The Three Outstanding Lessons I have Learned in the Lyceum."

RULES.

1. Name in full, age and address, Conductor's name and address. Write replies on one side of the paper only, leaving one inch margin on left hand side.

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

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

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

Prizes for last month awarded to:—

Ethel Bishop, age 13. Henry Littlejohn, age 11.

Other creditable efforts including Liberty Section received from Battersea, Cheetham, Hebburn, Manchester.

CORRECT ANSWER TO PUZZLE No. 4.

Shoulder to Shoulder
The Sweet Land of Sunshine
Lyceum Temperance Song.

Frank Wright & Roma
Lampon, Brixton.
Amy Smith, Fulham.
Cathie Moore, Glasgow.

J. Plumb, Bradford.
A. B. Robbins, Battersea.
Robert Melton, Hyde.

Several co-workers' letters have not arrived at time of going to press.

PUZZLE No. 5. (Two LYCEUM SONGS).

THGIREHTDEEPSDOG
REHTEGOTLLAGNIS

"As one of your YOUNGEST nephews, in years 79, but after Marching and Calisthenics just 13." James Knight. In this spirit Mr. James Knight has been promoted to Higher Service.

Greetings from Battersea, Clapham, Manchester and District, also greetings and welcome to Oversea Lyceumists who may be visiting London for the Empire Exhibition.

2, Villiers Road, OSTERLEY, MIDDLESEX. **UNCLE BERT.**

Uncle Bert, Aunt Ruth and the Editor have had a nice chat.—
ED.

Alterations in List of Lyceums, etc.

Reading Lyceum have resigned their membership of the Union.

Belfast Lyceum has closed down through lack of support.
Durham Lyceum is temporarily closed.

NEWLY AFFILIATED LYCEUMS

Lower Broughton Lyceum, Clarence St., 10-30 & 1-45. Mr. J. H. Binns, 65, Romney St., Pendleton, Manchester.

Glasgow, Southern Lyceum, Gordon Hall, 316, Paisley Rd., 1 p.m. Mr. J. H. McLachlan, 167, Wallace Street, Glasgow, S.S.

Eltham Lyceum, Jubilee Passage, Well Hall Road, Eltham, S.E. 3 p.m. Mrs. P. F. Johnson, 19, Martin Bowes Road, Well Hall, Eltham, S.E.

Hoyland Lyceum, Council Schools, Market St., 2-30 p.m. Mr. A. M. Gibson, Wentworth, nr. Rotherham.

Stainforth, Finkle St. Mart, Stainforth, 10-45 & 1-45. Mr. Wm. Moss, 7, No. 3 Square, Stainforth, nr Doncaster.

Croydon Lyceum, Harewood Hall, 96, High St., Croydon, 3 p.m. Mr. G. Lingwood, 349, Portland Road, South Norwood, S.E.25.

North Leeds Lyceum, Priory School, Galthorne St., Roundhay, Leeds, 2-30 p.m. Mr. F. W. Wright, 32, Gipton View, Roundhay, Leeds.

Forest Hill Lyceum, Beadnall Road, Forest Hill, S.E.23. 3 p.m. Mr. E. D. Gentle "Alleyn View," 12, Townley Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22.

Edlington Lyceum, Council Schools, 2-30 p.m. Mr. Wm. Worrall, 28, Thomson Avenue, New Edlington, nr. Doncaster.

CHANGE OF SECRETARIES, ETC.

Bury, Freetown, Miss A. Nurse, 156, Rochdale Rd., Bury, Lancs.

Nuneaton—Mr. N. Twaddles, 209, Coton Road.

Little Ilford.—Miss I. Page, 21, Shelley Ave., Manor Park E.12.

Darwen.—Mr. J. Nightingale, 4, Matlock Terrace.

Scottish District Visitor.—Mr. J. Shaw, 115, Smith St., Govanhill, Glasgow.

Southern Counties' District Visitor.—Mr. E. G. Harry, 39, Margate Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.

Dunstan-on-Tyne.—Miss T. Bambridge, 1, Gray Street.

South Shields.—Cambridge Street, 2-30. Miss E. Stokes, 5, Martin Street.

Cardiff, Central.—Mr. R. J. Griffiths, 33, Amhurst Street, Grangetown, Cardiff.

Manchester, Moston.—Church Lane.

Dundee, Overgate.—Mr. W. Forbes, 34, Todburn Lane.

Baby Plants, and how they are born,

(The Lyceum Guild Nature Study Article).

BY MARGARET E. LAWTON.

V. FERNS.

Ferns form the most highly developed family amongst the flowerless plants, and their life-story is particularly interesting. They are essentially land plants, and yet cannot live without plenty of moisture. Consequently ferns flourish best in moist woodlands and hedgerows or along the beds of streams. It is noticeable that the districts with the heaviest rainfall are the richest in fern plants.

In the British Isles, ferns are generally small, herbaceous plants, awakening to life each Spring, and decaying off again late in every Autumn. In warmer, wetter lands, however, the ferns are often of the height and size of trees. I believe there are some specimens of tree-ferns cultivated in England.

The awakening and unfolding of fern plants is one of the annual wonders of Springtime. Most British ferns have a hard woody roostock in the ground, from which true roots grow into the soil, and green leaves grow up into the air. The roostock is the product of several years' growth, and in it is stocked the plant food which maintains the plant during the Winter rest. When in the bud, all plant leaves are folded or rolled, so as to occupy the least possible space, but few plants have such a beautiful arrangement as that used by most ferns. Young fern leaves, or as they are more commonly called, *fronds*, are coiled up like a watch spring. Ferns have veins, and each frond is coiled from tip to roostock along its midrib, and each segment of each frond is also coiled along its own tiny midrib. In the warm moist days of Spring, a daily development in the uncoiling

can be noticed. In the *Hart's Tongue Fern* the frond is a simple, undivided leaf, but in most ferns the fronds are beautifully divided. Fig. I. shows just a small part of a frond of well known *Male Fern*.

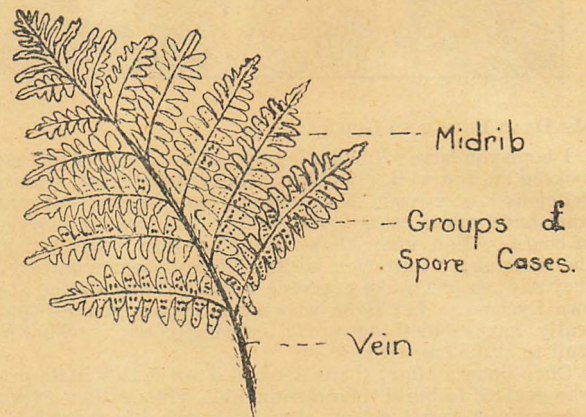


Fig. I. Underside of Fern Frond.

The production of the fern babies takes place in late Autumn and is continued in the Springtime, and the process is just the reverse of that found in the Liverworts and Mosses. In Autumn the fern fronds are fully developed and brown marks appear on the underside of each frond. In the *Male Fern*, and in other ferns with much-divided fronds, the brown marks are like small raised spots. In ferns with undivided fronds, the marks often form distinct brown ridges on the frond. Each mark is really a cluster of tiny *spore cases*. Sometimes, until they are ripe, the cases are covered by a thin protective skin. Fig. II. is a much enlarged drawing of one spore case.

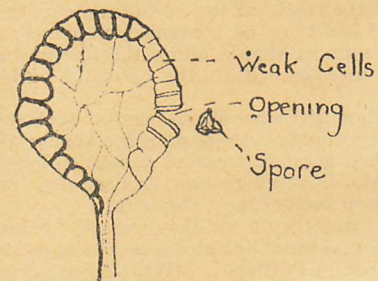


Fig. II. A Spore Case (enlarged).

From Fig. II. it can be seen that on one side the case cells are thickened, and so are much stronger than the thinner cells along the other sides. In dry weather these thickened cells shrink, so that the case tears at the weak part and an opening is formed. Through this opening the spores are shaken out to the ground. Each spore case may contain 64 spores, so that a single frond produces thousands of spores.

The escape of the spores completes the first part of the life history of the Ferns, for after that has happened, the fronds can wither, and apparently lie dormant until another year arrives. Each spore, however, is capable of developing into a very important, but usually unnoticed, part of fern life. If a spore settles in a suitable home, it grows into a brown heart-shaped body which is about one-third of an inch in breadth. This little body is known as a *prothallus*, and it is the home of the male and female germs. The upper surface of the prothallus is quite smooth. The protected underside becomes attached to the ground by numerous fine, root-like hairs, which provide the prothallus with food. Near the point of the prothallus grow the male organs. They are little cases containing tiny antherozoids. The female egg cells are flask-like, and are embedded in the prothallus, so that only the necks project, and these point

downwards towards the antherozoid cases. Fig. III. shows the underside of a prothallus. The drawing is much enlarged.

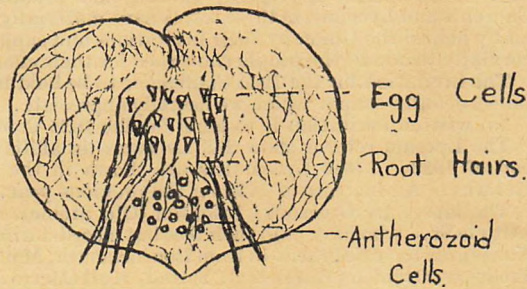


Fig. III. A Prothallus (enlarged)

When the antherozoids are ripe, they are freed from their cases, and are carried by moisture towards the egg cells. The egg cells attract the antherozoids towards them by giving off a sticky acid. Only one egg cell on each prothallus is reached by an antherozoid. When the female egg has been fertilised by the male antherozoid, by the union of the two germs, the new green plant commences to grow from the prothallus. A root grows from the prothallus into the ground to establish the baby plant in its home, and then the first green frond reaches up into the air. This first green leaf, as can be seen in Fig. IV., is a very small and very simple affair, but as one frond succeeds another, each becomes more and more like the ones found on the fully grown plant. The new fern plant does not reach its full growth until it is a few years of age.

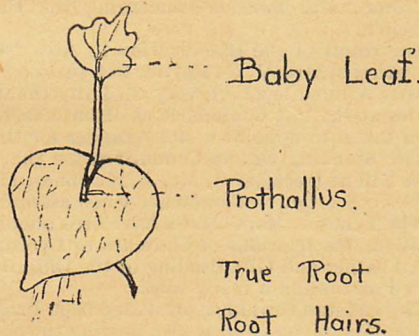


Fig. IV. Young Plant.

Mosses and ferns have the same type of male antherozoids and female egg cells, and fertilisation happens in the same way. Yet, the two families; though so much alike, have some striking differences. The spore-bearing part of the ferns, is the green frond-bearing plant, whilst in the mosses it is a small, inconspicuous capsule. The germ-bearing part of the ferns is the usually unnoticed prothallus, whilst in the mosses, it is the green and conspicuous part of the plant. The spore-bearing part, and the germ-bearing part, are both called "generations," and both are necessary to the life and growth of the plant. In the mosses, the two generations, are always connected, for the spore capsule is fed by the green germ-bearing plant. In the ferns, the two generations are absolutely separate, and independent of each other, for the germ-bearing prothallus is often carried some distance from the spore-bearing fronds. Thus, the prothallus of a fern does slightly correspond to the seed of a flowering plant, for both are independent plant bodies, and can only fulfil their purpose if given suitable conditions.

The prothallus of the ferns, really gave them their group name of *Cryptogams*. That term really means "hidden marriage," and to most people the production of fern babies by the prothallus was indeed a hidden mystery.

(To be continued).

THE CHILD.

By Mrs. M. E. PICKLES.

This chapter deals chiefly with the early life in home surroundings.

Birth just means the releasing of the physical body by the mother—thus causing the surroundings of the physical world to influence the child immediately.

There is the opening out and response of the senses to the outer world, this latter exercising those influences which before were exercised by the physical body of the mother.

The sense of touch is obscured by the tiny fingers grasping at any substance near. Sight, hearing, taste and smell all play their parts, to the great gratification of both parents.

Then begin the efforts of trying the child to gain control over his own movements.

The process of guiding his own fist to his mouth seems to be one of great difficulty, and complexity, taking hours, days, weeks and months to accomplish.

The struggle to obtain mastery of movement goes on, through the creeping, crawling and walking exercises, and is constantly continued and helped to perfection by the best kind of gymnastics and dancing.

The old prudishness is passing away, when our grandparents vowed it wrong and sinful to dance, even for youths and maidens. Where is a better picture than the dances of to-day for our little folks, bringing about a fuller development physically, a more graceful carriage, and creating a desire for the beautiful.

The aiding of the child's efforts in this direction, is an important part of his education, and should begin from the moment of birth.

Habits of cleanliness and regularity of function are formed in the cradle; control of the body is the easier and the more complete the earlier it is obtained, and children who have been neglected, ill-trained or untrained in babyhood have great difficulty in acquiring healthy and cleanly habits later on.

Let us try to remember his physical body is the vehicle for the indweller, and it cannot be trained too early for good and efficient service.

District Council Reports.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, 10th May, at 3 p.m., at Daulby Hall, Daulby Street, Liverpool. Delegates and Associates please make a special effort to attend. Business important.—Gladys Owen, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

The above Council will hold the Quarterly Meeting on Sat., May 17th, at 3 p.m. in the Lyceum at Vernon St., Nelson.

All Lyceums are requested to send representatives to this meeting, as business is very important. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge by our Nelson friends. Social to follow the meeting for the benefit of Council funds.

Will all Lyceum Secretaries notify their Associates?

Agenda: Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, Presidents' Address, Demonstration, Conference. Adjudication matters, Open Council.—J. Shuttleworth, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 31st, 3-30, at South Elmsall. Business:—President's Address, Minutes, Co-respondence, Reports, D.V., Interchange, Treasurers, U.D.C. Delegates, B.D.C., L.D.C., Field Days, Secretary's Final Arrangements, Competition Business, Associates, Open Council, Next Meeting, Vote of Thanks. Tea provided.—A. W. Harding, Sec.

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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MAY, 1924

NOTICE TO DELEGATES.

The B.S.L.U. Annual Conference will be held in the Holborn Hall, Holborn Street, Hull, on Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th June, commencing at 3 p.m. on the Saturday and 10 a.m. on the Sunday.

Lyceum Guides will meet the trains at the Station.

The way to reach Holborn Hall is to go straight ahead, when leaving the Railway Station until a "H" car is seen. Board this car to Holborn Street. Holborn Hall is on the left-hand side and just inside Holborn Street. The fare is 1d.

Delegates desiring to walk must ask for Holderness Road and proceed to Holborn Street, which is about 15 minutes' walk from the Station.

Mrs. Brown, 78, Porter Street, Hull, has been appointed the Billet Secretary. Applications for Billets must be made before May 19th, and a stamped addressed envelope enclosed when a reply is desired. Also state whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss, and if accommodation is wanted for Saturday only, or Saturday and Sunday nights, or Sunday only.

Delegates will greatly assist by applying early and stating their desires clearly.

All delegates must apply for Credentials before May 5th to the Gen. Secretary, and for Billets before May 19th.

All the Conference meetings will be held in Holborn Hall. Meals will be catered for elsewhere.

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

Sec. 1. "Parliamentary Rules" of order shall be the authority and govern this Union on all matters not provided for by the Constitution and Bye-laws.

Sec. 2. The Standing Orders Committee of the Conference shall be appointed by the Management Committee with the addition of one member elected from the floor when Conference has assembled.

Sec. 3. The Management Committee shall appoint the following Officers for each Conference, viz.: a Messenger, a Credential Committee, a Minute Secretary, Tellers, and other special Officers as occasion shall require.

Sec. 4. Each delegate shall be limited to one speech on each question discussed, not exceeding five minutes, except by the unanimous consent of the Conference; but the mover of a resolution shall be allowed ten minutes, with the right of five minutes for reply.

Sec. 5. Fourteen days' notice must be given in writing to the General Secretary of all questions to be raised in the Conference relating to the business of any preceding Conference except the last one.

Sec. 6. One person one vote shall be the voting rule on all questions.

In the event of a tie vote the Presiding Officer shall have a casting vote. All Officers, Trustees and Auditors, shall be elected by ballot.

On the request of one member of the Conference, supported by 20 per cent. of the members present, a vote by roll call shall be taken upon any question then being discussed.

Where there are three or more candidates for any single office the ballots shall proceed until one candidate has secured a majority of the votes cast. The candidate receiving the lower number of votes to be eliminated in each succeeding ballot.

Management Committee's Report.

The Management Committee have held their Quarterly Meetings at Peckham, Liverpool, Bolton and Middleton. The Churches and Lyceums in these towns have materially and financially helped the Union by their invitations and support and we cordially thank all the people concerned for their efforts.

The invitation for the 1924 Conference to be held in Hull has taken definite shape, which we heartily appreciate.

No written invitation is to hand for the 1925 Conference.

The Lyceum returns show 268 Lyceums in affiliation at the end of 1923. 15462 Lyceumists are shown in the Statistical Returns. An increase of 1450 on the previous year.

The lapses are Greenock, Brighton (Old Steine), Accrington (Argyle St.), who have paid their fees but closed during the year. No returns have been sent in from Bournemouth, Mountain Ash, Tredegar, Oldham (Water St.), Ystrad, Hull (Metro.), Stanley, Holbeck, Edmonton, Pemberton, Southampton (St. Mary's Rd.), Crompton, Easington Lane, Rochdale (Halliwell St.).

The new members entered during 1923 are Barrowford, Cardiff (Queen St.), Glasgow (Northern), Falkirk, Nuneaton, Glasgow (Progressive), Parkgate, Longsight, Barnoldswick (Green St.), Hollinwood, Leicester (Marston St.), Doncaster (Spring Gardens), Kettering, Hackney, Newbiggen, Manchester (Hr. Openshaw), Portsmouth (Francis Avenue), Leicester (Belgrave Gate), Cleckheaton, Winnipeg No. 2., Horsforth, Idle, New Delaval, Dukinfield, Denton, St. Helens (Lancs.) Christchurch, N.Z., Wombwell, St. Helens (Bp. Auckland), Strichley, Aberavon, Longton, Sheffield (Hillsboro').

The post-war period has now been overcome, the financial position being slightly better than before the War.

Mr. Kitson, the Advisor to the Union attended the International Congress and read a paper on Lyceumism which is now in the permanent records of International Spiritualism.

Mr. Evans' book "Modern Spiritualism" has been published and is now on sale. Every adult Lyceumist should possess a copy of this helpful book.

Your attention is called to the Report on "Inter-relations" as some vital matters concerning the Union's future arise therein.

The result of the Bye-election in Area "G" resulted in the elevation of Miss V. G. Rayner to a seat on the M.C.

Miss Allured has been very cordially thanked for her onerous duties at the last Conference as Minute Secretary. Steps have been taken to appoint a stenographer for the 1924 Conference.

The Standing Orders Committee for the Conference will be Miss Elliott (secretary), Mr. J. K. Jones, Mr. Stewart and one to be chosen by the Conference when assembled.

The Tyneside Model Rules have been adopted as the suggested basis for the relations of Churches to Lyceums and vice-versa.

A Leather and Gilt Binding of the Officers' Manual has been issued and found a ready sale.

The Lyceum Guild has presented 5000 Price Lists to the Education Committee, and is also bearing the cost of the blocks for the Nature Articles appearing in the BANNER. The M.C. appreciate this generous assistance.

We have decided to place before the Conference for your serious consideration the important question of the future relations of the B.S.L.U. and the S.N.U.

We propose to affiliate the B.S.L.U. to the International Spiritualist Federation of Relations and are appealing for membership as a National organisation.

The £2000 Effort deserve much more support than is being given to it. We hope you will give this Effort more consideration.

The various activities of the Union are dealt with under the special reports which will be submitted to the Conference and we are pleased to report progress in all departments.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ROLL.

Mr. G. A. Mack	4
Mr. A. Kitson	3 (sick 1)
Mr. R. A. Owen	4
Mr. G. F. Knott	4
Mr. Jas. Stewart	4
Mr. R. Hunter	3 (sick 1)
Mr. J. K. Jones	4
Mr. W. Burrows	4
Mrs. M. E. Pickles	4
Miss E. Elliott	4
Miss V. G. Rayner	4
Mr. W. Ford	2 (resigned)

Lyceum Banner Report.

There is a slight increase in the number of BANNERS printed and sold during the year. There has been a uniform issue of 16 pages and 4 page cover, except the Conference issue, when four additional pages were added.

There is a slight loss on the official organ owing to many items from the General and Publishing Departments being inserted as ordinary copy.

The object of the Editor has been to provide a useful organ to Lyceums and Leaders with interesting matters of an educational character.

Much space has been given to the Education Scheme, the Guild and Lyceum Reports. These are a necessary feature of our work and all possible space has been freely given for the encouragement of these phases which are building the movement and increasing its interest and growth.

Thanks are due to Miss M. E. Kitson, B.A., Mr. Connor, Uncle Bert, Mr. Rutherford, Mrs. Pickles, Mr. Tinker and the many other contributors who have sent so many helpful articles of interest to Lyceumists.

It is proposed that District Councils should refrain from sending the full competition tables and only the points of the winners shall be inserted.

If the growing demands of the movement are to be served it will be necessary to provide at least four additional pages and issue the Lyceum Lists separately when other information is being circulated.

It will be better to extend the accruing balance on a larger paper than pay the money in profits tax on the trading and sales.

More Lyceums are taking the BANNER than ever before; the individual subscribers are also slowly increasing.

Exchange copies are now sent to a number of foreign countries, and thus our Lyceumism may eventually find expression abroad at some future date.

Mr. Woodall, of South Shields, contributed some interesting articles on "Herbs" last year and Miss Lawton is providing some instructive illustrated articles on "Baby Plants" this year. The perennial interest in some of the serials may result in their preparation in booklets and the MSS. and blocks are being reserved with this object in view.

We are sorry to lose the physical help of Mr. J. Knight, a very valued friend and contributor to the BANNER. His last three articles have only appeared this year.

One way of increasing sales will be to sell 13 to the dozen.

There is a gratifying improvement in the payment of the accounts and observation of dates for sending in the reports.

The purpose of the BANNER is to serve the movement, and the growing number of contributors proves we may develop literary talent to do the larger and more permanent work which awaits and attends the general growth of Lyceumism.

I am personally grateful the movement holds these willing and voluntary helpers.

GEO. F. KNOTT, Editor.

Education Report to Conference, 1924.

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 1923-1924.

Chairman: Miss A. HESP (Leeds).

Honorary Secretary: Miss E. M. KITSON (Batley).

Other Members: MESSRS. A. T. CONNOR (London), A. KITSON (Batley), R. A. OWEN (Liverpool), R. LATHAM (Burnley), G. A. MACK (Runconr), G. F. KNOTT (Rochdale).

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE.

The Committee has held its usual meetings in September (1923) and April (1924); and its decisions affecting the carrying on of the work of the Education Scheme have been made known to Lyceums either by circulars, or announcements in the LYCEUM BANNER.

REPORTS OF WORK DONE.

Quarterly reports have been sent to the M.C., along with financial statements up-to-date; and the usual monthly reports of progress, the instructions to secretaries, and articles for students and tutors have appeared in the LYCEUM BANNER.

EDUCATION PRINTING.

(i) Since the last Conference no new Handbook has been issued; but a new edition of the *Syllabus* was printed. This has been issued extensively for propaganda purposes, as well as for the guidance of actual students.

(ii) A re-issue of the pamphlet "How to prepare for the examination" is to be obtained; as it has proved of great service to all working in and for, the Scheme.

(iii) An article dealing with the *Oral Grade* appeared in the April BANNER, and is being reprinted in leaflet-form, to be sent to all Lyceumists who make enquiries; and also to all Lyceums that have not yet entered any children for this Grade.

(iv) The necessary supplies of general stationery, examination stationery, printed or typed circulars; and certificates have been obtained as needed.

	Sold during 1923.	In stock on 1st Jan., 1924.
No. 3 Handbook ..	401	3390
No. 2 Handbook ..	591	3986
No. 1 Handbook ..	1027	785
Oral Grade Primer	559	4236

THE EXAMINATIONS.

The preparatory work for the holding of the examinations, and the subsequent work for the marking of the papers and the despatching of certificates has been carried out as in previous years, and needs no further comment, or explanations.

Full particulars about Examiners, schemes of marking, Lyceums entered, sitters, and lists of successful candidates appear in the official printed booklet of EXAMINATION LISTS AND SUMMARIES, and can be obtained, price *one shilling*, from the Education Secretary, on and after 15th May.

SUMMARY OF NUMBERS.

Grade.	Entered.	Sat.	Passed.
V.	34	30	
VI.	73	63	
III.	201	167	
II.	302	223	
I.	707	492	
Oral	201	132	125
Total	1518	1107	
Lyceums	117	113	

(The papers from Auckland, N.Z., had not arrived at the time of sending this report to the press).

The next examinations are fixed for 15th February, 1925.

EXAMINATION FEES.

It has been suggested by several Lyceums that a good means of meeting the expenses incurred by the Education Scheme would be the increasing of the fees charged for the examinations. The Committee considered this question at its April meeting, and finally decided that next year there be no alteration of the fees for Grades I. & II., but that for Grades III., IV. and V. one shilling be charged instead of sixpence. (The Oral Grade candidates pay no fee).

THE WORK FOR THE EDUCATION SCHEME.

All the work in connection with the Education Scheme is done quite voluntarily and in spare time. But the number of candidates, and the consequent amount of clerical work, has increased year by year, until it became impossible for the Education Secretary to continue with it unless she had help in the periods of rush. The Committee therefore gave her permission to obtain the paid services of a helper, as required; and also to bring the assistant to the meetings in order to give her the necessary insight into the carrying on of the work.

THE COMMITTEE TENDERS THANKS.

to all who have worked for the scheme in any way—to candidates, Lyceum Secretaries, Conductors, and Tutors; to the senders of donations, to help to meet the cost of the work; to the Examiners, who have so readily devoted time to marking the papers; to the writers of articles for students and tutors; and to those who have helped with the clerical and routine work.

IN CONCLUSION.

The Committee makes a special appeal to each Lyceum already in the Scheme to help and encourage its members to continue their studies; and to those Lyceums that have not yet entered to make a determined effort, and enter candidates in 1925 for the Oral and First Grades.

On behalf of the Education Committee,

ALICE HESP, Chairman.

MARY E. KITSON, Secretary.

We are grateful to the many Lyceums who have enabled us to complete the 1923 Bound Volumes by sending the missing copies.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION,
Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, Year Ending December, 31st, 1923.

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	INCOME.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To M.C. Expenses:—							By Collections, etc.:—						
Stockport	6	5	6				M.C. Propaganda Meetings:						
Hall, Advertising, etc.	8	4	0				Stockport	26	12	4			
Hymn Sheets	1	6	0			15	Huddersfield	6	12	6			
							London	6	18	0			
						15					40	2	10
Huddersfield	6	7	2				„ Conference, Liverpool:—						
Hall, Advertising, etc.	6	12	6			18	Collections, etc.				12	15	0
Hymn Sheets	0	14	0			8							
London	15	18	9				„ Subscriptions				205	7	6
Hymn Sheets	0	14	0			16	„ Certificate Deposits				2	12	0
						9	„ Education Dept.:—						
Liverpool						7	Exam. Fees, £34/5/6; Donations,						
„ Conference, Liverpool:—							£6/8/6; Handbooks, etc., £33/15/5;						
M.C., etc.	16	5	0				Stock, £38/5/-				112	14	5
Printing, Stationery, etc.	2	16	0				„ Bank Interest				1	5	8
Hymn Sheets	0	14	0				„ Transfer from Publishing Fund A/c.:—						
						19	Proportion of Salaries (¾)	253	10	0			
						15	Proportion of Rent, Light, Meet-				120	19	6
„ Salaries—General Secretary	260	0	0			0	ings, etc. (¾)				374	9	6
Adviser	78	0	0				„ Transfer from Lyceum Banner A/c.:—						
						388	Proportion of Salaries (½)	42	5	0			
„ Rent, Lighting, etc.	27	19	9				Proportion of Rent, Light, Meet-				18	14	6
„ Printing, Stationery, etc.	14	12	7				ings, etc. (½)						
„ Typing Minutes	3	11	9										
„ Advt., T.W., 12/-; Health Insurance,													
£1/13/4	2	5	4										
„ Postages	13	17	10										
„ Sundries	3	9	10			65							
						17							
„ S.N.U. Secretary's Guarantee Fund...	5	0	0			1							
„ S.N.U. Subscription	11	10	0										
„ Peace Society Subscription						16							
„ Education Dept.:—						10							
Stock, £80/5/4; Postage, etc.,						0							
£14/2/-; Meetings, £10/5/4;													
Printing, etc., £26/7/7; Certifi-													
cates, £5						186							
„ Sub-Committees:—						0							
F. & G.P., £3/13/2; Publishing,													
£3/13/2; Office, £1/3/1; Scottish,													
16/-						9							
„ Conference Committees:—						5							
Manual Revision													
Trustees' Meetings						4							
						13							
„ Delegations:—						0							
U.D.C., £2/1/6; S.N.U., £1/15/3;													
International, £11/16/6; Peace,													
11/9						16							
„ Bank Commission						5							
„ Balance to Accumulative Fund						0							
						3							
						143							
						13							
						8							
						£810							£810
						6							6
						5							5

PUBLISHING FUND ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	INCOME.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Stock of Publications, Dec. 31st, 1922				671	14	9	By Outstanding A/cs Dec. 31, 1922 ...				196	9	0	
„ Outstanding Accounts, Dec. 31st, 1922				25	0	0	„ Manuals, Songsters, etc.	1145	8	5				
„ Printing and Binding Manuals ...	427	11	9				„ Sundry Publications	12	16	9				
„ Printing and Binding Songsters ...	31	0	0								1158	5	2	
„ Printing and Binding Outlines ...	4	0	0				„ Stock of Publications, Dec. 31, 1923				566	12	4	
„ Printing and Binding Hymn Sheets...	7	5	0				„ Outstanding Accounts, Dec. 31, 1923				28	2	8	
„ Printing and Binding Service of Songs	17	10	0											
„ Printing and Binding Physical Exercises	10	15	0											
„ Printing and Binding Constitutions ...	20	0	0											
„ Printing and Binding Attendance														
Books	11	19	0											
„ Printing and Binding Sundries ...	6	12	7											
„ Printing and Binding "Modern														
Spiritualism"	60	15	4			597								
						8								
						8								
„ Postage and Stationery						49								
„ Insurance: Emp. Liability £1 16s.,						7								
Fire £6 10s.						6								
						0								

„ Labels and Packing Paper	8 10 8	
„ Advt. „Lyceum Banner”... ..	10 0 0	
„ Audit and Stocktaking	6 2 6	
„ Proportion of Salaries	253 10 0	
„ Proportion of Rent, Light, etc. ...	120 19 6	
	374 9 6	
„ Balance to Accum. Fund Account ...	198 9 7	
	£1949 9 2	£1949 9 2

LYCEUM BANNER ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	INCOME.	£ s. d.
To Outstanding Accounts, 1922		117 7 8	By LYCEUM BANNERS, etc.	532 1 9
„ Printing, etc., BANNERS		391 12 6	„ Outstanding Accounts, Dec. 31, 1923 ...	78 13 4
„ Carriage, £66/12/9, Labels 9/6 ...		67 2 3	„ Deficit Balance to Accum. Fund Account ...	37 4 11
„ Blocks		1 15 1		
„ Postage, £7/6/6; Stationery, £1/16/6		9 3 0		
„ Proportion of Salaries	42 5 0			
„ Proportion of Rent, Light, etc. ...	18 14 6			
		60 19 6		
		£648 0 0		£648 0 0

INCOME TAX AND INTEREST ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	INCOME.	£ s. d.
To Balance to Accum. Fund Account ...		3 14 3	By Interest, Sowerby U.D.C.	1 4 3
			„ Income Tax returned	2 10 0
		£3 14 3		£3 14 3

ACCUMULATIVE FUND ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	INCOME.	£ s. d.
To Deficit Balance LYCEUM BANNER ...		37 4 11	By Balance, Accum. Fund, Dec., 1922 ...	833 4 8
„ Balance		1141 17 3	„ Balance, General Fund Account	143 13 8
			„ Balance, Publishing Fund Account	198 9 7
			„ Balance, Interest Account	3 14 3
		£1179 2 2		£1179 2 2

LYCEUM HOME FUND ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	INCOME.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance, Trustees (S.B.U.D.C.) ...	100 0 0		By Balance, Dec. 31, 1922		142 7 1
„ Balance, Bank	47 19 6		„ Bank Interest	1 1 7	
		147 19 6	„ Sowerby U.D.C., Interest	3 5 10	
			„ Income Tax returned		4 7 5
					1 5 0
		£147 19 6			£147 19 6

£2 000 EFFORT FUND ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	INCOME.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance:—			By Balance, Dec. 31, 1922... ..		298 2 5
Trustees (S.B.U.D.C.)	300 0 0		„ Donations		16 16 8
Bank	19 13 3		„ Bank Interest	0 7 0	
			„ Sowerby U.D.C., Interest	4 7 2	
					4 14 2
		£319 13 3			£319 13 3

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.
Accumulative Fund Account	1141 17 3	Outstanding Accounts	106 16 0
Lyceum Home Fund Account	147 19 6	Cash in Bank	430 3 11
£2,000 Effort Fund Account	319 13 3	Lyceum Home Fund	147 19 6
		£2,000 Effort Fund	319 13 3
		Education Department Stock	38 5 0
		Stock, Publications	566 12 4
	£1609 10 0		£1609 10 0

(Signed) ROBERT A. OWEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct, February 16th, 1924.

(Signed) W. THISTLETHWAITE, }
FRANK F. BALL, } Auditors.

B.S.L.U. Trustees' Report.

The Trustees have held two meetings during the year.

The question referred to them by the Annual Conference, 1923, regarding the matter of assistance in the Office for the General Secretary has been fully discussed and the following decision arrived at:—

"That we grant assistance to the General Secretary at the rate of 15/- per week, plus insurance, from January 1st, 1924. The person employed to be a servant of the Union, and under the jurisdiction of the Trustees."

A separate Indenture is being prepared, whereby the copy-rights of the Union, and Mortgages, are to be transferred to the Trustees.

The Trustees are approaching the S.N.U. to delegate the powers of the Trust administration to the six Trustees appointed by the B.S.L.U., as outlined in Clause 6 of the new Deed.

Office Holidays (one week) has been fixed for the second week in August, and a further week at the discretion of the General Secretary. Notice of such holidays to appear in the *Lyceum Banner* one month in advance.

The M.C. have been requested to transfer the surplus current cash over £400 to the Trustees, to be held by the Treasurer of the Union on their behalf; and also that the banked account of the Lyceum Home Fund be held by the Treasurer of the Union on behalf of the Trustees.

£300 from the £2,000 Effort has been transferred and been invested in the Sowerby Bridge U.D.C. at 4½ per cent.

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Lyceum Home Fund, S.B.U.D.C. Mortgage	100	0	0
£2,000 Effort, S.B.U.D.C. Mortgage	300	0	0
Interest	4	7	2
	304	7	2
	£404	7	2

Audited and found correct,

Signed W. THISTLETHWAITE, } Auditors.
F. F. BALL,

JESSY GREENWOOD,
Chairman of Trustees.

G. F. KNOTT, Secretary.

MANUAL REVISION REPORT.

▼ The *Lyceum Manual* Revision Committee consists of Messrs. Pickles and Greenwood, Misses Kitson and Hesp, Messrs. Kitson, Connor, Mack and Knott.

No meetings were held during the year, as, last year's Report and resolutions not having been discussed, the Committee did not know the wishes of Conference, and therefore could not know in what direction to work. It is hoped that at the coming Conference a definite decision will be reached, and that future Conferences will not agree to any postponement of the discussion of such a vital subject.

Three District Councils—Sheffield, Tyneside and London—have already formed Revision Committees, and it is hoped that all the other D.C.'s will follow suit.

Mr. Kitson has again raised the question of Soul and Spirit, claiming that the Revision Committee has power to decide afresh what names shall be given to the Ego and its spiritual body. As there is a division of opinion in the Committee, it is desirable that Conference should give a definite decision as to whether the results of the two Referendums should govern the work of revision, or whether the controversy is to be re-opened. This question settled, the Committee will be able to start on constructive work.

A. T. CONNOR, Hon. Sec.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Delegates are specially requested to note that Credentials must be applied for BEFORE MAY 5th and Billets arranged BEFORE MAY 19th, or they will be too late for attendance and accommodation.

Report of the Joint Committee of the B.S.L.U. and the S.N.U.,

1.—The business of the meeting was defined by the terms of the Amendment to the Resolution of the Glasgow Association, re the relations between the B.S.L.U. and the S.N.U. passed at the S.N.U., A.G.M. in July 1923, viz.:—

"That as the Lyceums form an integral part of the Churches and are under their control, this Conference agrees that in the interests of Unity and Economy within the Spiritualist Movement, the Executive Council be instructed to approach the B.S.L.U. with a view to setting up a Joint Committee to discuss and formulate a scheme of closer working and harmony between the two bodies."

2.—It was generally agreed that immediate amalgamation or fusion will hinder the gradual and growing unification of the movement, and the present policy of inter-relations is the best course to pursue.

3.—After discussing the general position Mr. Gush moved, Mrs. Pickles seconded and carried—"That the two secretaries draw up several Bye-Laws to deal with the position as revealed in the discussion."

4.—It was unanimously agreed to recommend the Council of the two Unions to adopt the following series of Bye-Laws:—

(a) That where Lyceums are meeting in a Church Building and are subject to the goodwill of the Church for their accommodation, such Lyceums shall be considered to be an integral part of the Church.

(b) That Lyceums shall have the complete management of their own affairs and be governed in accordance with the Constitution of the B.S.L.U., except as provided for in clauses (c) and (d).

(c) That the chief Officers of the Lyceum, viz:—Conductor, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be members of the Church.

(d) That there shall be representation in equal proportions upon the Church and Lyceum Committees, a member or members of the Church shall be elected to sit upon the Lyceum Committee and vice versa. Further it is strongly recommended that the Lyceums shall present a Financial Statement to the Church Annual Meeting.

5.—*Disputes*.—In cases of disputes involving the interests of the Church and the Lyceum, and failing a settlement reached mutually between the Church and Lyceum, the case shall be referred to a Joint Committee of the B.S.L.U. and S.N.U. District Council or District Committee. This joint committee shall take and consider all available evidence before pronouncing a decision.

It was further agreed to recommend the setting up of a permanent Joint Committee of the two Unions to act as a Court of Arbitration.

6.—That a clause be drafted and included in the Constitution of the S.N.U. giving official recognition to the B.S.L.U.

7.—That it be recommended that the joint Education Committee of the two Unions shall meet and elaborate proposals to provide for the further training of Students who have successfully passed the B.S.L.U. Grade V. Examination, and others who desire to qualify for the Intermediate Certificate or Diploma of the S.N.U.

8.—The question of Inter-Trading between the two Unions was considered, but for financial reasons the time was deemed inopportune for proceeding further.

The Management Committee of the B.S.L.U. accepted the Report, but the S.N.U. E.C. referred the Report back for further consideration. The S.N.U. section of the Joint Committee have met again and have stated amended recommendations. As the Joint Committee cannot meet before the B.S.L.U. Conference reports go to the press, the above report will be supplemented at the Annual Conference.

Guild Report to Conference, 1924.

Membership of the Guild.

Since its inception, in February, 1920, the Guild has enrolled 1679 members, from about 130 Lyceums. As many of these Lyceumists have gone to other Lyceums, since the time of their enrolment for various reasons, and others have left Lyceum work, or gone abroad, a census of each Lyceum's members is being taken; but force of circumstances has prevented the preparation of statistics for this report.

GUILD CLASSES.

Many Lyceums hold Guild Classes during the week, and vary their programme of work according to the time of the year. During the winter months games are played, gymnastic exercises performed, debates held, hobbies followed (painting, fretwork, needlework, etc.) musical evenings held, concert items practised; and examination studies pursued; whilst in the warmer weather rambles are held, and outings to places of interest.

WORK OF THE GUILD.

This resolves itself into sections, viz:—

(i) *By individual members*, who, in accordance with their promises, study for the examinations, attend Guild Classes, help in the propaganda work of the Guild, and take part in any special work carried on through the pages of the LYCEUM BANNER.

(ii) *By the Lyceums*, in holding Guild Classes, and in helping the members to keep their various promises.

(iii) *By the Guild itself*, which is carried on chiefly through its monthly article in this paper, by the kind help of the Editor. Features of this section since last year's report are:—

(a) The holding of Merit Competitions last summer, as in previous years. The writers of essays who scored 85% or more marks earned a special badge, worked on their ribbon one.

(b) The holding of competitions for prizes, during the first three months of 1924. These were instituted at the request of members; but have met with such slight response that they have been discontinued.

(c) The series of articles, on varied subjects, written by Guild members. These in 1923 included "Advent, Modern Spiritualism," by Mr. A. T. Connor; "Herbs, and their Medicinal Value," by Mr. Wm. Woodall; "Lyceum Ideals," by Mr. J. Tinker.

During this current year are appearing the articles on "Baby Plants, and how they are born," by Miss M. E. Lawton; and the children's serial story, "Prince Trueheart," by Alfred Kitson. All our series have been much appreciated by the readers of the BANNER, and the Guild tenders very sincere thanks to the respective writers.

ALTERATIONS IN THE GUILD RULES.

Yielding to the requests of many of its members, the Guild has amended some of its rules, as follows:—

(i) The Guild badge need only be worn on *special occasions*.

(ii) Taking the Education examinations is still *expected* of the members, but those who have a good excuse (such as ill-health, pressure of home duties, long distance from place where the study groups are held) are exempt from this promise.

(iii) The performance of the calisthenics at home is excused.

THE RIBBON BADGES.

These badges in future will not show the Class reached in examinations as before, but only the Grade passed. No bands will be worked on the ribbons; but all for one Grade will be alike, irrespective of the standard reached in that Grade. This alteration has been made because of quite sound objections brought forward against the old system of showing the class attained.

JUNIOR SECTION.

A Junior Department of the Guild has been formed for the enrolment of children under ten. They study for the Oral Grade, and become full members on reaching the age of ten.

PROMOTIONS.

All members below the status of Freemen are eligible for promotion to the next higher rank in the Guild, on passing the next Grade in the Education Examinations. This promotion is shown by the issuing to them, on application, of a differently coloured ribbon badge. *Red* indicates that the member is studying for Grade I. *Blue* shows that Grade I. has been passed; *Violet*, that Grade II. has been passed; *green*, success in Grade III.; *orange*, Grade IV.; and *white*, Grade V. About four hundred members have earned such promotions, on the result of last February's examinations.

IN CONCLUSION.

The Guild desires to thank most sincerely all Lyceumists who have helped in its work during the past year:—the members who have loyally kept their pledges; the Tutors and Leaders who have helped the members to do this; the senders of donations to defray the expenses of the Guild; the competitors who have sent in their efforts; the makers of the ribbon-badges; the Lyceumists

who have done propaganda work so enthusiastically; the writers of our series of articles; and last, but by no means least, our genial Editor, who has allowed us so generous a share of the space in our paper.

M. E. KITSON, (Guild Leader).

£2,000 Effort Report.

Comrades,

I am very pleased that with regard to my report in the April BANNER of Lyceums who have donated to the fund, I have received a few corrections and so far as I know that list is now up-to-date. Batley £5; should read Batley Carr. Mr. A. Smedley should read Mr. T. F. Smedley and one entry crediting Miss Elliott as donating 10s., result of a sale of Mr. Kitson's photograph, was entirely missing from the list handed over to me on taking up my office. I thank those people very sincerely who have written me with regard to these corrections and if there are any others I shall be glad to receive them. Regarding this month's donations I have only received one, which was from Southport, of two pounds ten shillings, and on behalf of the Union I tender my sincere thanks for same. I am still hoping to receive further donations before the middle of May so that I can report the whole of the work during the year in June BANNER and try to form an idea to present to Conference for the future working of the fund.

Yours very sincerely,

29, Kliffen Place, W. BURROWS,
Coronation Road, Hon. Secretary,
Halifax. £2000 Effort.

RESULT OF AREA NOMINATIONS AND VOTES.

Area.	Nomination.	Votes.
A.	Mr. J. M. Scott, Dundee	113
	Mr. Jas. Shaw, Glasgow	90
B.	Mr. Hunter, Heaton and Byker	361
	Mr. J. Riley, Old Shildon	98
C.	Mr. J. Downs, Hull	57
	Mr. A. W. Harding, Wakefield	151
	Mr. J. K. Jones, Attercliffe	335
D.	Mr. W. Burrows, Halifax	283
	Mr. W. Thistlethwaite, Keighley	69
E.	Mr. J. Hibbert, Bolton	172
	Mrs. L. Nurse, Blackpool	214
	Mrs. M. E. Pickles, Blackpool	217
	Mr. H. Shorrocks, Bolton	59
F.	Mr. H. Beech, Ashton-under-Lyne	110
	Miss E. Elliott, Moston	523
	Mr. S. Watson, Liverpool	24
G.	Mrs. K. Armstrong, Newport	26
	Mr. J. W. Radnedge, Merthyr	53
	Miss V. G. Raynor, Nottingham	221
	Mr. J. H. Wicks, Leicester	61
H.	Mr. H. C. Guy, Portsmouth	129
	Mr. C. J. Williams, Peckham	249

Signed

G. F. K. OTT, Gen. Secretary.

A WARNING.

Lyceumists are warned against a man who is going from town to town imposing on Lyceumists by begging and obtaining lodgings.

He tells a tale in each town to suit his purpose, and carries letters of introduction written by himself to suit his purpose and forging the names of prominent Lyceumists.

The man is about 5 feet 5 inches in height, high cheek bones, long face tapering to the chin, sallow complexion and wears a cap and fawn rainproof coat. He looks about 35 years of age. He has passed through Manchester to Darlington and will probably pass through Newcastle to the North.

Lyceumists are requested not to assist him in any way.

The Annual Roll of Lyceums in Membership with the B.S.L. Union, December 31st, 1923.

No.	Name	Members					
		Dec. 31st 1922	Dec. 31st 1923				
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.							
1	Handsworth	43	43				
2	Stirchley	—	31				
3	Wolverhampton, School Street	—	50				
4	Wolverhampton, Temple Street	36	36				
5	Walsall	100	100				
BOLTON DISTRICT.							
6	Bolton, Bradford Street	95	96				
7	Bolton, Deane Road	40	40				
8	Bolton, Henry Street	64	64				
9	Bury, King Street	45	45				
10	Daisy Hill	31	36				
11	Horwich	67	50				
12	Leigh	49	49				
13	Radcliffe	50	50				
14	Bury, Freetown	—	41				
BRADFORD DISTRICT.							
15	Bradford, Boynton Street	37	37				
16	Bradford, Whetley Lane	45	45				
17	Bradford, Harker Street	45	40				
18	Bradford, 432, Manchester Road	39	39				
19	Bradford, Otley Road	33	33				
20	Laisterdyke	49	49				
21	Keighley	64	64				
22	Shipley	39	39				
23	Skipton	44	44				
24	Windhill	42	42				
25	Yeadon	34	34				
26	Sale	—	28				
COVENTRY DISTRICT.							
27	Coventry, Bull Street	46	46				
28	Coventry, Broadgate	48	48				
29	Coventry, Foleshill	45	45				
30	Coventry, Lockhurst Lane	35	31				
31	Nuneaton	—	82				
HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.							
32	Brighouse, Commercial Street	72	76				
33	Brighouse, Martin Street	26	26				
34	Elland	35	35				
35	Halifax, Alma Street	76	76				
36	Halifax, Raven Street	48	48				
37	Hebden Bridge	70	70				
38	Huddersfield, Ramsden Street	50	50				
39	Huddersfield, St. Peter Street	96	96				
40	Quarmby	—	30				
41	Slaithwaite	72	72				
42	Sowerby Bridge	85	85				
43	West Vale	48	48				
44	Marsden	43	43				
LEEDS DISTRICT.							
45	Batley Carr	46	46				
46	Birstall, Batley	47	47				
47	Castleford	44	44				
48	Dewsbury	121	121				
49	Heckmondwyke	19	19				
50	Hull, Dairycoates	81	81				
51	Hull, Holborn Hall	73	73				
52	Leeds, Armley	96	96				
53	Leeds, Psycho	100	100				
54	Leeds, Easy Road	132	132				
55	Leeds, Roxburgh Road	46	46				
56	Littletown, Liversedge	62	62				
57	Moorthorpe (S. Emsall)	50	50				
58	Morley	24	24				
59	Normanton	42	42				
60	Pontefract	21	21				
61	Scarborough	30	30				
62	Wakefield	75	75				
63	York	50	50				
64	Horsforth (Leeds)	—	50				
65	Cleckheaton	—	30				
LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.							
66	Birkenhead	86	86				
67	Liverpool, Daulby Hall	78	78				
68	Liverpool, Boaler Street	48	48				
69	Runcorn	73	73				
70	Southport	28	40				
71	Warrington	73	73				
72	Widnes	36	36				
73	Wigan	56	56				
74	St. Helens, Corporation Street	—	50				
LONDON DISTRICT.							
75	Clapham	50	50				
76	Fulham	31	31				
77	Hampton Hill	24	24				
78	Kingston	23	23				
79	Little Ilford	44	44				
80	Manor Park	49	49				
81	North London	47	47				
82	Peckham	64	64				
83	Plaistow	50	50				
84	Tottenham	48	48				
85	Woolwich & Plumstead	48	50				
86	Walthamstow	44	44				
87	Wimbledon	—	15				
88	Battersea	—	37				
89	Hackney	—	40				
90	Hounslow	21	21				
MANCHESTER DISTRICT.							
91	Manchester, Ardwick	77	77				
92	,, Cheetham	42	42				
93	,, Collyhurst	72	72				
94	,, Higher Openshaw	—	50				
95	,, Longsight	—	70				
96	,, Moss Side	86	86				
97	,, Moston	76	76				
98	,, Newton Heath	83	83				
99	Pendleton	91	91				
100	Manchester, Princess Hall	75	75				
101	New Manchester	41	41				
102	Sale	48	48				
103	Salford	40	40				
104	Stretford (Deferred)	—	20				
105	Hollinwood	—	30				
NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.							
106	Ashton-under-Lyne	38	38				
107	Denton	—	16				
108	Dukinfield	—	23				
109	Glossop	34	34				
110	Hadfield	32	32				
111	Heaton Norris	50	50				
112	Hyde	68	68				
113	Macclesfield	44	44				
114	Stockport, Central	98	98				
115	Stockport, Lr. Hillgate	87	87				
NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.							
116	Accrington, Argyle St.	40	40				
117	Accrington, Pearl St.	49	49				
118	Barnoldswick, Green St.	—	45				
119	Barnoldswick, West End	90	90				
120	Barrow, Dalkeith St.	44	44				
121	Barrow, Ramsden St.	49	49				
122	Barrowford	44	44				
123	Brierfield	50	50				
124	Blackburn	135	135				
125	Blackpool	99	99				
126	Burnley, Hammerton St.	95	95				
127	Burnley, North St.	197	197				
128	Clitheroe	45	45				
129	Colne	80	80				
130	Darwen	98	98				
131	Earby	104	104				
132	Fleetwood	140	140				
133	Great Harwood	77	77				
134	Lancaster	94	94				
135	Millom	42	42				
136	Nelson	119	119				
137	Padiffam	26	26				
138	Preston, 202, Lancaster Rd.	46	46				
139	Preston, 68, Lancaster Rd.	63	63				
140	Preston, Clarke's Yard	45	45				

141	Rawtenstall	..	..	..	..	42	..	42	213	Newport	..	..	..	..	..	59	..	59	
142	Rishton	..	..	..	..	63	..	63	214	Penrinceiber	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	50	
143	Ulverston	..	..	..	..	45	..	27	215	Port Talbot and Aberavon	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	40	
	NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.																											
144	Belper	100	..	100		TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.																		
145	Beeston	..	..	..	..	29	..	29	217	Darlington, High Northgate	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
146	Eastwood	..	..	..	..	28	..	28	218	,, Psycho	..	..	..	..	..	110	..	110	
147	Hucknall	..	..	..	..	48	..	48	219	,, Witton Park	..	..	..	..	..	57	..	57	
148	Kettering	..	..	..	..	—	..	50	220	Gurney Vale	..	..	..	..	..	97	..	97	
149	Leicester, Forester's Institute	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	221	Middlesborough	..	..	..	..	..	128	..	128	
150	Leicester, Marston St.	..	..	..	..	—	..	50	222	New Shildon	..	..	..	..	..	48	..	48	
151	Leicester, Rupert St.	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	223	Old Shildon	..	..	..	..	..	77	..	77	
152	Leicester, Silver St.	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	224	Spennymoor	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	45	
153	Long Eaton	..	..	..	..	37	..	46	225	St. Helens (Bishop Auckland)	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	20	
154	Mansfield	..	..	..	..	120	..	120	226	Stockton-on-Tees, Brunswick St.	..	..	..	..	..	86	..	86	
155	Nottingham, Gladstone Hall	..	..	..	..	48	..	48	227	,, Cecil St.	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	100	
156	,, Hyson Green	..	..	..	..	85	..	85	228	West Hartlepool	..	..	..	..	..	49	..	49	
157	,, Mechanics Hall	93	..	93		TYNE-SIDE DISTRICT.																		
158	,, Parliament St.	..	..	..	..	—	..	46	229	Anafield Plain	..	..	..	..	..	31	..	31	
159	Sutton-in-Ashfield	..	..	..	..	57	..	57	230	Blyth	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	17	
	SCOTTISH DISTRICT.																											
160	Aberdeen	..	..	..	..	31	..	35	231	Chester-le-Street	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	50	
161	Adelaide, Australia	..	..	..	..	38	..	38	232	Craghead	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
162	Dundee, Overgate	..	..	..	..	94	..	94	233	Dunstan-on-Tyne	..	..	..	..	..	45	..	45	
163	,, Rattery St.	..	..	..	..	23	..	23	234	Gateshead	..	..	..	..	..	97	..	97	
164	Edinburgh	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	235	Hebburn	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
165	Falkirk	..	..	..	..	—	..	36	236	Hetton and District	..	..	..	..	..	83	..	83	
166	Glasgow, Association	..	..	..	..	119	..	119	237	Hirst	..	..	..	..	..	146	..	146	
167	,, Northern	..	..	..	..	—	..	45	238	Jarrow	..	..	..	..	..	86	..	86	
168	,, Progressive	..	..	..	..	—	..	40	239	Newbiggen-by-the-Sea	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	34	
169	,, S.M.U.	..	..	..	..	45	..	45	240	Newcastle, Benwell	..	..	..	..	..	98	..	98	
170	Greenock	..	..	..	..	33	..	33	241	,, Heaton and Byker	..	..	..	..	..	94	..	94	
171	Hamilton	..	..	..	..	49	..	49	242	,, Rutherford St.	..	..	..	..	..	78	..	78	
172	Kirkaldy	..	..	..	..	25	..	40	243	New Delaval and Newsham	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	32	
	SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.																											
173	Barnsley	..	..	..	..	71	..	71	244	North Shields	..	..	..	..	..	123	..	123	
174	Chesterfield	..	..	..	..	82	..	82	245	South Shields, Cambridge St.	..	..	..	..	..	48	..	48	
175	Doncaster, Spring Gardens	..	..	..	..	—	..	32	246	,, Fowler St.	..	..	..	..	..	85	..	85	
176	,, Wood St.	..	..	..	..	26	..	26	247	,, High Shields	..	..	..	..	..	98	..	98	
177	Mexborough	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	248	Sunderland, Cromwell St.	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
178	Parkgate	..	..	..	..	66	..	66	249	,, Derwent St.	..	..	..	..	..	48	..	48	
179	Rotherham	..	..	..	..	85	..	85	250	Wallsend	..	..	..	..	..	63	..	63	
180	Sheffield, Attercliffe	..	..	..	..	145	..	145	251	West Pelton	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
181	,, Centre	..	..	..	..	78	..	78	252	West Stanley	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
182	,, Darnall	48	..	48		AREA LYCEUMS.																		
183	,, Heeley	..	..	..	..	79	..	79	253	Belfast (closed 1924)	..	..	..	..	..	46	..	49	
184	,, Hillsborough	..	..	..	..	—	..	30	254	Grimsby	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	94	
185	West Melton	..	..	..	..	46	..	46	255	Hanley	..	..	..	..	..	97	..	150	
186	Wombwell	..	..	..	..	—	..	40	256	Lincoln	..	..	..	..	..	84	..	99	
	SOUTHERN COUNTIES DISTRICT.																											
187	Brighton, Mighell St.	..	..	..	..	78	..	78	257	Longton	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	44	
188	,, Old Steine Hall (closed)	..	..	..	..	30	..	30	258	Tunstall	..	..	..	..	..	36	..	50	
189	Bristol	—	..	46		OVERSEA LYCEUMS.																		
190	Devonport	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	259	Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	30	..	44	
191	Exeter	..	..	..	..	30	..	30	260	Calgary	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	
192	Portsmouth, Francis Avenue	..	..	..	..	—	..	20	261	Christchurch	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	27	
193	,, Victoria Rd.	..	..	..	..	83	..	83	262	East Hamilton	..	..	..	..	..	145	..	100	
194	Reading (resigned 1924)	..	..	..	..	200	..	200	263	Johannesburg	..	..	..	..	..	38	..	43	
195	Southampton, Cavendish Grove	..	..	..	..	50	..	50	264	London (Canada)	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	50	
	SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.																											
196	Bacup	..	..	..	..	41	..	41	265	Methuen	..	..	..	..	..	80	..	88	
197	Dearnley	..	..	..	..	20	..	20	266	Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	—					
198	Heywood	..	..	..	..	46	..	46	267	Winnipeg, No. 1	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	—	
199	Littleborough	..	..	..	..	21	..	21	268	Winnipeg, No. 2	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	35	
200	Middleton	46	..	47		Special Lyceum Report.																		
201	Oldham, Elliott St.	76	..	76	<p>EDINBURGH, 9, Forth Street.—A very interesting evening took place at our Lyceum Session on March 30th, namely the Naming of Annie Elizabeth, infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Booth. Mr. A. Vout Peters, officiated and gave our young Lyceumist the Spirit name of 'Love.'</p> <p>On April 11th & 12th twenty-two of the younger members of our Lyceum presented a Japanese Operetta "Sunrise Land," followed by a comic sketch "The Wrong Flat," in which eight of the elder members took part. There was a large and interested audience each evening. The players, also their producer, Mrs. D. Duncan, were highly complimented on the success of their first show. We hope ere long to produce something else on a very much larger scale. The proceeds of the two evenings are to be presented to the parent Church.—E. Riddell, Sec.</p>																			
202	Rochdale, Penn St.	..	..	..	..	43	..	48																
203	Rochdale, Regent St.	..	..	..	..	88	..	88																
204	Shaw	..	..	..	..	30	..	30																
205	Todmorden, Eagle St.	..	..	..	..	50	..	50																
206	,, Roomfield Buildings	..	..	..	..	39	..	39																
	SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.																											
207	Caerau	..	..	..	..	100	..	106																
208	Cardiff, Central	..	..	..	..	45	..	45																
209	,, Queen St.	42	..	42																				
210	Cwm and District	39	..	39																				
211	Merthyr Tydfil	—	..	61																				
212	Nantymoel	49	..	49																				

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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 VII.

Then a happy thought struck him. He felt sure he had hit upon the secret—it was a message, or a secret written with the letters of the alphabet inverted, or reversed. Happy thought He would soon discover the secret. He at once commenced to read the letters in their reversed alphabetical order, z for a, y for b, x for c, etc. These he wrote on the floor with the point of his sword, when the enigma stood as follows,—

"He akl wluw by fiee
Nuht wig znw frghg nor oilvrge."

As he scanned the translation his hopes began to vanish, for he had only solved the first word, while the rest remained almost as big a mystery as before. He tried again and again to solve the problem, until his head was weary with the strain.

At last he decided to consult his crystal, for by its aid he had discovered those cells. He took the precious gem from its hiding place, and used it again as directed, when lo! the image of the venerable Sage made its appearance and pointed to the door, on which appeared as if written with liquid fire, "3, 5, 7, sacred"; after which the vision instantly vanished.

The Prince pondered for a while as to what could be the meaning of the vision. He remembered that the first word had yielded to the reversed alphabet. Could it be that the figures referred to the 3rd, 5th and 7th letters of the enigma? Could it be that the 3rd, 5th and 7th letters were exempt from the reversed order? He again applied himself to the task. When it was ended he was delighted to read as follows:—

"HE WHO WOULD BE FREE,
MUST DIG AND FIGHT FOR LIBERTY!"

He instantly jumped to his feet, and taking his plumed cap off waved it three times, and gave three cheers for liberty.

The inmates of the cells felt sure he had gone mad as the penalty of daring to meddle with things sacred; and counted their beads to avert any evil that might befall them.

He at once set to work to dig at the bottom of the door directly under the strange enigma, whose secret he had just solved. In a short time he unearthed a small box and as he lifted it from its hiding place it released a spring, and the heavy door at once began to swing slowly back, and to his astonishment, disclosed a passage.

CHAPTER VIII.

His first task was to see what was in the little box. No doubt its contents were precious.

He inserted the point of his good sword under the lid, for it was rusty from long contact with the damp earth, and had little difficulty in forcing it open. He found in it a bunch of gold keys of curious workmanship.

Each key was numbered, and he found each lock numbered. To select a key and try it was the work of a moment.

Having satisfied himself as to the use of the keys, he replaced the earth, entered the passage, and carefully shut and locked the door in order to prevent any one following him, in case any of the jailers visited the cells in his absence.

To the right he found a long tunnel. To the left was a flight of rough-hewn steps. These he mounted till he came to a landing, with a door in the form of a secret panel, opening on the right. This he cautiously opened with one of the keys, and found that it led into the stables. Quickly satisfying himself that his noble steed was all right he closed and locked the door. He proceeded in this way until he had examined the secret staircase, and was pleased to find that it communicated with every room of importance that the castle contained, and that he could enter them at his own pleasure.

On opening the secret panel of old Mumbo Jumbo's room he was surprised to see Mischief busy with the cushion of his master's chair. The Prince was curious to see what he was doing, and so kept behind the tapestry, in which he made a tiny slit with the point of his sword and watched. He soon found that the dwarf had turned the cushion over and was busy inserting pins and needles into it. Having done this he turned it the right way up and arranged it to his satisfaction. As he did so

he laughed to himself at the fun he would have when Mumbo Jumbo received the *sharp* reception he had prepared for him.

The Prince was forced to laugh at the roguish trick, and was inclined to make Mischief sit on the cushion by way of trial, but he felt it would not be wise thus to reveal himself and his secret, so he quietly closed and locked the secret panel.

He next proceeded to old Mumbo Jumbo's laboratory and found the old charlatan busy concocting curious potions with which to work his evil spells. He was muttering to himself, "Ha, ha, and so Prince Trueheart has made his appearance at last. He is to break my spells over the people is he? We shall see, we shall see. Where is the boasted prophecy now? Where is his boasted skill? I have outwitted him already, and he is safe under lock and key in one of the dungeons, where he will stop until he starves to death. If I am unable to kill him I can make him a prisoner until he dies of starvation. I will give him a taste of my spells. I will fill the darkness of his cell with hideous forms which shall yell and jibe at him until the hair on his head shall stand on end with horror and make him wish for death long before it comes to end his misery. Ho, ho, it will be such fun, such rare fun to see him suffer." And the wicked rascal chuckled, and rubbed his hands together in his evil glee.

The Prince felt indignant on learning the wicked designs of his enemy, and was tempted to rush out and slay him, but prudence restrained him, and he decided to act the part of an accusing oracle, so disguising his voice he said—

"We have set thy noble prisoner free,

That he may live to punish *thee*, *THEE*, *THEE*."

"Who has set the prisoner free?" he yelled. "Guards! Treason! Murder!"

Instantly the guards rushed into the room expecting to see their master struggling with some powerful adversary, but they found no one. The captain of the guards asked in surprise, "Did you call, my Lord?"

"Search the room at once," he cried out.

But the Prince was safely hidden behind the secret panel. The serach over, old Mumbo Jumbo told the captain to go personally and see if the Prince was securely chained in his cell. In a short time he returned with fear depicted on his face, and reported the cell was empty while the door was securely locked.

On hearing this a great fear seized the old charlatan's heart, though he was loath to admit that the higher powers were at work, and so held on to the idea that the Prince had some secret friends who had set him at liberty. In order to find out who it could be, he summoned all his guards and jailors to assemble before him so that he might try to discover the culprit. As soon as his orders were carried out he made his appearance attired in his most imposing robes, on which were embroidered the sun, moon and planets, along with many curious signs and figures, all of which were awe-inspiring to those assembled.

He marched with stately steps to his chair. On reaching it he turned to look at those present. His features were a study of fear, mingled with cunning. Then he sat down on that treacherous cushion, and no sooner had he done so than he gave a terrific yell of "Odd zounds," and bounded out of it as if he had been thrown out. He was in a towering rage. His eyes seemed to blaze and dance in his head. The situation was comical, but none dared to laugh. Mischief slyly slipped away. The Prince stood behind the secret panel, enjoying the fun and had to stuff his handkerchief into his mouth to keep from laughing aloud.

Old Mumbo Jumbo felt his dignity greatly shocked, and his high office and powers degraded in the eyes of his menials. His cunning mind at once divined who had played the prank, and he decided to teach him a lesson that he would not forget. So he ordered Mischief to be brought to him at once. That worthy being made his appearance very reluctantly as he feared a severe punishment for what he had done.

As soon as he made his appearance his crafty master said, in his most bland and suave tones, "My young, and faithful servant, I have long observed and appreciated your devoted attachment to me, the importance of your services, and I have decided to reward you in the presence of these my guards and servants that they may witness the same and so rest assured that no one can serve me as you have done without meeting with their reward they merit." So saying he lifted Mischief by his ears and placed him on the cushion and held him there for quite a while, and felt a malicious satisfaction in the act. Mischief screamed at the top of his voice as he felt the pins and needles enter the flesh. The servants and guards laughed, and applauded their master's practical joke.

(To be continued).

The Management Committee at Middleton.

The Management Committee held their Quarterly Meeting at Middleton on Saturday, April 12th. The President, Mr. Mack, was in the Chair.

All the Members were present except Mr. Hunter, who was recovering from illness, and Mr. Ford, who had sent his resignation from the M.C.

Miss Elliott was thanked for making the arrangements for the Meetings and cordially responded.

The 1923 Conference Minutes were finally approved for printing and circulation.

Mr. Connor and Mr. Tinker have consented to assist in reading a reprint of the Lyceum Manual, along with Mr. Kitson and the Gen. Sec.

£1 was donated to the National Peace Council.

Barnoldswick (West End) and Reading Lyceums have resigned their membership of the Union.

It was decided to send a Representative to the Sheffield Demonstration in August.

The M.C. sanctioned the purchase of a new typewriter.

THE PASSING OF MR. KNIGHT AND MRS. STAIR.

The Management Committee of the B.S.L.U. learns with regret of the passing to the Higher Life of "Pa" Knight and Mrs. Stair, and whilst expressing our deepest sympathy to the Relatives, we offer our congratulations to our arisen Pioneers and Friends; also we permanently record our appreciation of the faithful and active service rendered in furthering the Lyceum cause and Spiritualism.

The Treasurer reported cash in hand £746 19s. 10d. Lyceum Home Fund £148 18s. 8d. £2000 Effort £340 1s. 8d.

Nearly all Lyceums have paid the Annual Fees.

Enquiries were being made from new districts for information about starting Lyceums.

The M.C. decided to consider the transfer of some of the current cash to the Trustees at the July Meeting. Also to discuss an arrangement of duties with the Trustees.

A slight increase in the sale of Banners was reported.

On the request of the Editor it was decided to request D.C.'s not to send Competition tables for insertion in the Banner, and replace the tables by the names of the three foremost Lyceums.

The Quarterly sales were a slight increase on the previous first Quarter of 1923. Some No. 3 & 7 Hymn Sheets were placed on order.

It was agreed that the secretary write at once to obtain particulars of affiliation to the International Spiritualists Union as a National organisation.

The Secretary was instructed to circulate free sample leaflets and Hymn sheets to the Lyceums.

It was agreed that Mr. Burrows (£2000 Effort Secretary) raise the question of "completing the £2000 before using the cash" during the conference.

The Inter-relations Committee could not give a definite report as the S.N.U. had not completed their deliberations. It was decided that the Gen. Sec. issue the report which had been accepted by the M.C. up-to-date.

The Education Committee sent a pleasing and progressive report with a recommendation for the printing of two booklets which had appeared in the BANNER in serial form. These will be considered by the M.C. later.

The Conference arrangements were dealt with and the Auditors are being asked to be the Credential Committee at the Conference.

Arrangements are proceeding for the appointment of a Reporter for the Conference.

Applications from Lower Broughton, Edinburgh (No. 2.), Eltham, Hoyland, Stainforth, Croydon, North Leeds, Forest Hill (London), Edlington were endorsed. Durham (temporarily closed) was deferred for three months.

A very cordial vote of thanks to the Middleton friends concluded the meeting.

PROPAGANDA MEETING.

Mr. G. A. Mack, the President, occupied the Chair.

Mr. J. K. Jones offered an invocation.

A pleasing welcome to the M.C. was recited by Cissie Kenyon, James Cullen and Doris Radcliffe.

The President responded and echoed the sentiments of the children in the hope that they would really follow and take our places as we stand for the best educational system extant.

Mr. G. F. Knott spoke of the growth of Spiritualism and the help Lyceums are rendering to children and adults by providing the means of personal development under spirit guidance.

Mrs. M. E. Pickles said the essence of true education is found in the MANUAL. Could anyone think that our legislators would be poorer for a knowledge of Spiritualism, for it contains the inspiration of the soul instinct? There is a beauty which cannot be understood by those who know it not. Something has been done and we are going to continue our progress and permeation.

Miss Elliott said that the next time we met in Middleton there would probably be a greater response to our teachings. The soul principle prevails through all our lives. Our children enter into the psychic edifice and by the touch of the human race they will find themselves in tune with the angels and in harmony with God.

Mr. R. A. Owen, speaking to the visitors, who had possibly come to one of our meetings for the first time, said that the difference between ordinary Sunday Schools and Spiritualists Lyceums is that the Schools have taught that children were born in sin, whereas the Lyceums have disproved this and psychologists are also refuting the old doctrine and through our Founder we define the child as the repository of infinite possibilities. Our schools are an advance from past years. Mass classes were prepared for commercial life, physical gymnasiums and particular phases are catered for, but we provide for all phases. If we can enter into this broad spirit it will bring into being a broad spirit of tolerance to influence other individuals for the welfare of humanity. Mr. Owen concluded by reading a poem "Not understood."

Mr. W. Burrows pronounced the Benediction.

MASSED OPEN SESSION.

Mr. Owen conducted the Open Session and the room was arranged for visitors to sit round the room and the Lyceumists formed an angular arrangement in the centre.

The conductor appealed to all to make the session a successful, happy and useful time.

The three Lyceums named above repeated the Welcome, in which special good wishes were expressed to Mr. Owen for his future life in Ireland (where he is shortly going to reside). Mr. Owen responded.

Mr. Burrows conducted the Silver chain Recitation.

The Musical Readings were expressed by Mr. Knott, Mrs. Pickles and Mr. Jones.

Mr. Owen conducted the G.C.R. and answered questions on Love, Temperance in Religion, and Harmony.

On the invitation of the Conductor, Mr. Burrows spoke of disappointments in life and the need for courage. Mr. Knott told of the devotion of friends, Mrs. Pickles suggested we should not be discouraged, and pass over our little difficulties for our spirit friends would always help us in these matters. Mrs. Pickles then told of the presence of "Pa" Knight and a visit she had from Mrs. Mary Law during the previous night. We needed her gentle disposition to pour oil on the troubled waters and at other times we needed the "sledgehammer" methods of another of our Pioneers, Wm. Johnson.

Mr. Jones said we are a God-directed movement, and appealed to all to be true to the principles. Opposition will do us good. Truth with its white light has become diffused and coloured by many religions. We must get back to the white light and obtain a pure Lyceumism through true religion.

Twelve Lyceums were represented and all took part in the Physical Exercises.

Many Pearls, a few Recitations and Greetings were exchanged.

Miss Rigby sweetly rendered solos at each meeting.

Mrs. M. E. Pickles said Good-bye to Mr. Owen, as it was probably the last Open Session he would attend before his departure. The Session heartily responded to the wishes for Good Luck and a future Spiritualist centre in Dublin.

The meeting was closed with hearty thanks to the Middleton Friends.

CALGARY, Canada.—The Anniversary of Modern Spiritualism was held on March 30th. Pearls were said by nearly all in the room. Readings were given by the following:—Misses V. Potts, L. Raynor and E. Raynor; Messrs. W. Garrad and Freeman; recitation by L. Raynor; piano solos by Eva Raynor, V. Potts, L. Raynor. In the evening the children of the Lyceum sang two of the Sunday School hymns in the Church. Success to all Lyceums.—M. Adam, Sec.

What are we Doing for the Enrichment of Life?

PERMANENT RAPPORT WITH HIGHER SPHERES COMES ONLY BY POSSESSING AND ACTING ON LOFTY IDEALS.

EVOLUTION FROM LOWER FORMS: NO "FALL" BUT A RISE ALL THE WAY.

THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION OF THE SEERS TO HUMAN UPLIFTMENT.

By JOHN RUTHERFORD, Roker-by-the-Sea.

*Beyond this veil of passing things
Our eyes behold—what nothing can destroy—
Eternal Beauty, and the vision brings
Eternal strength, and bliss without alloy
And youth that cannot end,
And Victory's wings.*

*Would'st thou go forth to bless? Be sure of thine own ground;
Fix well thy centre first, then draw thy circles round.*—TRENCH.

"The one question before all others," remarks Rabindranath Tagore, "that has to be answered by our civilisations is not what they have, and in what quantity, but what they express and how. . . . Human Society is for the best expression of man and that expression,—according to its perfection—leads him to the full realisation of the divine in humanity. When that expression is obscure, then his faith in the Infinite within him becomes weak; then his aspiration cannot go beyond the idea of success."

Mere external success is a vulgar ideal; it is the ideal of the common sects. Our Cause will certainly bear some "spring cleaning"; and the question may perhaps be asked are we free from such low forms of egotism as envy, avarice, petty pride, gluttony, etc.? Do we pursue impermanent things to the neglect of what is solid, true, and enduring? To advise the "Elect" "to look with the eyes of love" seems a vague suggestion, yet the whole art of real spiritual communion is summed in it, and exact and important results flow from this exercise.

Spiritualists believe that there is a mighty and exalted influence raining continually from on high and our duty is to see that this good is not thwarted or lost by debris of thought, and that its object—the enrichment of life—may be achieved, and the entire earth brought into rapport with the Spiritual World.

Every generation has been impelled to advance upon that preceding it. True, nations may rise and fall; dynasties may come and go; so that progress and retrogression appear to be inseparable. Retrogression however is only temporary and local, and when we broaden our outlook an advance is unmistakably observed. Among the sure signs of actual progression there is discerned a brother sense. The powers of FRATERNAL LOVE AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS have now assumed a deeper aspect, and have, with the aid of intellect, formulated an elevated socialism for the welfare of all. Contrasted with the thoughts of bygone ages, this proposed reform will bring about a true kinship among the peoples of the earth.

Think of the progress now made compared with the past! Edward Clodd, in his "Story of Creation" says: "Primitive man was a powerful cunning biped, with keen sense organs, strong instincts, uncontrolled and fitful emotion, small faculty of wonder, and nascent reasoning power; unable to forecast to-morrow or to comprehend yesterday, living from hand to mouth on the wild products of nature, clothed in skin or bark, or daubed with clay, and finding shelter in trees and caves; ignorant of the simplest arts, sane to chip a stone missile, and perhaps to produce fire."

We have travelled a long way from the position of Linneus, who included all mankind in the single species. *Homo sapiens*, separated by a wide gap from all genera of apes. It may be of interest to recapitulate the present position of knowledge and opinion on the prehistoric predecessors of existing mankind.

The oldest remains are the fragments of a skull and skeleton found in Java, by Dr. Dubois. This creature dates from the late Pliocene; that is to say, from a period at least half a million years before the Christian era. It was man-like but certainly neither man nor ape in the modern sense. Then comes a gap of 400,000 years, at present only possibly broken by the Heidelberg lower jaw, of uncertain affinity and geological horizon.

Next in the warm interval before the last wave of the glacial epoch, arrives Piltown "man"—*Evanthropus dawsoni*, more human than the Javan creature, but still so different from modern man, especially in the configuration of the lower jaw, that it has been placed in a distinct genus.

After another interval, estimated at about 50,000 years, and midway between Piltown man and the historic period, comes the Neanderthal type, in existence when the last phase of the glacial epoch was fading. Skulls and fragments of bones representing this have been found in Belgium, in France, and at Gibraltar, and are said to justify the existence of a true species—*Homo neanderthalensis*.

Next, much later, but of uncertain age, we have the new *Homo rhodesiensis*. Recently Dr. Arthur Smith exhibited before the Zoological Society a skull obtained in the Broken Hill Mine, Northern Rhodesia. On the evidence, Dr. Smith suggested—and other competent anatomists were in general agreement with him—that the new species is a stage on the ascending scale, between the very distinct type of humanity known as *Homo neanderthalensis* and modern man.

In regard to the brain, the orang of the mind, the difference between the higher apes and man is almost solely one of comparative size, the lower intelligence of the apes being indicated by the smaller size of their skull and brains. The largest ape brain is scarcely half the size of the smallest human brain. But anatomically they are nearly identical. All the structural features of the brain are common to both, and the details are largely filled out in the anthropoid apes, the convolutions being all present and the pattern arrangement the same.

The brain of the orang is like that of man in all respects except size and the greater symmetry of its convolutions which are less complicated with minor convolutions than in man. In truth, the difference between the brains of man and the orang is almost insignificant as compared with the difference between those of the orang and the lowest apes. Scientists, however, do not suggest that some one of the existing anthropoid apes is the direct ancestor of man. Man's ancestry lies much further back in time, and his progenitor must have been constituted somewhat differently from any of the existing large apes.

It may be mentioned that when, some centuries ago, men began to find fossil remains of animals in the rocks, a severe shock was given to ecclesiastics who taught from the Jewish scriptures the recent "creation" of the earth. The adherents of the old theology made strenuous efforts to explain away this, to them, unwelcome circumstance. The shells found had been dropped by pilgrims; they were mineral simulacra of shells; they had been created by God and placed where found; they were anything but what they appeared to be—the existing evidences of a long ancient period of animal life reaching back very far beyond the assumed date of "creation." We never find, in all history, the priests exhibiting a love of new truth or original intuitive insight.

The discovery of our link with all living things is an important stage in Evolution, and its future will assuredly be in the way of higher perceptions and loftier ideas. The dream of ethics is a reign of peace. Some are ever dropping into the conviction that at last their pilgrimage after truth is ended. We must get accustomed to the idea that the mind, with ever-widening experience, must continually change the horizon of belief. "Truth," says Rabindranath Tagore, "comes with its final word, and the final word gives birth to its next." There can be no standing still. To climb up the mountain of self-knowledge, said the Victorine mystics, is the necessary prelude to all illumination. It is a lonely and an arduous excursion, a sufficient test of courage and sincerity: for most individuals prefer to dwell in comfortable ignorance upon the lower slopes, and there to make of them more obvious characteristics a drapery which shall veil the naked truth.

We are immensely indebted for mankind's mental and spiritual progress to the Seers; and while the names of Pathagorus, Plato, Socrates, Plotinus, Boehme, Swedenborg, Davis, Blake, Fox, Emerson, Tagore, Wordsworth are familiar to the reading public, other spiritually illuminated authors like Donne, R6lle, Vaughan, Lady Julian, Traherne, etc., are little known. No one perhaps has more admirably described the state of Seership than Wordsworth:

"That serene and blessed mood
In which the breath of this corporeal frame,
And even the motion of our human blood,
Almost suspended, we are laid asleep
In body, and become a living soul:
While with an eye made quiet by the power

Of harmony, and the deeper power of joy
We see into the life of things."

Wordsworth was not only a seer but a poet, and a practical psychologist. It was not the beauty of nature which brought him peace and joy, but the divine essence—God—in Nature. He believed that every one could attain the spiritual vision by relaxation of the will, and by a stilling of the busy intellect and striving desires and avoidance of all that is worrying, self-assertive, and self-seeking. "Before the vision," says Dr. Brittan, "of the philosophical Seer, everything is transparent as the luminous ether. He dwells in a region of ineffable light, and knows no darkness save the obscurity that depends upon moral convictions, or the existing state and relations of the soul."

It is not my intention to touch on all these great spiritualists whose names I have given, but only to allude to one or two of the lesser known, who are noted for their uniqueness and originality. Traherne is one of the most interesting on account of his possession of the "vision splendid" even more than Vaughan or Wordsworth. To Traherne

"The earth and every common sight did seem
Apparalled in celestial light."

Describing the opening of his "spiritual eyes," he says—"I was a little stranger who, at my first entrance to the world, was saluted and surrounded with innumerable joys. I knew nothing of sickness and death, and was entertained like an angel with the works of God in their splendour and glory. At first all appeared strange, inexpressibly rare and delightful and beautiful. The green trees transported and ravished me, and their sweetness and unusual beauty made my heart to leap, and almost mad with ecstasy, they were strange and wonderful things. The men! Oh what venerable and reverend creatures did the aged seem. Immortal cherubims! and young men glittering and sparkling Angels, and maids strange seraphic pieces of life and beauty! The dust and stones were as precious gold. Boys and girls tumbling in the streets were moving jewels: I know not they were born or should die. The skies weremine, so were the sun and moon and stars, and I the only spectator and enjoyer of them." Traherne's philosophy can be summed up in two lines—

"'Tis not the object, but the light
That maketh Heaven: 'tis a purer sight."

He gives an account of the dimming of this early radiance through his environment, but ultimately regained his "superior condition," and lived, as he states, "a life as if the world were turned into Eden."

It is not a little surprising that a woman—Lady Julian—should have topped all the preachers and churches of her age—1373—by her revelations on Love and Wisdom. She passed, she tells us, through a great psychic experience, and was the recipient of a high influence from the Spiritual World. "Sin," she said, "hath no part of real being—is a negation, a failure, an emptiness of love, but pain is something. It is a purification. To me was shown, in vision, no harder hell than sin, but we must go through the pain in order to learn. As a wave draws back from the shore to return again with fuller force; so sin—owing to lack of love—exists for a time that there may be reception—an inrush of Divine Love—fuller and more complete than would otherwise be possible."

Thus Julian was inspired with the idea that sin and pain are necessary elements in the plan of Evolution. God does not inspire "Retribution,"—as taught by the old theologians,—for sin or undevelopment. The doctrine of "Retribution" or "punishment" springs from the animal propensities without light from the powers of Love and Wisdom. Pain is simply the result of the healing process.

Of the life of the Lady Julian we know very little, except that she was almost certainly a Benedictine nun, and that she lived for many years in a cell close to the old church of St. Julian at Conisford, near Norwich. But her character and charm are fully revealed in the little book she has left which contains her psychological experiences when she was thirty years of age. Her vision, as stated, is of Love. She sees that God is Love, and that God and man are one. "God is nearer to us than our own soul, for man is God, and God is in all. If we could only know ourselves, our trouble would be cleared away, but it is easier to come to the knowing of God than to know our own soul."

The message of Lady Julian is as simple as it is beautiful. Wonderful how Truth gained expression through her! Equally wonderful how she escaped the fire and faggots, mother church

having had a habit of baptising her inspired ones in these elements.

We have, as I have shown, sprung from the lowest, and through the impulsion of the inner divine soul, been raised to the highest. And we, who constantly strive to gain God's Truth, have the best of it. The desire to learn and gain freedom from ignoble dogmas and superstitions has a moral and spiritual meaning. And here those who are enlisted on the side of the uncriticised tradition,—the habit never questioned,—are often held in bondage not by any strength of the fetters binding them, as by the lack of the emancipating powers of humility, of Spirituality, and Hope and Love.

"I want nothing, nothing, but you, O Truth!
Give yourself to me,—my arms are open wide.
Drive away the illusions that tremble at your approach
I do not care how you may look to my distorted eyes.
After my long debauch with these phantasms I may find you
incomely,—but you are comely,—you only are comely.
Deep down within me,—deeper than I think or feel or dream,—
even there I need you,—there is your empty throne.
And Truth whispered, 'Love,—and I will come.'"

Report of an adjudged case, not to be found in any of the books.

Between Nose and Eyes a strange contest arose
The spectacles set them unhappily wrong;
The point in dispute was, as all the world knows,
To which the said spectacles ought to belong.
So the tongue was the lawyer, and argued the cause
With a great deal of skill, and a wig full of learning,
While chief baron Ear sat to balance the laws,
So famed for his talent in nicely discerning.
In behalf of the Nose, it will quickly appear,
And your lordship, he said, will undoubtedly find
That the Nose has had spectacles always in wear,
Which amounts to possession, time out of mind.
Then holding the spectacles up to the Court—
Your lordship observes they were made with a straddle,
As wide as the ridge of the nose is; in short
Designed to sit close to it, just like a saddle.
Again would your lordship a moment suppose
('Tis a case that has happened, and may be again)
That the visage or countenance had not a nose,
Pray who would or who could wear spectacles then?
On the whole it appears, and my argument shows,
With a reasoning the Court will never condemn,
That the spectacles plainly were made for the Nose,
And the Nose was as plainly intended for them.
Then shifting his side, as the lawyer knows how,
He pleaded again on behalf of the Eyes;
But what were his arguments few people know,
For the Court did not think they were equally wise.
So his lordship decreed, with a grave solemn tone,
Decisive and clear, without *if* or *but*—
That whenever the Nose put his spectacles on,
By day-light or candle-light—Eyes should be shut.

—COWPER.

Special Report.

LIVERPOOL, Daulby Hall.—On Saturday, 5th April, a number of Lyceumists between the ages of 12 and 21 had the opportunity of attending a special seance promoted with the object of engendering practical interest in this aspect of our work. Mrs. M. E. Pickles very kindly assisted us in this direction and her efforts on behalf of the younger members were heartily appreciated by those participating. The following day the Church services were undertaken by the Lyceum. In the morning Mrs. Pickles made a few remarks on the articles appearing in the BANNER on "The Child," following which several members took part in discussion of the subject.

An Open Session was conducted by Mr. E. A. Keeling in the afternoon, and in the evening Mr. C. Dixon presided over the service. Various items consisting of recitations, songs and instrumental pieces were rendered by the Lyceumists and warmly appreciated by a fairly large audience. During the evening Mrs. Pickles gave an address appropriate to the occasion, her subject being "Whither go'est thou."—L.S.

Sex Education.

By C. A. M.

Ignorance is vice.—*Socrates*.
Eternal vigilance is the price of virtue.

Possibly there are those who, having become fossilized in their ideas of what constitutes education, dislike the idea of the introduction of Sex Education into the curriculum of subjects to be taught to boys and girls. Approving this study, I can only ask them, if it would not have been better if Mrs. Grundy, which is only another name for prudes and obscurantists, had been as nearly dead as she is to-day.

I think a great duty rests with parents and also with leaders of thought both inside and outside our own movement to see that instruction on this very important aspect of education is imparted as becomes necessary. It is no use parents putting children off with evasive answers when they ask questions about their origin. They will detect instantly the fact that they are keeping something away from them and as a consequence will lose confidence in parents or teachers, whichever the case may be. In all probability they will never ask you again. In driving this natural curiosity away you will compel children to look for answers to their questions in other directions with possibly lamentable results. The result may be that some person, with less modesty and dabased ideas on sex matters generally, will impart improper and erroneous information and maybe pave the way for a misspent life that will bring sorrow upon parents and friends alike.

To Lyceum leaders I should like to emphasise this one point. Never lose the confidence of the children entrusted to your care, for once you lose their confidence your position as a leader is weakened. They will probably look to others with not the same qualifications to impart knowledge free from error as you are capable of doing and the possible result will be, or will lead to, future remorse and despair, simply because you did not rise to a realisation of your duty. I am not advising that every question should be answered to children as you would to an adult. The answer and guidance in these questions should accord to the age and the ability of the enquirer to understand and Leaders should try to understand their scholars. Sometimes children ask questions they would fail to understand; in this case, if they have confidence in you, they will believe you when you tell them that the question is rather too difficult for them at present to understand and that when they are a little older and have learned a little more, then you will explain and tell them what they desire to know.

There is nothing in Nature to be ashamed of. God has created things as they are, and to find fault with that which God has created would be equivalent to finding fault with God Himself. Everything that God created is right and good whether in mineral, plant, animal or human life. Every organ of the body has a purpose to serve. Every separate organ has a specific mission in the economy of things, all are God-created and that is why it is said, "Our bodies are temples in which spirit is indwelling and through which a spark of the Divine makes itself manifest."

Dr. A. J. Davis expresses the same idea in his Divine Revelations when he says: "Be joyful, be happy, be exceeding glad, even though death be knocking at your door, for there is nothing to hate, to shun, or to fear, in the wide sanctuary of the living Divine Mind. "Everything created by God is good.

When we have learned the use of every organ for the specific purpose for which it was intended, under the guidance of reason and in harmony with the dictates of conscience, then we shall have learned how to live. When we realize and teach others to realize also that everything throughout the whole realm of Nature has its utility, we shall be nearing that consummation most of us desire; the realization of harmony both within and without, the expression of the inner, real and spiritual aspect of things.

I am quite aware that sexual instruction is a matter that requires delicate handling, but we who are older cannot absolve ourselves from any responsibility on that account. A nation is to a great degree made or marred by its generally accepted sexual ideals. Nothing brings a nation to ruin quicker or more disastrously than sexual immorality. Of all sins, sexual sin, more often than not due to lack of suitable instruction early in life, is the most ruinous and fatal. Headmasters of public schools and teachers generally have awakened to the fact of the exigency of some form of instruction on these matters and are in some cases doing their best to impart a knowledge of sex and its sacredness in relation to God and the reproduction of human

life and are trying also to lead up to a higher plane of thinking and action in these matters.

One writer, speaking about boys, says:—"Every boy is an interrogation point. He is constantly asking questions. It's Why? Where? How? What for?" The answer to his queries by parents and teachers determine to some extent the boy's character and destiny for time and eternity. If the replies to his questions are untruthful or even evasive, it may contribute to the boy's moral or physical ruin; it certainly will fix in his memory the character of the people who thus answer him. If the questions are not answered satisfactorily, he will go to the vicious and impure, and they will answer him in the vernacular of the street, and his receptive mind will be contaminated by their depravity. Then why not let the answer come from the pure lips of the father or teacher. Remember the words in our MANUAL, "Consider thou who art a parent or teacher, the importance of thy trust."

If we wish to improve the world in which we live we must commence with the children, for they are the parents of generations yet to be. Let us teach our children and ourselves to "Never harbour that false and ascetic teaching that the body is evil. The body is not evil, it is good. But the body is the beast of burden—to be used, to be cared for, to be considered, but never to rule." We must teach our boys to treat other boys' sisters as they would expect other boys and men to treat their mother or their sisters. We must teach and insist on the recognition by girls and those who are approaching womanhood, that honour and virtue is above, beyond, and superior to everything. In both cases we must help them to realize that the way of virtue, like that of liberty, is eternal vigilance. In teaching, give them scientific facts about themselves, always impressing upon them the sacredness and the marvel of it all, and there will be no danger of injury to themselves or others through ignorance. Teach boys that all chivalry towards woman is a hollow sham unless a man is willing to protect her virtue instead of trying to desecrate it. In short, show them the shining path that leads to self-respect and purity and they will live to bless you.

The late E. W. Wilcox, the Great American Poetess, says:—"Tell your little girls and your little boys the necessity of keeping their bodies pure and clean, and warn them of the dangers which lie in permitting any unwholesome thoughts or acts to mar their conduct." There is a delicate and safe way to talk to children on these subjects. You can tell them of the laws of nature in the unfolding of the seed into the plant and the flower and the fruit. You can tell them that human beings are the greatest and the most wonderful expression of this divine law of nature which God has sent into the world. It has invariably been proved that children who are instructed and trusted develop health in body and mind, and escape the perils and pitfalls which so frequently blemish the lives of those who have been kept in utter ignorance, with a mistaken idea that it insured innocence. Children should be taught that we are one with nature, one with Mother Earth. And that as plants spring forth, so does man, and that God is the Source and the Cause of everything, and that all His methods are beautiful, sacred and holy. Neither adults nor children should make light or obscene references to the topic.

"What would be thought of the pilot, who, knowing his boy was to follow the same vocation in life, would refuse to tell him of the location of the dangerous rocks and shoals along the coast he was to sail, and would say in justification of his neglect, 'Oh, let him find out for himself.' He would be just as foolish then as the parent to-day who refuses to tell his boy of the things he ought to know, and thus lets him run the risk of making both a physical and moral wreck of himself.

"Live so that when you die men will be glad you have lived, and no woman can ever be sorry for it."

Spiritualism, in its most important aspect, stands for the development of Spirituality, which rightly interpreted means,—right living—or living according to knowledge and reason and in harmony with conscience. This is the essence of Wisdom and A. J. Davis says that "Wisdom is the true Saviour of Man."

INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL.

The Alliance of Honour (Undenominational Purity Organization), publish two monthlies: "Honour" and "Chivalry"; also pamphlets on Sex Hygiene.

Dr. A. J. Davis: "The Harmonial Philosophy," Vol. 4. "The Reformer." "The Genesis and Ethics of Conjugal Love."

The Vir Pub. Company, Self and Sex Series: Four Books for Boys and Men, graduated. Four Books for Girls and Women, graduated.

The Choice of the Right Vocation.

By PROF. T. TIMSON, F.B.P.S., F.B.P.C., F.S.P., F.C.P.,
F.I.A.Sc.

(Fellow London College of Physiology).

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We are daily met with the repeated assertions that "trade is so bad," and "business is so slack," and "the professions are overcrowded," and "competition is so keen on every hand that one hardly knows in these days of severe fighting, what to do for the best for our children."

Yes! and again parents and guardians sigh for relief, and in many instances, settle down again into their usual indifference, and await the uncertain hand of fate to "turn up some luck," or "open some prospect" for their charges, and relieve them of the grave responsibility of selecting a suitable occupation for their young children.

It is a fact that there are fluctuations in trade, as in most conditions of daily life, and such are necessary to enable one to "take stock" and examine his prospective position.

"All summer would make a bad harvest," and a relaxation is nature's time to recuperate and gather new energy.

It is not necessarily bad trade alone which is to be lamented, but the unfit, incapacitated, unsuited, and disqualified people who are fighting "hand over hand" in the contest: feeling themselves incapable, and fearing in every effort that they will lose their feeble hold upon that for which so many thousands are promiscuously, and, in some instances, desperately and madly struggling. For all is uncertain, insecure and unsound in the great sea of competition, and like so many vessels without rudder or compass to guide, or even pilot or experience to direct, thousands are daily launched from our schools and universities upon the serging billows of fate, alas, only too soon to be "mingled with the wreckage and await repairs."

Much, Aye! most of the failure and misery arising around us accrues from the cause above indicated, and again and again the same useless attempt is made in every grade of society to "accomplish that for which by nature we are not adapted." Now, as all the human race differ individually, as distinctly as they do nationally, it is clear that some consideration should be given to the difference, and that before a child is launched upon the sea of life every effort should be made to fit it for a fair chance to make a successful voyage.

Some of our readers will admit, as is so very frequently the case, that could they have had the opportunities, they could have succeeded in other channels, whereas, they have toiled in vain in some sphere in which they could barely keep above the tide.

We wish it to be understood that we do not thus excuse the idlers or the reckless, but are considering only those who have tried their best in that station of life in which they have been cast.

The question arises from the above facts—Are there any means of attaining the knowledge of one's special capacity. Is there any remedy to avert the many dangers which beset the way of all who blindly set sail with naught but youthful zeal, hope and ambition to aid them? Certainly! say some, "get education."

Others advise parents to "buy a position or situation," and many similar and narrow-minded suggestions are made.

Education is all very well in its place, and when appropriately applied in its distinctive influence upon particular persons; but to rush a class of boys all through the same code is unnatural, and will soon evince that many are unfit, unsuited, and incapacitated, and "the weakest go to the wall," and fail in their examinations. They are at great discount in school, and are ridiculed and abused through their natural deficiency, over which they have no control. But change the scene for a few years after school life, and the brightest scholar is frequently seen unstable, inconsistent and incapable of pushing his way in some occupation in which he has been placed, and side by side, it may be, with the dunce of his schooldays, he competes in trade and finds himself beaten, and proves the "blockhead" is made of sturdy oak, and manifests some particular talent or ability which the rough of life and competition of his new sphere alone could awaken; thus proving that education, as described, is insufficient to meet the need of all, and fails to give an equal chance to many.

Phrenology, or "Physiological Psychology," and Physiognomy, show to us the difference of character, capacity and power of each individual, and in what he is most likely to succeed;

whether in music, art, science, commerce, politics, literature, mechanics, finance, etc.

Having surveyed the condition of thousands of our fellows, and claimed for Phrenology a consideration as a means of assisting to remove a great deal of anxiety, trouble, difficulty, and failure of daily life, we will endeavour to show in simple, plain, every-day illustrations, with which everyone is conversant, how the sciences previously mentioned may be employed not alone in general, but to individual good, and in selecting a trade, business, or profession.

Two brothers may be a great deal alike in many things, but John will be quick, impulsive, sanguine, hopeful, buoyant, whilst Frank is calm, conversant, cautious and suspicious; one is capable of a life of activity, to work by despatch, to speculate and do business, and will make his fortune, whilst Frank is cautiously waiting someone to leave him a fortune, but may die first himself, or miss many opportunities from fear of his own weaknesses, and each time he recoils or shrinks within, he lessens and weakens his capacity to withstand or press forward in the battle of life. He may be placed in a position of trust which demands moral courage, great firmness and self confidence to maintain his position with credit, but circumstances may encompass him, and he may yield to their impressions and temptations, consequently thousands of his fellow creatures may have to suffer through his incapacity and unsuitable development for the situation.

A boy may possess light or fair complexion, with blue eyes, red lips and arched brows, a moderate nose, with a curved bow-shaped upper lip, and will be fond of change, variety, natural or country scenery, with a love of freedom and liberty, a strong social brain and desire to travel.

He may be placed in an office, and his friends think they have done him a favour to get him such a respectable position, and, for a time, it gratifies his love of the new and the novel; he, however, soon "wears the novelty off," and looks around and sighs for freedom, like a lark confined in a cage, he is imprisoned, and day by day his position becomes more intolerant, he loses all interest in his occupation, he is reproached, coaxed, threatened, and persuaded in turn, but only to fall back into a careless indifference, or simply to carry out his work with an automatic, mechanical mood, till his youthful energies will some day revolt, and his old feelings and cravings for liberty cause a complete rebellion.

He might have made a success as a farmer; agriculture and stock dealing, might have been attractive to him; or travelling and dealing.

Some boys and girls are more mechanical than others; some are artistic, some are musical, some full of life, vivacity, action, excitability, and affection; others are quiet, reserved, shy, cautious, timid, sly and evasive; some are open, frank, confidential, confiding, outspoken and blunt; some orderly, regular, systematical, steady and honest; some have high heads, long heads, small heads, or round, flat, oval and prominent features; some are muscular, others bony, or fleshy, tall, short, broad, slim, or "evenbalanced"; and according to the different tendencies of body and brain, there will be a capacity for different pursuits.

One might just as well expect to get the work out of a racehorse which is required of a carthorse, or to anticipate the success of a bulldog in a race with a greyhound, as to expect quite similar results from children who, in thousands of instances, and in the same families, too, are of greater contrast and difference than the animals mentioned; men do not train the racehorse with the carthorse, or the greyhound with the bulldog.

No! they recognise and obey nature's laws in relation to the animals in their charge, but neglect to study and obey the same, in relation to their offsprings, but the negligence brings its innumerable evils and sufferings both upon the parents and child, and the sin of negligence is "visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation," and many parents excuse themselves and charge GOD for giving them such unrighteous and disobedient children "to try their faith," and by many such narrow-minded excuses.

"Train up a child in the way he should go,"—and this cannot possibly be done until a full examination and consideration of his or her body and brain has been made and the weaknesses, faults, failings and powers of both have been calculated in their combination and influence upon one the other.

"Man Know Thyself! Presume not God to Scan,
The Proper Study of Mankind is Man."—*Pope.*

We cannot review the pages of history of the past century or

scan the names of successful men in this, without noting thousands who have privately and publicly supported this wonderful science of the brain and mind, discovered by the eminent Physicians and Surgeons, Drs. Gall, Spurzheim, and Combe.

Thousands of the elite of the medical profession throughout England and America have supported the Science. Natural Selection and Localisation of brain areas, will specify functions in talents, gifts and various capacities for the many different vocations of daily life.

Some Thoughts on Tolerance.

By EDITH TURNER (Wimbledon Lyceum).

There has perhaps never been a period in the history of mankind when the need for tolerance has been greater than it is at the present time. Tolerance between man and man, nation and nation, must ultimately form the foundation stone of a universal understanding and settlement of the many problems with which we are now confronted.

We have seen during the past few years, all too clearly, the result of intolerance both abroad and at home in our midst. If we look sufficiently closely into the causes of practically all our international and social conflicts, we can trace this germ of intolerance from its birth in the individual mind, through its gradual development and increasing influence, until man loses his sense of personal responsibility and seeks only to subordinate the wills of others to his own, and until at length all peaceful ideals and their fulfilment are sacrificed in the fight for material gain. This is evidenced not only in political circles; we see the same force at work in our religious and social systems. There is even a certain irony in the fact that while religion, with its various professions, has been represented as a means for the upliftment of man, there could not be found a greater intolerance than has existed between those of one faith and another. What is it that has raised so great a barrier between rich and poor, and so firmly established class distinction? Is it not the failure on the one hand to tolerate the fact that man has never had, neither could he ever have, precisely equal share in material possessions, and on the other hand lack of tolerance of the rich with the needs and aspirations of those who may perhaps never possess the comforts and privileges they themselves enjoy? We find the employer intolerant with what appears to him lack of interest on the part of the employee, without seeking the real grievance—which, if approached in a more tolerant attitude might be alleviated with satisfaction to both. The employee is also often guilty of self-seeking, whereas a little more tolerance in his judgment of those by whom his tasks are appointed, might lead to more harmonious conditions. The individual in the home often cannot tolerate an idea or suggestion which does not coincide with his own views, or could not be carried out without any personal inconvenience to himself. This lack of tolerance is often responsible for cheerless and deserted homes.

Thus we see, that if this world is to progress to higher conditions there must come a greater sympathy from man towards the desires, and the expression of those desires, of his brother man. It is not necessary for one to disclaim his own opinions and ideals in order to discover those of another, but having expounded his own theories surely he might extend a tolerant hearing and seek to understand the motives which influence the actions of his fellow men. As there are no two souls at exactly the same degree of evolution, it naturally follows that the expression of the understanding in each and every soul will vary according to the progress made. Were this more fully realised we should see in the lives of those around us the reflection of a stage of progress through which we ourselves had previously passed—or, it may be, to which we hope to attain. Could we hold to this viewpoint, much fretting and chafing of our spirits might be avoided. We should realize, not only the existence of varying temperaments, but also the necessity for their expression in the eternal progressive scheme of life.

What could be more beautiful than the tolerance exhibited by the parent towards the simple pleasures of his child. He does not seek to frustrate them as useless, because he sees in them but an expression of development in the ultimate perfection of the child's life.

In conclusion the thought occurs to one, that had any great teacher shown intolerance with those who were opposed to the truths he wished to impart, it is doubtful whether our present state of civilisation would be existent, or the enlightenment we have received from a knowledge of our bibles have been ours to-day.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

On January 27th I paid a visit to Freetown Lyceum. This Lyceum, I am pleased to say, has now become affiliated to the B.S.L.U. and the Bolton Lyceum District Council. We had a prompt start with 15 present. Opening song, very fair. Silver chain, musical reading and golden chain were all explained fairly well. Pearls fair. Marching and calisthenics good. Closing song very good. General conduct very good. This was a very instructive session.

On February 3rd I visited Daisy Hill Lyceum. We had a prompt start with 11 present. Silver chain, musical reading and golden chain were all fairly well explained by the Conductor. Pearls very fair; singing very fair; general conduct good. There has been a little improvement made in this Lyceum since my last visit.—F. Jones, D.V.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

We give our Winter's Quarterly Report on the verge of the Education Examinations and we hope that every Lyceum in the District will have taken their share in the Education Scheme.

When the examination is over I trust that our Lyceum Leaders will remember the broad basis of Lyceum Teachings. That especially in the younger Groups the topics for Lyceum Lessons should be taken from nature, science, literature and biography. Give them as often as possible Object Lessons. Bring them into contact with things and persons. An important part of real education consists in getting to know the nature of things.

On the third Sunday in Dec. I visited Brighouse, Commercial St., and found them in a prosperous condition. The exercises and the marching were well done. The singing could be improved and the order was good. It being afternoon there was no time for Group Lessons.

On Jan. 13th I visited Quarmby. There was a really live session. It was an Open Session and there was a good attendance of adult visitors. There were an abundance of questions and pearls. 38 present. Marching and calisthenics improving. Singing hearty and order good.

On Jan. 20th I visited the Slaithwaite Lyceum. 40 members present. Singing was spirited, order fair. Physical Exercises improving. Session educational. Questions intelligent and searching.

On Jan. 27th I visited Sowerby Bridge. 24 present. A punctual start and a hearty sing was a good beginning. Questions and comments were a welcome feature in the session.

On the 3rd of February I visited St. Paul's Lyceum, Halifax. I was well pleased with the educational work that was taking place. There were 28 present. However the efficiency of the work done was greater than ever I remember in my former visits. Some genuine education is being given to the present members of this Lyceum. I would like to see more power put into the physical exercises.

Afterwards I visited Hebden Bridge Lyceum. There were 24 present. There was an instructive session. Important questions were asked and answered. Pearls were given and the work done made the session enjoyable as well as educational.—Seth Ackroyd, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

On December 2nd I visited Morley Lyceum. There were 18 present at the start. S.C., M.R. and G.C. nicely read, but no comments. Marching and calisthenics fairly good. A nice lot of pearls, six recitations, and one adult Lyceumist sang a nice solo in a rich soprano voice and good expression. There is need of more adults. Attention and general conduct very fair.

I visited Liversedge Lyceum on Sunday morning, January 6th. There was a prompt start with 32 present. S.C., a few questions, which Conductor explained; M.R., no comments; G.C., the Conductor and one Lyceumist pxealins. Several pearls and good recitations. One little girl was a lovely elocutionist, with good expression and enunciation. Marching and calisthenics good. There is also need at this Lyceum for more adult help.

In the afternoon of same date I visited Heckmondwike Lyceum. Prompt start with 23 present. M.R. nicely commented upon; also G.C. good. Many good pearls and several solos nicely sung by Lyceumists. Marching and calisthenics and general conduct was good.

I visited Horsforth Lyceum on January 27th and found 62 present. S.C., M.R. and G.C. good. Several recitations and solos were well rendered. Marching and calisthenics fairly good. Attention excellent. There is makings of a very good Lyceum. General conduct and harmony good.—J. Downs, D.V.