

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 420 Vol. XXXVI.

FEBRUARY, 1926.

PRICE TWOPENCE.



Transition of Mr. Joseph Parkinson.

With the passing of Mr. Joseph Parkinson the Manchester District is the poorer for the loss, on the physical side, of a humble, yet painstaking and indefatigable worker for the Lyceum movement and the cause of Spiritualism in general.

Born in the early seventies, he had many difficulties to overcome in his youth. He became interested in Spiritualism in the late eighties and, through the mediumship of Mrs. Annie Mellon, became convinced of the reality of spiritual communication and joined what was then the Society of Spiritualists meeting in the Psychological Hall in Collyhurst Road, Manchester. This organization became afterwards the Collyhurst Spiritualist Church, with which he was in continuous association until, coming to reside in Moston, he became interested in the effort to establish a Spiritualist Church there, and joining that organization gave his best to advance the cause near to his heart.

Though interested in Society activities, he was primarily actuated by his intense love of the children and did all he could to advance the Lyceum cause and the children's movement, the educational advantages of which he never ceased to advocate.

His desire for knowledge, in order to become more efficient in service, led him to become a student in connection with the Workers' Educational Association, and his class leader paid a high tribute to him as a man and as a keen student actuated by a desire to learn in order to teach others.

The passing over took place in the Manchester Royal Infirmary, on December 4th, 1925, through cancer.

In conformity with his wishes, the body was cremated at the Southern Cemetery, on December 9th. A four-pledge man—it would be creditable to our movement if we could revive that ideal—he eschewed swearing, drinking, gambling and smoking. In truth a worthy follower of his ideal—Alfred Kitson, the Father of English Lyceums. A noble and kindly man, he was courageous in discussion, a generous opponent, a zealous advocate of the truth according to his light, invariably courteous and tactful in his dealings and a valuable asset to the Lyceum.

His physical loss is mourned by wife and children, and he will be missed by the friends who knew and loved him as a man of peace and goodwill, with a desire for the harmonial life. May we be blessed by his guidance and inspiration in our striving to carry on the work for the children; yea, we know he will watch and encourage, along with Britten, Crutchley and numerous other noble pioneers, the work we strive to accomplish for our beloved cause.

“ There is no death; we bow our heads
At passing out, and straightway enter
Another golden chamber of The Kings,
Grander than this, and lovelier.”

Let us look forward to the time of meeting in the days that are to come.

“ When we go home,
The day will be so sweet;
Because in fair, unfading light,
Our loved ones we shall greet.

When we go home,
The way will not be drear,
Because we'll see the harbour lights
And haven very near.

When we go home,
Our souls will scorn dismay;
Because the everlasting arms
Will be our strength and stay.

When we go home,
We should rejoice to die,
Because life's waters spring anew
When earthly streams are dry.”

C.A.M.

HARTMAN'S WHO'S WHO IN OCCULT, PSYCHIC AND SPIRITUAL REALMS.

Hartman's Who's Who, compiled and edited by William C. Hartman, Ph.D., O.Sc.D. The Occult Press, Jamaica, New York, U.S.A. Price Three Dollars.

This book is a compilation of Prominent Officials of Societies, Editors and Leaders of most of the advanced movements in current thought from Archæology to Transcendental Science.

It is based on national groupings and gives data of authors and their books, names and addresses of practitioners of advanced science, prominent mediums, objects of the various societies, and the booksellers in many countries.

The arrangement is alphabetical. For a first book, the compilation is a mine of information which does credit to the perseverance of the author.

It is an inspiration to the advanced thinkers in many lands to assist in the compilation of additional yearly volumes to make a definite link of internationalism between the advanced schools of progressive thought.

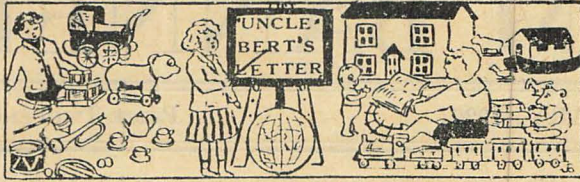
We commend the Who's Who to all Spiritualists who are looking beyond their own shores.

The B.S.L. Union will continue to contribute its quota to this useful compendium.

G.F.K.

A Lyceum Report is to hand from a Lyceum which does not have a supply of *Banners*. No address is attached to the Report. It is not the custom of the *Banner* to print reports from Lyceums who do not obtain copies, especially when the Lyceum is not a member of the B.S.L.U.

We regret that the report of the Manual Revision has been mislaid till too late to print.—(Ed.)



My dear Boys and Girls,

"What shall we play next?" are the words which ring in my ears as I sit down to write to you, having attended such a lot of Lyceum parties during the past month.

Auntie Ruth and I have really been having a jolly old time amongst the Lyceumists at Southend and London District.

We are sorry we could not accept all the invitations we received. Dates clashed, therefore we accepted invitations in the order received, which were Southend, Croydon, Bowes Park, Brixton, Stratford, Forest Hill.

Can I play "Sally go round the moon?" Why, yes; you should just see me kicking my legs up in the air; and "Poor Jenny is a-weeping," "The Farmer wants a wife," "Ring-a-Ring a Roses," "I sent a letter," "Here we come gathering nuts in May." I can manage all these.

One Lyceum was even good enough to let me try and find the missing number referred to in last month's letter, by playing Postman's Knock; but at this game I got into trouble, because when a missing number was suggested I offered to oblige. It's a hard game to play. I shall know better next time.

There is a something that is just wonderful in these parties. It reminds me of Aladdin's Lamp.

As soon as the word children's party is quoted, a band of workers appear on the scene decorating Christmas trees and halls, cutting up bread and butter; sandwiches, cakes, etc., and preparing jellies and other dainties.

The strangest thing of all is that, however old they are, they all become children again.

Why, yes! At one party I attended, I saw a right real good old Salt dancing a fox-trot, for the first time in his life, with a smartly dressed "young lady." If you could have only seen the beams of enjoyment on his face; it was a real picture of happiness.

HAPPINESS! What a wonderful word, boys and girls. If we can create it for a few hours at a party, surely we ought to try and extend it throughout the year. The secret for doing so is found in the following verse I came across the other day.

If a bit of sunshine hits ye,
After passing of a cloud;
If a fit of laughter gits ye,
And ye'r spine is feeling proud;
Don't fergit to up and fling it
At some soul that's feeling blue;
For the minit that ye sling it,
It's a boomerang to you.

A boomerang is a hard piece of wood used by the natives of Australia, shaped like the segment of a circle, and so balanced that when thrown a distance it returns towards the thrower. Sometimes, you boys and girls do the same thing with your hoops. You have had your party, you gained happiness; did you think of throwing it to someone else, or were you selfish and kept it all yourself. Why, of course not; you tried to make others happy. One Lyceum I heard of invited a lot of very poor children to come and join in their party with them; that might be called a Lyceum boomerang.

On Christmas Sunday I visited the Children's Ward in one of our large London Hospitals. I am quite sure hundreds of boomerangs of kindness had been thrown into the ward, for there was a Fairy Dolly tied to the head of each bed, and heaps of other presents. Everything was being done to make these boys and girls, who were suffering, feel happy; so we will call those boomerangs of kindness.

There is a boy or girl at your school who, for some reason or other, cannot get on with his or her lessons as well as you can. Of course, it would be very easy to call them dunces, but do you not think a word of encouragement, or cheer, would be a boomerang of cheer?

It is washing day at home. What a busy day mother has in front of her. Is there an errand you could run for her? A boomerang of thoughtfulness.

I might keep on until I had filled this page with boomerangs, but you boys and girls like doing things for yourselves; therefore I want you to see how many boomerangs you can make.

Since I find that these simple lessons are used in some groups, it will make an interesting afternoon for you by adding to this list.

There is one other point these Lyceum parties have reminded me of, and it is our fellow Lyceumists across the seas. In many parties, fancy dresses have been worn by the children. In some cases these have represented other countries, where there are also Lyceumists, thus making a link between the two.

At the request of Mr. Briggs, of Stretford, I have arranged for a number of Lyceumists to correspond with some of these boys and girls, as they want to know all about what you boys and girls do in Great Britain. What sort of schools you have, etc.? In this way, we shall get a closer link of friendship, and so create a wide world movement of Brotherhood.

What a good idea it would be for your next Fancy Dress party to add the name of one of the overseas Lyceums, if your dress is suitable. (See the list of Lyceums in January issue.)

The picture puzzle in this month's issue will give a little idea of this unity, too.

THE INDIVIDUAL EFFORT THREE MONTH CERTIFICATES.

South Manchester ...	78 Letters and Efforts.
Pendleton ...	74 " "
Newton Heath ...	46 " "

Battersea, London, came fourth with 41 Letters and Efforts.

The first series of these certificates has ended with Romance. Four months ago two energetic workers in the Manchester District challenged each other that their Lyceum would send me the largest number of Efforts and Letters during the coming three months. This challenge led to the certificates being offered. Some people, of course, are never satisfied. The shining lights of South Manchester and Pendleton wanted two certificates, and I only awarded one. They decided to buy an extra one jointly for themselves for 7/6, plus 1d. stamp. In other words, "They got married and lived happily ever after." At least that is the wish I extend to my two co-workers, Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Hope, while I also congratulate them, together with Miss Clarke, Mr. J. Taylor and Mrs. Robbins, for their efforts in connection with this Competition.

COMPETITIONS.

THIS MONTH. CHILDREN. "The Six best Pearls."
LIBERTY. "The Brotherhood of Man."

Closing date extended to the end of the month.

MARCH. CHILDREN. "Do as you please Competition."
LIBERTY. "Open Subject Essays."

Prizes awarded last month to:—

Iris Thornton, South Manchester.

Grace Clarke, Battersea.

Special mention:—"Liberty Sections" to members of Bury, Battersea, Wisbech, Birmingham.

I acknowledge the gift of 1/- received for children's prizes with appreciation to "Anon."

Correct answers to Puzzle No. 25:—

Courage, Patience, Smiles, Kindness, Ambition.

Edgar and Phyllis Watts, Peckham; Muriel Lamb, Muriel Booth, Elsie Pitt, Iris Thornton, Zeta Goodall, Fred Pitt, South Manchester; Norman and Edgar Newton, Birmingham; Nellie Dean, Willie Owen, Miss Palmer, Bury.

PUZZLE No. 26:—

How many three-lettered words can you make from the words "The Lyceum Banner," e.g., TEA, RUN, MAN, BUN, etc., etc.

You can use any letter as many times as you like; you will be surprised at the number arrived at.

A thought taken from many received from the Liberty Section:—

"Not what has happened to myself to-day, but what has happened to others through me—that should be my thought."

Surely this is a thought we should all consider.

It is the conquering of self-centred glorification. It is the

realisation of our mission in life. It is a true recognition of the God within us, and will enable us to act up to the fullest meaning of the text which says:—"Let your light so shine that men may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

With Love,
Your loving friend,
UNCLE BERT.

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middlesex.

Education Department.

PERSONAL.

To the many Lyceumists, Lyceums and District Councils that have sent me letters of goodwill and sympathy and kindly appreciation during my recent illness, I wish to tender my very sincere and grateful thanks. My phenomenally quick recovery bears testimony to the power of thought and concentration, which has—I know—been exercised on my behalf at many centres. The proof lies in the result:—after a five weeks' serious illness, the appeal appeared in the BANNER and responded to on all sides right royally; and, after *only a fortnight's* convalescence, during which I improved by leaps and bounds, I was able to return to school, and take up my full duties there again, and also as Education Secretary. My gratitude to all helpers and well-wishers is very deep.

THIS MONTH'S EXAMINATIONS.

The Education Examinations take place on the 21st of this month at 127 centres, and my Committee takes this opportunity of wishing each candidate confidence and success; and of thanking the Tutors, Leaders, Conductors and Secretaries whose interest and work have made the way easy for the candidates.

IMPORTANT TO SECRETARIES.

The packets of examination papers and question papers, along with full instructions for the Supervisors of the written and of the oral examinations, will be posted the second week of this month.

If your Supervisor has not received the packet by 16th, please tell him or her to let me know *at once*.

Also, impress it on your Supervisor that the answer papers, etc., must be posted back to me **WITHIN 24 HOURS** of the examination.

Papers cannot be sent to the Examiners till *all* are received; so *one* delayed packet can hold up the whole work of dealing with the papers and getting out the results.

TO CANDIDATES—IMPORTANT.

Oral Grade children—know your PRIMER off by heart; then, at the exam., *think* before you answer.

Candidates for Grades I, II and III.—know the set chapters in your *Handbook* and the selected pieces in your *Manual*; and prepare yourself to explain difficult words and phrases, and to write summaries, by studying the section dealing with your Grade in *Summaries and Glossaries*.

If you haven't a copy, send 4½d. (in stamps) to the Education Secretary, and one will be sent by return of post.

Grand IV Candidates.

Your question-paper is practically fixed by the Syllabus of Work; and you are allowed to use your *Manual* at the examination day. But in previous years, candidates have lost marks by one or two general errors; and to help you to avoid these, we give you the following suggestions and hints. (Please refer to your Syllabus on Page 7 of the Education Scheme Pamphlet).

HINTS:—(1) In dealing with Section 3—drawing up a Model Lyceum Session—*only* give what is asked for in (a) and (b), *i.e.*, the hymns, S.C.R., M.R., and G.C.R. chosen; and the main teaching running through them **ALL**, in other words, the *one* thing that they *all* teach in common.

FURTHER, *set out* your LIST of selected hymns and readings *first*—giving number and title (using a fresh line for each one), *then* deal with their harmony of teaching.

Do *not* give the routine items, such as roll-call, marching, groups, badges, salutes, etc.—**ONLY** give the *Manual* selections.

(2) Remember you will be asked questions on No. 2 Handbook. **Know** it.

(3) Let your Invocation and Benediction be *short*. (Look in the dictionary for the meaning of these words. It will inspire your prayers for the Session).

Grade V Candidates.

KNOW your No. 3 Handbook; and, at the examinations, bear in mind the sound advice given to you in last month's *Banner* (Page 6, bottom of first column).
To All Candidates.

(1) Read carefully the paper headed *Instructions to Candidates*, that you should already possess. If you have not already got it, ask your Secretary for it, to whom they were posted about mid-January. (Take the paper *with* you to the exam., also pen, ink, and blotting-paper).

(2) Study carefully pages 15 and 16 of *How to prepare for the Examinations*, which tell you how to answer questions. (This pamphlet will be sent free to you by the Education Secretary on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope).

WHERE IS YOUR D.C. IN THIS LIST?

Below is a list of entrants for the examinations, correct on 30th January:—

		<i>Entrants.</i>	
(1)	London D.C.	274	from 15 Lyceums.
(2)	Tyneside D.C.	201	,, 14 ,,
(3)	Sheffield D.C.	139	,, 9 ,,
(4)	N.E. Lancashire D.C.	137	,, 13 ,,
(5)	Manchester D.C.	136	,, 11 ,,
(6)	Nottingham D.C.	117	,, 9 ,,
(7)	Leeds D.C.	103	,, 10 ,,
(8)	Southern Cos. D.C.	101	,, 5 ,,
(9)	Halifax & Hudders. D.C.	63	,, 6 ,,
(10)	S.E. Lancashire D.C.	59	,, 5 ,,
(11)	Bolton D.C.	57	,, 5 ,,
(12)	Liverpool D.C.	56	,, 4 ,,
(13)	Coventry D.C.	39	,, 8 ,,
(14)	Bradford D.C.	35	,, 3 ,,
(15)	Birmingham D.C.	34	,, 3 ,,
(16)	South Wales D.C.	32	,, 2 ,,
(17)	Scottish D.C.	26	,, 2 ,,
(18)	N.E. Cheshire D.C.	25	,, 4 ,,
(19)	Tees-side D.C.	22	,, 1 ,,
(20)	Overseas	18	,, 2 ,,
(21)	Unattached	10	,, 1 ,,
Total ...		1684	,, 127 ,,

NEXT MONTH.

In next month's issue will appear all the questions set for each of the six Grades. These full sets are useful to candidates to show them what is expected in their Grades; and to Tutors, as practice-questions in their classes, and as a guide in their coaching.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE about the Education Scheme and the Examinations should be sent to the Education Secretary. (Enquiries, needing a personal reply, should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope).

Honorary Education Secretary:—

MISS M. E. KITSON, B.A.,
17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton,
BATLEY (Yorks).

ORAL GRADE OBJECT LESSONS.

XVIII.—ETERNAL PROGRESSION. (Question 31).

For several weeks young Will Rawlins, Oral Group Leader at South Street Lyceum, had been looking forward to the Sunday when he must deal with "A Path of Eternal Progress . . ."—and to be quite truthful, he was not looking forward to it with any great feelings of pleasure. He himself had a fairly clear general grasp of what it meant, but how to make it clear to a Group of Oral Graders was a task that began to seem far beyond his powers. But at last the fatal Sunday fell due, and in desperation Will went to an old friend, a former Group Leader, and, explaining the position, asked for advice and assistance.

Mr. Laiban did not believe in doing other people's work for them; but he was always ready to advise them or show them how to do it for themselves. Accordingly, he replied to Will's

request by asking him what he had done or thought of doing towards getting an explanation of the Principle.

"Well," said Will, "I had thought of taking Evolution, and working up from a floating log to an ocean liner; or from a rolling log to a high-class motor car—or something like that. But the only lesson I could make up would have needed as much explanation as the Principle itself; and I want something that the Group will be able to see for themselves, as an explanation of Eternal Progression."

"What about the Object Lessons in the *Banner*?" asked Mr. Laiban.

"We haven't had one on Progression yet," was the despondent reply. "I have been hoping that one would appear before I needed it, but I have had no luck. The more you do, the more it seems to make for you to do; and the more you get to know, the more you seem able to see of what you don't know and yet feel that you ought to know."

"Eternal Progression," murmured Mr. Laiban.

For a moment Will's eyes gleamed, but then he shook his head.

"I don't follow you," he said. "Far from being able to see any eternal progression in it, I don't seem to be making any progress at all."

"That is a good sign of progress," asserted Mr. Laiban. "And look here—seeing that you are working for the Education Scheme, why not take Education as the subject of your Object Lesson on Eternal Progression?"

"How can that be done?" asked Will.

"Well, you are young enough to remember when you started going to school. What was the first thing they taught you, there?"

"Why, to read, write, and count."

"Not so fast. Let's start at the beginning. The first things you were taught were the names of the letters and the value of the figures. What did they do next?"

"They taught me how to read easy words and add up easy numbers."

"Just so. And then they taught you how to take numbers away from other numbers; and after that they showed you how you could add and subtract and multiply and divide, not only numbers, but weights and measures, and lengths and sizes, and money—by using the same general rules."

"Yes, they did. And I think I can see, now, what you mean."

"Well, test yourself. What did they do with the letters and the easy words? Did they let you stop at just knowing them when you saw them?"

"No. They taught me how to put the words together into sentences; and how the sentences were put together to make lessons or stories. And by degrees they taught me how to put words and sentences together so as to make (or write) a story or a letter for myself."

Mr. Laiban was highly pleased. His favourite maxim—that "all an intelligent chap needs is a wise hint or two, and he'll find out for himself"—was being proved to be absolutely correct. He patted Will on the shoulder and pushed him back into the chair from which he had risen in the enthusiasm of his realisation.

"Sit down, laddie," he said, "and let me hear the rest of your Object Lesson for Sunday."

"That will be easy now, thanks to you. I shall just tell them the history of my school life, and how each step I took in every subject led from a step I had just taken to a step I was just about to take, and made me ready and able to take further steps."

"What exactly do you mean by that?"

"I shall explain that, as soon as I had learned the various tables, I was taught how to use them in doing sums; and how, by doing these sums, I was able to gain fresh knowledge—as, for instance, finding the distance *through* the Earth from being told the distance *around* it: that the sums led up from the tables, and made the new knowledge possible."

"But arithmetic is not the only thing in education."

"I know that; but I cannot deal with everything in a short lesson. I can mention other branches, and may find time for one or two brief examples. And I shall finish up by trying to point out that education is a phase of eternal progression—that everything we learn makes us fit to go forward to greater knowledge, and makes us want to go forward; and that the more we know the more we want to know, and the better are we

able to learn it. And I shall apply the lesson to our own Education Scheme, showing how the Oral Grade leads to Grade One and through Two, Three and Four to Grade Five and a Speaker's Certificate; that a true Lyceumist who has reached that height will not be satisfied until he has passed through the Advanced Course and obtained his Diploma; and that even then he will not be satisfied but will be looking for further Courses of Study, having realised that in education progress can have no end."

* * *

The Object Lesson was a great success, and it is in the hope that others as keen as Will Rawlins may profit by Mr. Laiban's hints that the story is being published in the *BANNER*.

A. T. CONNOR.

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 6d. per line.

IN MEMORIAM.

BOLTON, Deane Road.—In affectionate memory of our beloved daughter and Sister, Maggie Foster, age 16 years, who passed into the higher life on January 25th, 1924.

"Shine on, sweet star, above our way."

From Family, 7, Haslam Street, Bolton.

BRADFORD, Ripley Street.—We regret the sudden passing of our friend, Miss Butterfield, our Lyceum Guardian, on December 29th. The funeral service was conducted by Mrs. Wilkinson, of Bradford.

"We shall meet again."

E. PICKLES, Sec.

KEIGHLEY.—Elizabeth Aked, the dearly beloved mother of Ernest Aked (B.L.D.C. Secretary). Passed to the Higher Life on January 18th, 1926. The interment took place at the Keighley Cemetery, January 23rd, 1926. Mr. Simpson, of Bradford, officiated.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—We regret the passing of Mrs. Bowcock, on November 14th, 1925, to the Higher Life.

We regret the passing of Miss L. Bowman, on December 28th, 1925, to the Higher Life.

A.H.

PENDLETON, Carter.—In fond remembrance of Billie and Dad who entered the Summerland, February 8th and 7th, 1925. From his loving wife and baby.

"Fond memories we will cherish,
Of happy days gone by."

WOOLWICH AND PLUMSTEAD.—We regret to report the passing of Mrs. P. Watthey, a member of our Lyceum since the commencement, 16 years ago. She passed away on December 17th, and her body was interred by Mr. H. Bodington on December 23rd. Members and friends attended the impressive service.

Our Lyceum Guild

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR POSTCARD?

If you have not, you are still not too late; for yet another chance (the third) is being given to all members to take part in the GRAND POSTCARD COMPETITION, announced in December.

We have learned, on good authority, that some members have not sent in their postcards because they do not know their Guild numbers! Dear, dear; what has happened to their Certificate of Membership! But such members may still enter the competition, if they will send their postcard in an envelope and enclose twopence, to pay the clerk for looking up their number and putting it on their postcard.

OUR POSTCARD COMPETITION.

For full particulars of the prizes, and how to enter, etc., please look up Page 196 in the *LYCEUM BANNER* for December.

The final closing date for receiving postcards is the 27th of

this month, and the drawing for prizes will take place the first week in March, when the prizes will be sent to the winners. So send in *your* postcard without further delay.

CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION.

The number of members enrolled in the Guild since its inception is 1,930. Making generous allowance for members who have resigned, or left Lyceum work; for transitions, and for Honorary Freemen, there still remain, easily, 1,200 who are eligible to compete. Therefore the Guild feels justified in requiring at least 400 postcards for the competition to take place and the Guild's Funds to give the prizes.

A third extension of the time limit is accordingly offered to eligible members, in order that the necessary 400 postcards may be sent in, as not nearly that number has been received yet.

If, on the 27th of this month, the number of competitors does not reach the total of 400, the competition will be cancelled. It is up to *you* to do your bit; so send in your postcard NOW.

We KNOW that more than 400 Guild members are examination candidates, so they are keeping their promises in that respect. Then why not encourage the Guild in this matter as well?

MARCH AND APRIL.

Following our usual custom, there will be no GUILD PAGE (except the *Kiddies' Corner*) in the *March* issue, to allow extra space for the EDUCATION ARTICLE. In the *April* number, we hope to give an outline of work for Guild Classes, and of suitable games for their recreation half hour; also the announcement of the Competition Results.

PERSONAL.

The Guild Leader takes this opportunity of thanking most sincerely all members who have sent good wishes and sympathy and helpful thoughts out to her in her illness. (That such thought power has helped in her recovery is shown in her statement in this month's *Education Article*.)

SEND TO THE LEADER—

Your Competition Postcard, or enquiries, or for Guild Literature, or Form of Application.

GUILD LEADER—Miss M. E. Kitson, 17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, Batley (Yorks.)



My dear Children,

I am cherishing the hope that the interest of each Guildite and Lyceumist may be aroused, and that pleasure may be derived by reading our new serial: *The Problems of Marcus and Myra*. I am indeed gratified to learn of the number of children and adult Lyceumists who found pleasure in the reading of *Gerald's Adventures*, and hope the present serial will be found to be of even greater interest than the last.

THE PROBLEMS OF MARCUS AND MYRA. I.

"I have been told," said Myra, that people who are rich, who have suddenly become possessed of a large sum of money, are influenced by their evil passions and squander it; play cards, gamble in many ways and turn to drink, hoping thereby to forget their troubles."

"You speak of everyone," replied Marcus, "as if everybody would act in such a manner. No, Myra, some may do as you say, but not all. Different people have different natures, and dwell, as it were, in different worlds. But, there, you must leave me now, Myra. I am hoping to be able to complete my invention to-morrow; then you will know whether we shall be numbered amongst the rich or remain poor, as we are at present. So run along and tell mother I shall be in for supper in an hour."

Marcus was kept pretty well occupied now-a-days. He was hoping the invention he was now working upon would revolutionise the electrical industry, and, also, be a good thing for himself financially.

The parents of Marcus and Myra had always had a hard struggle to keep the home going, and the result of this invention depended largely upon whether they would have sufficient to finance the whole scheme. True, the electrical firm to whom Marcus was apprenticed had offered to assist and even to buy the invention should it prove a success, but the savings of the household were slowly decreasing and Marcus' father was getting anxious lest the whole contrivance should fail in the end. It was not the fear of his father's wrath that spurred on the efforts of Marcus, but a whole-hearted desire to turn the fortunes of his parents who had done so much for him.

Wearily Marcus passed through the door of the little workshop and walked up the garden path to the house. "Well, son, how goes it?" asked his father. "Just give me another day and I'll tell you the result," replied Marcus. "To-morrow night I shall know whether I win or lose. And, Dad, let me tell you this. I mean to win and succeed with this invention and sell it to the firm for the large amount they offered. And now, when I've had supper, I'm going under the bed clothes. I'm tired out."

For over six years Marcus had been an apprentice to a large electrical firm, and during that time he had learnt a great deal about his work. All, or a large portion, of his spare time he had devoted to hard study and had experimented in his workshop that he had erected in the back garden.

The next day he spent the whole afternoon working hard upon the invention. Myra would, at frequent intervals, come to the doorway and watch her brother's face anxiously, but not daring to speak until she saw the smile of triumph and joy light up his face.

"Oh, Marcus!" she cried. "You have succeeded. I know it. Come, let's run and tell Dad and Mum." In the short space of one minute the house was reached and congratulations were showered upon Marcus. "I'm glad, son," said Dad, in a trembling voice. "My dearest hopes are now a reality. Such persistence you have shown, denying yourself of many pleasures. You have proved to be what the Americans call 'a hustler,' one who is not afraid of the obstacles which he has to face. Now let us sit down and talk of the future."

"It seems to me, Marcus," continued his father, "that you are almost sure in a week or so to be comparatively rich. Now you have made the money, the problem before you is, how to put it to the best use. It takes some men years to make their fortune, and then they lose what is best of all to them, character; but, my boy, I know that you will cherish this above everything—a noble character—and always be willing to help others, especially those in need of the necessities of life."

"Thanks, dad. You have stirred my emotions deeply," said Marcus in a broken voice. "I'm glad you have spoken so, and there will be no doubt that when my invention has been sold I shall have enough and to spare, and I will promise you that I shall use the money wisely and well. But, you know, dad, I shall travel, and take mum, Myra and you, if you care to come. I intend to make a study of the different types of people, their habits, natures and customs." "Splendid, Marcus! We'll all go together and help you to solve, at least, some of the problems of life."

(To be continued).

Further experiences of Marcus and Myra will appear in next month's issue. Now, children, just for a change I'm going to test your mental powers. Below you will find a little verse, the last line of which must be solved by you, and just to encourage you two prizes are offered for what I consider are the completions of the limerick. Closing date for the competition, February 25th, and all letters or postcards to be sent to "The Guild Imp," c/o The Guild Leader. Here is the limerick, so start right away and complete the verse:—

Once a Guildite, whose surname was Tate,
Passed the exam., but, sad to relate,
He couldn't remember
If it was December,

Now, how many are really "true blue" and are sitting for the exam. this month? Go in and win. Good luck to the triers. Best wishes and love to all.

THE GUILD IMP.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

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

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FEBRUARY, 1926.

The Mind of a Child.

We often think of children and offer them examples to follow. One of the sweet pictures is given by the minister when he relates the childhood of Jesus; how he confounded the wise men. He said to his mother "Wist ye not I must be about my Father's business."

This phase is one which mothers rarely give to their children and the excuse is that Jesus was not as other children are.

The great lesson we remember being told to us when children forty years ago—were those of Casabianca and the Skipper's daughter. Obedience was the great thing to form character.

Well, obedience to-day is essential, but the idea of what we must be obedient to is a little changed.

Casabianca lost his life rather than disobey his father, but we boys always wondered if there was no other way than remaining at his post to be burned to death.

Then again, "little pigs had big ears"; "children should be seen and not heard"; "run out and play"; "you'll know when you get older." Perhaps the greatest blunder of all was "spare the rod and spoil the child." But it may have been that our parents believed in a just and jealous and angry God, and administered chastisement in that way because it was apparently God's way.

It is not surprising that loving parents rebelled against these methods, and the nonconformist parents brought into being a religion of feeling.

It was in such a home where the Fox girls lived and their playful ways twitted the invisible rapper to follow the humour of a child.

Boys of to-day can see more sense in James Watt, who played with the steam of a kettle, or George Stevenson, who, with a piece of string and a stick, made the machinery reverse without his aid, and was thus able to join in games with his playmates.

Men and women are but bigger boys and girls, and they, too, like something objective and demonstrative to allure their fancy. That is why, when religion is discussed, the Spiritualist Medium attracts a crowd. We are not content to live in the old way.

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

Prelates of the established church now feel the ignominy of such fatalism.

False things will die, but the true ones will live. What did really inspire us in a simple song we can feel the virtue of and it gives us courage and perseverance to-day.

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose true,
And dare to make it known.

There is not much music or rhyme in the song, but what young boy tries to soliloquise when faced with sudden dangers?

He goes right through and wins. It is older people who write an epic about it. The impulsiveness of a child is too impressive for stability. With a world to conquer there is no time to sit still for long. A child prefers to grow mustard in preference to apple trees; the results are quicker. A wise parent will allow the child to merge from mustard seed to the flowering plants, whilst he himself will sow the seeds of longer growth.

Thus as the child grows, his father's plants will mature and the boy will see the results of patience and steady toil. The impetuous nature gives place to demure reason. The vision and experience of the father, who waits for years before he can gather the fruits of his tree, gives an unspoken lesson to the son! The father's opinions are respected and confidence is assured. There has been no lecture, no compulsion, not even obedience, except to the whims of the child in growing simple things that delight his fancy. Yet a confidence is felt in the child's attraction to the parent. Have they not done the things they both wished to do? But the son sees the father's work is the most useful.

May we see in this little story of the garden a method by which the child mind may shape itself by imitation; "the sincerest form of flattery." Is not every child a mimic? Do we not teach by repetition? Have we not to relate, before we can dictate? Has not even the success of our own Education Schemes been due to the elders supporting the Scheme? Has not the enthusiasm of the persons in charge of the methods been more infectious than a fever? A fever has its rise and fall but the students increase in number year by year.

Our opponents have been worried at our success, and say we are training the children to be mediums. A visit was paid by some of the opponents, and their opposition has died away. Others may get the fever and have an attack, but we are training mediums of good-will and toleration who can meet the pin-pricks with a smile. The Lyceum method is not a disease. It is a healthy mental and physical exercise and we are planting seeds in the garden of the heart that shall not only give us the flowers of happiness but the fruits of wisdom.

One of the blessings of our system, founded over sixty years ago, is now an accepted part of every child's training, i.e., callisthenics for physical development. At least one modern Sunday School movement took the *Lyceum Manual* as the base for its moral foundation.

We are finding in the mind of the child the dawn of a spiritual genius and insight guided by intuition, thought and will, into chambers of expression which allow of a display of the growing faculties and denote the peculiar phases of inclination. Founded on this desire we can provide the child with a congenial occupation. There is no necessity for dominance in leadership. It is a faculty which gradually grows with the child as part of its nature. The majority are more willing to follow the inspiration of a good leader and thinker, quite prepared to do the spade work, but abhor the person who exploits the leader's position by imposing unnecessary and distasteful tasks.

The child-mind of our movement will evolve better leaders than we have been, as much of our earlier training was faulty, whilst theirs has been pure and unalloyed with the overlord who thought for us in childhood; often erroneously.

Their mind power will be open to a clearer inspiration and the unseen forces will find them better instruments of progress than we were.

Natural truths and science do not change, though one's opinions may have been altered by the discovery of previously unknown powers, or the understanding of some hidden law.

A child is fond of colours, and if we watch the colours which fascinate the mind we can discern not only its psychic but also the physical allurements most conducive to the child's well-being. We learn more and more of vibrations as the years pass by, and it is largely in the psychological study of these vibrations produced by thought emanation and psychic force that we shall cease to see so much "red," and merge as a race to the pure white rays of a truly spiritual concept of our relations.

It is in the interest of the child these words are written, but the child is controlled by the adult until he reaches the age of understanding, therefore the appeal is made for the adult to become young and try to feel as the children feel whilst passing through the early years of its life. Thus may you grow together and influenced by your happy and sad experiences you may guide the destiny of the race to a sweet

companionship of youth and age where innocence and wisdom can walk hand in hand.

If we will do this it will make the avenue of our thoughts so much easier for the exalted spirits of a higher life to inspire us with a greater knowledge of cause and effect, not only of worldly things, but of the eternal verities of life.

We catch a glimpse of holier things,
With the sweet balm the angel brings,
Full of truth from the spirit sphere,
That takes from the mind its earthly fear.
Bring your thought to be reconciled,
To simple joys of each young child,
The future man when you grow old,
Will bless your soul with praise unfold.
Hand in hand we shall travel far,
The road of life will have no jar,
The sweetest thing on earth or above,
Is to retain a child's pure love.

G. F. KNOTT.

£2,000 Effort.

This month I have to record an increase of donations as follows:—The President, Mr. G. A. Mack, sale of pamphlets, £1 5s. 0d.; Mr. Jackson, of Leeds, sale of pamphlets, 12s. 6d.; and a donation from one of our newest Lyceums, Hulham House Lyceum, Exmouth, of £2 4s. 0d. This is the first of the Founder's day collections and has been forwarded very promptly. I hope it will be the forerunner of a shoal of others to the same effect. It speaks well for the interest of this Lyceum, as it only applied for acceptance on January 9th, 1926, at the M.C. meeting at Blackpool. This Lyceum is the outcome of the going of Mr. and Mrs. Singleton from Dewsbury as caretakers to Hulham House, which is a home for Spirit Healing. All power to their elbow is my very best wish.

Now with regard to the EARTHING FUND! Since it was inaugurated I have received a total of 6,024 farthings. Please remember that we need 20,000 before we call for Southend's next 1,000; so please roll up and make Southend sit up and take notice.

Next month I intend to give a full list of all subscribing Lyceums and individuals. Please look for yours and let me know if it is not there. All good wishes.

Your s fraternally,

29, Kliffen Place, W. BURROWS,
Coronation Road, Halifax. Hon. Sec., £2,000 Effort.

The Management Committee at Blackpool.

Through the courtesy of the Blackpool Church, the Management Committee held their quarterly meeting in the Albert Road Spiritualist Church, on Saturday and Sunday, January 9th and 10th, 1926.

The President (Mr. G. A. Mack) was in the Chair.

All the members were present except Mr. Kitson, Mr. Scott and Mr. Hunter. Mr. Kitson was too ill to travel and a sympathetic resolution was passed to Mr. Kitson. Mr. Scott and Mr. Hunter were prevented from attending through pressure of business.

It was decided that the Area Representative should be notified when any Lyceum requested an official visit.

Miss M. E. Kitson's illness was reported and also the serious illness of Mr. J. K. Jones. Best hopes were expressed for their quick recovery to normal health.

A number of official queries were answered and confirmed.

Twenty-four applications for membership had been received during 1925.

One Lyceum had been reinstated. Six Lyceums had ceased membership through non-payment of fees.

Lyceums had closed in Pontefract, York, Widnes, Dukinfield, Glasgow (Progressive), Hamilton, Edmonton and Auckland.

The total Lyceums in affiliation is 286, with 16,945 Lyceumists. A gain on the year of 13 Lyceums and 693 Lyceumists.

A report of the Peace Congress was read and Mrs. Brake was accorded thanks for attending as the B.S.L.U. delegate.

The Rota Scheme of M.C. visits is being arranged at a later meeting.

Mr. Voorde, of Belgium, is to be sent, by his request, some particulars of Lyceum education, with a view to his adoption of similar methods in Belgium.

The S.N.U. Affiliation Fees were passed for payment.

A decrease of 250 copies of THE LYCEUM BANNER per month has occurred.

The Bound Volumes were reported ready for sale.

A series of "Bible Studies," by Mr. Alfred Kitson, will run through the 1926 BANNER.

The sales were slightly lower than in 1924.

The Testimonial to Mr. and Mrs. Myers Clegg was reported a success.

The Parliamentary Rules are sold out and their composition are to be placed before the Conference.

Regret was expressed that the Internal Education Scheme was not considered by the U.D.C.

The Manual Revision and Inter-relations Committees were reported to have met during the past quarter.

The printing of Conference Forms was agreed to.

Hendon, Rock Ferry, Hull (Jarrett Street) Lyceums were accepted into membership.

Dover, Grangetown and Middleton (Mill Street) Lyceums applications are awaiting endorsement.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given to the Blackpool Church, Lyceum and Mrs. Nurse, for the arrangements and hospitality provided for the meetings.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

A splendid Open Session was held during the afternoon, conducted by the President of the Union, Mr. G. A. Mack.

Visitors attended from Fleetwood and St. Annes.

The items were taken by members of the Management Committee.

During the open part of the session some very nice pearls, solos and recitations were rendered.

After the session the M.C. were provided with tea in the basement, followed by a convivial chat with the local friends.

The Chairman of the evening meeting was Mrs. Nurse, who, along with Mr. Smith, the Church President, and Mr. Hobbs, the Lyceum Conductor, welcomed the Executive Committee to Blackpool.

Mrs. Nurse introduced the various members to the audience and called on Mr. Jackson to address the meeting.

Mr. Jackson illustrated his address with Biblical parallels to the new revelation. It was a sincere and religious avowal.

Miss Elliott said she was glad to be in Blackpool again and then spoke of the Lyceum system which provided for the free and full development of child nature.

Mr. Knott spoke on the relation of the spirit to life.

Mrs. Tims gave some convincing clairvoyance.

Sweetly rendered solos were given by Miss Copestake and Miss Christopher.

Mr. Williams thanked all the friends for their kindness during the week-end and gave the benediction to a well-attended and inspiring service.

A New Bye-Law.

CONFERENCE INVITATIONS.

Proposed addition to Bye-law 9,

When the inviting Lyceum or D.C. is unable to provide free Lyceum or D.C. Secretary shall submit to the General Secretary, not later than March 31st, an estimate of

The number of free billets.

The amount of local financial assistance.

The cost per head per night of paid billets.

The same to be submitted to the M.C.

The M.C. shall then determine the amount for billeting only, to be levied per delegate or representative on all Lyceums, District Councils, and other bodies sending representatives to the Conference. The amount, not exceeding 7/6, to be paid by each delegate may be alternative (that is for one or two nights' entertainment) and to be sent to the billeting Secretary with the applications for billets. The meal tickets shall be an additional charge.

The Secretary of the inviting Lyceum or D.C. shall within 21 days after the Conference, render to the Union's Treasurer a full statement of accounts for same, together with all vouchers and the Balance, if any. Such balance to go to the General Funds of the Union.

Bible Studies—No. 3.

THE WORD OF GOD.

(Reprinted from "The Two Worlds.")

By ALFRED KITSON.

This phrase is commonly understood to mean the Bible, and we frequently hear the Bible referred to as "The Word of God," and its contents spoken of as being sacred and divine and binding upon the whole world. This deep reverence for the Bible and its contents has been the cause of untold suffering and persecution. For if it be granted that its contents have been divinely inspired by God, then it must be divine and true, and necessarily all that does not harmonise with it must be erroneous and wrong, and therefore should be opposed. From this assumption has arisen all the bitter strife and opposition to the Bibles of other nations, and to scientific discoveries that did not harmonise with its teachings. Hence came the bitter war that was waged against scientists and reformers who sought to enlighten mankind above that which is written in the Bible. As long as people regard the Bible as being divinely inspired, without fault or error, so long will this hostility to new discoveries and revelations continue.

"The doctrine of verbal inspiration of the Bible," says the Rev. J. Paterson Smyth, LL.B., B.D., in his treatise, "How God Inspired the Bible," "asserts that God is the author of Scripture in the same sense as Milton is of the 'Paradise Lost,' that every word is inspired of Him; that the human writers were but as the pen which the Holy Spirit used, their personality not at all passing into their work; that, therefore, the Bible is entirely Divine, and entirely infallible in every line and sentence" (page 114). He disagrees with this doctrine, and as a mild rebuke to those who entertain a belief in the miraculous production of the Bible, he says, "The Bible did not fall down from heaven. It was not, as the old illuminations picture it, copied from golden books held open by angels in the sky. It was written by men, men inspired of God, it is true, but yet men with human hearts and human frailties and human feelings. It was written in the most natural way, with exertion of hand and heart and brain, as we ourselves would write. We know that it came from God in the sense that God inspired it for the spiritual guidance of the world, that a noble influence and a Divine teaching emanated from it. But the fact that it was thus inspired of God did not change this living, throbbing human Book into a dead, gilded idol. That is what we have done to it. We have bound together into one volume and tried to level into dead uniformity a number of separate writings—history, poetry, drama, epistle, prophecy, parable—written by different writers, of different temperaments, at different times, with different purposes, and, for aught we know, with different degrees of Divine illumination. This collection of living utterances given for our use we have almost treated as a fetish for our worship. We have attributed to it every quality that seemed to us an excellence, without asking whether we had reason for so doing. We have made God responsible for its every passing reference to history or science—nay, for even the author's name at the head of every writing. Thus the intelligent veneration for a nobly inspired Book has degenerated into a foolish reverence for an idol; the faith that should have assimilated the SPIRIT of the Bible has become a superstitious worship of letters and words.

"History shows that this is no unusual thing to happen with the objects of men's reverence. The Jewish Rabbis, in their reverence for the Mosaic Writings, declared that God handed them written to Moses from heaven—nay, so perfect, so ineffably Divine was the Book, that Jehovah Himself spent three hours a day in the study of it! The Mohammedans assert of their Koran that it was communicated direct by the angel Gabriel from the original which is preserved in heaven; that it was written in absolutely perfect Arabic; that every syllable is of Divine origin; that it is entirely infallible and authoritative on every subject on which it treats; that it has, through all the ages, been preserved from error and from the inaccuracy of copyists by the miraculous guardianship of God Himself" (pages 53-55).

These are bold, brave words, and should help timid Christians to a more rational view of the nature of the Bible, so that they will no longer treat it as a fetish to be worshipped as sacred. If I can show that the phrase, "The Word of God," found in the

Bible nowhere refers to a book, and so cannot be claimed to refer to the Bible, which is a collection of books, I may do a little towards lessening the bigotry and persecution arising from this mistaken assumption.

We have already learned that the word LORD in the Old Testament, printed in small capital letters, signifies Jehovah, and that Jehovah is a corruption of Yahveh, which name occurs 6,855 times in the Old Testament. We have also learned that this Yahveh was a spirit who wrestled with Jacob and spoke with Moses face to face. He constituted himself the tutelary God of the Israelites, and desired them to obey his commandments implicitly, and was very angry when they disobeyed, and was afraid of them offering sacrifices to any of the other Gods. It is necessary for the reader to bear these facts in mind in order to understand what is to follow concerning "The Word of God." The passages I may quote will be from the American standard edition of the Revised Bible, and in place of Jehovah I shall give the correct name, Yahveh.

If we examine the Bible where it refers to "the word of God" we shall find that it means a message from Yahveh, or has reference to a message. For instance, "As they were going down to the end of the city Samuel said to Saul, 'Bid the servant pass on before us' (and he passed on) 'but stand thou still first that I may cause thee to hear 'the word of God' " (I. Samuel ix, 27). If we read on we shall find that this "word of God" consists of certain instructions given by Yahveh to Samuel concerning Saul's future, he having been selected by Yahveh to be the first king of Israel, who were Yahveh's chosen people. In giving his message to Saul, Samuel exercised his powers of clairvoyance, and by them was able to foretell to Saul all the incidents that would befall him on his way home.

Another instance is as follows, "But 'the word of God' came unto Shemaiah, the man of God, saying 'Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying, Thus saith Yahveh, ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren, the children of Israel. Return, every man to his house, for this thing is of me.'" In this case we have clear evidence that the so-called "word of God" is a message received direct from Yahveh in order to stop the king of Judah from making war on the newly elected king of Israel (I. Kings xii. 22-24).

The phrase next occurs in I. Chron. xvii. 3, as follows: "And it came to pass the same night that 'the word of God' came to Nathan." The message, in this instance, occupies eleven verses, from 4 to 15, and so is too long to quote. In verse 15 it says: "According to all this vision, so did Nathan speak to David." So it appears that Nathan was clairvoyant as well as clairaudient when receiving the message from Yahveh.

I believe the foregoing are all the passages in the Old Testament in which "the word of God" occurs as a message. In Pro. xxx. 5, "the word of God" is referred to as being pure and a shield. In Isaiah xl. 8 it is said "'the word of God' shall last forever."

If we turn to the New Testament we learn that "The word of God" came unto John in the wilderness, which was "Make ye ready for the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall become straight and the rough ways smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke iii. 2-6).

It will thus be seen that all refer to spirit messages, and not to a book.

My next article will be devoted to a study of the terms "Prophets" and "Propheying."

BIBLE STUDIES.—No. 4.

PROPHETS AND PROPHEYSING.

By ALFRED KITSON.

The term "prophet" is derived from the Greek, "prophetees," and means one who foretells coming events. According to Cruden the early Hebrews called them "Videns," or seers; afterwards they called them "Nabi," which comes from the root "nabbi," to foretell or divine.

People were said to be prophesying when they were under control or influenced by spirit power (I. Sam. xviii. 10). Also, when they were influenced to sing and play on instruments they were said to be prophesying (I. Sam. x. 5-12). Paul uses the

term to signify the power to preach and exhort the people to repent (I. Cor. xii. 1-2). He also says, "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (I. Cor. xiv. 32).

Samuel was a seer and hearer of the Lord's (Yahveh's) voice, and because of his psychic powers he was called "a man of God." If Samuel were living to-day he would be called a clairvoyant and clairaudient medium, for we are informed in I. Sam. ix. that he was told by Yahveh of Saul's visit a day before it took place; and as Saul appears to have acted on the suggestion of the servant who was helping in the search for the lost asses, the seer must have been told a day before it entered into Saul's mind to consult the prophet. So this is not a case of telepathy but genuine foretelling the future. In the following chapter (x.) we are informed that when Samuel was about to part with Saul he described unto him all the incidents that would take place on his homeward journey (verses 2 to 6).

Here we have in the Bible a case of foretelling the future even to the extent that Saul would be made the King of Israel. If such a case occurred to-day it would be called "fortune-telling," and the prophet Samuel would be liable to a fine or imprisonment as a rogue and vagabond. But the ancient Hebrews did not treat their mediums so rudely, but honoured them as "men of God," and the act of consulting them in order to obtain their help or advice was called "inquiring of the Lord," that is, their tutelary God (ix. 9). We also learn from the seventh verse that it was customary for those who sought to "inquire of the Lord" to take a present with them as payment for services rendered.

It is quite evident that Saul was fully aware of this, for he asked the servant who suggested the visit, "What shall we bring the man? For the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God!"

This custom of bestowing presents on the prophets for services rendered continued a long time, for we find that Jeroboam, the King of Israel, who reigned 139 years after Samuel's time, instructed his wife "to disguise herself and then go and consult the prophet, Ahijah, as to what would become of their child, who was ill, and ascertain whether it would recover or not," and she was instructed to take as a present for the prophet ten loaves and cakes and a cruise of honey (I. Kings xiv. 3). Here we learn that even the king was not above consulting prophets who had power to foresee whether a sick person would live or die.

Having learned that the term "seer" was used by the Israelites to signify a "foreteller" of coming events, we need not be surprised that they used the term "prophet" and "prophesying" to signify other things than "foretelling." For instance, we read in Exodus vii. 1, "See, I have made thee as a God to Pharaoh, and Aaron, thy brother, shall be thy prophet." The reason for this remarkable statement will be found in Exodus iv. 10-16, where we learn that Moses was slow of speech, and so Aaron was to be his spokesman or prophet. Here we also incidentally learn that the term "God" does not specially mean the creator of the heavens and the earth, as is generally assumed, but a person in authority, as was Moses in his mission to deliver the children of Israel from bondage. The term prophet in this case meant a spokesman.

If we now turn to I. Sam. x. 5-12, we shall see the term "prophet" used in another sense, namely, to signify minstrels. Here is a band of prophets coming down from the "high place," or hill where the sacrificial altar was built, where they had been officiating as minstrels at the sacrifices; they had a psaltery (a large harp), a timbrel (or tambourine), a pipe (a reed instrument), and a harp (the harp was an instrument generally of ten strings), and with those instruments they were said to be "prophesying." Perhaps this will sound strange to the casual Christian who does not take the trouble to study his Bible. Miriam, Aaron's sister, was a "prophetess," and took a timbrel in her hand and "prophesied," that is, sang the praises of the Lord (Yahveh), something after the manner of a Salvation Army lass with her tambourine (Exodus xv. 20, etc.). We shall find further instances of this kind of "prophesying" if we read I. Sam. xix. It is quite evident that these people were sensitive to spirit power, and were worked upon to sing and play in the manner indicated. The services of 248 of these kind of prophets were engaged to render service in Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem (I. Chron. xxv. 6, 7).

Saul is said to have prophesied when the evil spirit from God was upon him (I. Sam. xviii. 10). We suppose the "prophesying" in this instance consisted of dancing, shouting and raving like a madman, for under the frenzy he threw his spear at David with intent to kill him.

In the book of Isaiah we find the term "prophet" used in its ordinary sense. He (Isaiah) charges both the prophet and the priest with erring in vision and judgment through using strong drink and wine (Isaiah xxviii. 7).

There also appears to have been jealousy of one another's powers amongst the prophets, for in Jeremiah xxviii. 11, Hananiah makes a prophecy concerning the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar, and in verse 15 Jeremiah accuses him of having prophesied falsely. In xxix. 8, he further charges all the prophets and the priests in Israel with prophesying and divining falsely.

Ezekiel, in chapter xiii., also accuses the prophets of following their own spirit of vain visions and lying divinations, etc. Much more of a similar nature might be quoted to show they were jealous of one another's psychic powers. But the foregoing must suffice for the present.

In the New Testament Jesus uses the term "prophet" in conjunction with the "law" as follows: "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, even so do ye also to them, for this is the law and the prophets" (Matt. vii. 12). Here is given a moral rule or guide whereby all may be a law unto themselves without the aid of either priest or scribe. Evidently the term "prophet" is here used as Paul uses it, as having reference to the understanding of mysteries relating to the hidden meaning of the Scriptures, and in preaching or expounding them (Cor. xiii. 3). By this means the unlearned who attended their meetings or seances would be convinced (Cor. xiv. 24). And even the prophets (those subject to spirit control, in this case) themselves could be edified and comforted by listening to each others' controls as they explained the spiritual mysteries, instead of several of them trying to talk at once, for, he adds, "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (verses 31 and 32), which is to say that the mediums could hold their controls in check so that they would not all be talking together.

John gives the following warning against untruthful or misleading spirits, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God, for many false prophets (preachers under spirit influence) are gone out into the world" (I. John iv. 1). This is good advice to-day, and if acted upon would save much regret to many young inexperienced mediums who love to have spirits control who claim to be some person with high-sounding names, who come from very high spirit spheres or zones.

My next article will be devoted to the consideration of the Biblical account of the Creation.

A LYCEUM WEDDING AT PENDLETON.

A pretty wedding was solemnised at Ford Lane on January 16th by Mr. E. W. Oaten. The contracting parties were Mr. Randolph Hope, Conductor of South Manchester Lyceum, and Annie Lewis, Guardian at Pendleton Lyceum, who were the recipients of over 50 presents.

The bride was attired in a pale blue Georgette, with chineal trimming with brilliants. The bride carried a bouquet of red roses. The bridesmaids were Misses Leadbetter and Lewis. Mr. Frank Taylor was the groomsman. The wedding couple adjourned to the vestry during the singing of "Now Lord this wedded pair inspire." After the signing, the pair walked along the aisle whilst the Wedding March was played. Miss A. Hood officiated at the piano. There were a good number present at the ceremony and a splendid tea was partaken of by over 100. The catering was indeed a credit to Mrs. Lewis and her helpers. Then followed an evening's capital enjoyment. Dancing, songs by capable artists, sketches, etc. Among the presents were a handsome eight-day clock from the Pendleton Lyceum and a beautiful set of carvers from the South Manchester Lyceum.

There is a long list in the change of Secretaries. May we draw the attention to the number of words allowed in the free reports at the heading of Lyceum Reports.

We annually get a complaint from some Lyceums that the time allowed for nominations of Area Representatives is too short. The Nomination Forms are not due to reach the Lyceums till the first week in March, but there is nothing to prevent Lyceums obtaining the consent of nominees before the receipt of the official forms.

Change of Secretaries, &c.

- Walsall, Freer Street—Miss A. Harrison, 61, Countess Street, Walsall.
- Bolton, Bradford Street—Mr. A. Booth, 9, Constance Road, Bolton, Lancashire.
- Bolton, Deane Road—Miss E. Foster, 7, Haslam Street, Bolton, Lancashire.
- Bury, Sydney Street—Miss N. Farrand, 29, Lima Street, Huntley Brook, Bury.
- Bradford, Harker Street—Mrs. Clayton, 730, Wakefield Road, Bradford.
- Brighouse, Commercial Street—Mr. F. Brook, 30, School View, Church Lane, Lower Edge, Elland, Yorks.
- Brighouse, Martin Street—Mrs. Aspinall, 7, Lane Court, Bonegate Road, Brighouse.
- Elland, Westgate—Mr. A. Crossland, Westgate View, Westgate, Elland.
- Slaithwaite, Laith Lane—Miss C. Birkland, Woodside, Manchester Road, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.
- Batley Carr—Mr. T. Hirst, 22, Cross Chapel Street, Batley Carr, Batley.
- Dewsbury, Wellington Road.
- Leeds, Armley—Miss H. Sykes, 3, Brentwood Grove, Armley, Leeds.
- Leeds, Easy Road, 2-30 p.m.—Mr. J. Croll, 5, Preforia Grove, Easy Road, Leeds.
- Morley, Queen Street—Mrs. J. Harrison, 10, King Street, Morley, Yorkshire.
- Southport—Mr. F. Newsham, 6, Victoria Street, Southport.
- Letchworth—Mr. W. C. Bye, 21, High Avenue, Letchworth, Herts.
- London, Manor Park—Mrs. E. M. Marmey, 30, Ashley Road, Forest Gate, E.7.
- Manchester, Progressive—Mr. T. Cross, 27, Alfred Street, Bradford, Manchester.
- Manchester, Pendleton—Mr. H. Greenwood, 41, Sedan Street, Pendleton, Manchester.
- Heaton Norris, Baker Street—Mrs. A. Craig, 6, Rowland Street, Heaton Norris.
- Stockport, Central—Mrs. Springate, 52, Petersburg Road, Edgeley, Stockport.
- Earby, Greenend Avenue—Mr. T. Hodgson, 5, John Street, Earby, nr. Colne.
- Nelson—Miss C. Smoothy, 9, Farrar Street, Nelson, Lancs.
- Lancaster—Mrs. E. Thompson, 6, Davidson Street, Lancaster.
- Leicester, Silver Street—N. Underwood, 77, Noble Street, Leicester.
- Doncaster, High Street—Mrs. S. C. Webb, 65, Elmfield Road, Doncaster.
- Rotherham—Miss C. J. Davies, 7, Doncaster Street, Dalton, Rotherham.
- Sheffield, Attercliffe—Mrs. N. Thwaites, 276, Dunlop Street, Carbrook, Sheffield.
- Bournemouth—Miss W. M. Hodgkinson, 44, Wellington Rd, Bournemouth.
- Southampton—Mr. F. Thompson, 29, Chilworth Road, Shirley, Southampton.
- Horden, Miners' Hall—Mrs. Foster, 11, Blackhill's Terrace, Horden, Co. Durham.
- Hebburn, Albert Hall—Miss M. Anderson, 10, Peel Terrace, Hebburn-on-Tyne.
- New Delaval and Newsham—Miss M. Brewis, 68, New Row, New Delaval, Newsham, Northumberland.
- West Pelton—Mrs. G. Dryden, 131, J. R. Mole Street, Perkinsville, Co. Durham.
- Grimsby—Mrs. P. Stanham, 117, Tunnard Street, Grimsby.
- Northampton—Mrs. Philips, 46, Guildhall Road, Northampton.

A WARNING.

There is a man going to Lyceumists' homes in the Tyne-side district, claiming to be the son of Tom Williams, of Manchester. He claims to an artist down on his luck. He is a tall, dark, spare man, wears his hair brushed straight back, and can reel off the names of many leading Spiritualists. He has been in Gateshead, Newcastle, Wallsend, and South Shields, and states he is walking to Glasgow. Lyceumists are requested to beware of any unknown callers who request charity, no matter how good their credentials are.

A MASSES SESSION.

PRESENTATION TO MR. A. T. AND MISS E. CONNOR.

On January 17th the Fulham Lyceum held a Massed Session at the Fulham Town Hall, in which eight Lyceums took part. The Conductor was Mrs. Barnard, President of the London District Council.

At this session a very pleasing ceremony took place, Mr. A. T. Connor being presented with an illuminated address, a suit case and pocket book. Miss E. Connor was also presented with a handbag, subscribed for by the following Lyceums:—Fulham, Hampton Hill, Kingston, Letchworth, Lewisham, Tottenham, Plaistow, Forest Hill, Woolwich and Plumstead, Bowes Park, Walthamstow, Clapham. Mr. A. T. Connor and Miss E. Connor suitably responded. Pearls and recitations were given by the Lyceumists and Madam Orego gave a beautiful solo, which was encored. After the session, the Lyceumists and friends returned to 12, Lettice Street, where a good tea was in readiness for them. After the tea, the London District Council took the service for the evening, and so ended a most enjoyable day.

J. A. Dix, Hon. Sec.

District Council Reports.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held at Hawkshead Hall, Hawkshead Street, Southport, on Saturday, February 13th, at 3 p.m. Business: Minutes, Correspondence, President's Address, Reports, Election of Officers, Interchange of Conductors, Session Competition, Massed Session and B.S.L.U. Conference Business. Invitation wanted for May Sth.—E. Clitheroe, Sec.

LONDON DISTRICT.

The above Council held their Annual Social and Dance at "Caxton House Restaurant," Westminster, on Saturday evening, January 23rd. This was in the form of a Carnival, the beautiful caps and streamers were kindly given by the Bowes Park Lyceum. A box of chocolates, and a Doll presented by Mrs. Chignell and Mrs. Hester respectively, helped to augment the income. Our artistes excelled themselves, all being encored. They were Madame M. Amigo, Miss Winifred Bradley, and a versatile member of the "Winchellis Band," Mr. George Ellis. The whole evening passed too quickly, 11-30 p.m. arriving too soon.

Our visitors included the President L.L.D.C., Mrs. K. M. Barnard, V.P., Mr. Fruin, Mr. H. Boddington (Pres. L.D.C., S.N.U.), Mr. F. Miles, D.V., Mr. Curnow and several members of our Executive Council. 120 were present.

The Committee desire to thank all who assisted to make the event so happy and successful. There were many requests for another dance soon.—H.R.B.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Executive will visit Forest Hill Lyceum on Sunday, 14th February, and will occupy the platform at the Evening Service of the Church.

The Annual General Meeting of the Council will be held at Lausanne Hall, Lausanne Road, Peckham, on Saturday, 27th February, beginning at 4 p.m. The Agenda will include the Election of Officers and Executive, and of Delegates and representatives to the Annual Conference, the U.D.C., the London Spiritualist Guild, the S.N.U., L.D.C., etc.

Will Delegates and Associates please note and make a special effort to attend, as important changes in the Executive, etc., are taking place.

A. T. CONNOR, Hon. Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council will be held in the Newton Heath Progressive Lyceum, Allen Street, Newton Heath, on Saturday, February 13th, commencing at 3 p.m. prompt.

Will all Delegates and Associates please attend? Tea will be provided at a nominal charge. Council fees are now due and should be paid at the meeting.—G. A. Dixon, Sec.

SHEFFIELD COUNCIL.

The Sheffield District Council were given a warm welcome on Sunday, December 20th, 1925, at Percy Street, Rotherham, on the occasion of their visit to the Church.

Mr. A. Bruce (Lyceum Conductor) extended to the Council a hearty welcome; Mr. Pleasance replied on behalf of the

Council and expressed regret upon hearing of the very serious illness of our esteemed fellow-Lyceumist, Mr. J. K. Jones, who is in a very critical condition and also of the illness of Miss M. Jones, D.V.

Minutes of the previous Council Meeting were accepted and confirmed. Correspondence was also accepted. From Correspondence a resolution was passed, "That question of Demonstration be referred to next meeting, and delegates are urged to get their Lyceums to send the consent or otherwise to a joint Demonstration with Guarantee Fund of 10/- for 50 members and £1 for over 50 members."

Lyceum Reports were very good generally; concert parties and socials very much in evidence.

The Credential Report showed the attendance as follows:—Officers 4; Delegates, 14 (representing 10 Lyceums); Associates, 6; Visitors, 4. Total: 28.

The Secretary was instructed to write the sick members of the Council, Mr. Jones, Miss Jones, and Mr. Haywood (Mexborough Lyceum Conductor).

During Open Council, general information *re* Education Exam. and Banner and Bell Competition was given. A notice of motion from Rotherham, *re* Cup for Sports Competition, is to be placed on the Agenda for next meeting.

The Council conducted an Afternoon Open Session and the Evening Service.

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Sunday, February 21st, 1926, at Mexboro. Business as per Agenda will commence at 10.30 a.m. Usual catering arrangements. The Council will conduct Open Session and Evening Service. A full representation of Delegates and all Associates are expected and should be present.—H. Heath, Sec.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT.

I hope all Lyceumists in the district read the report of the D.V. in the January issue of the *Banner*. Taken in conjunction with the report of the District Council Meeting, it is an evidence of the work and interest in Lyceumism in Scotland. We could do a lot more if we could get the whole of the unattached, both individuals and Lyceums, to realise the value of organisation.

Miss Blaik, our East Coast D.V., told us of the surprise of the Lochgelly folks when they learned that there was a great movement interested in what was going on in that Fifeshire town, and that the D.C. was anxious to help on that work. By forming a sort of chain over the whole area, linking up with friends across the border and over the seas, we are, indeed, demonstrating our second principle, the Brotherhood of Man. Further, it is only by getting the best out of our organisation that we can gain the best results.

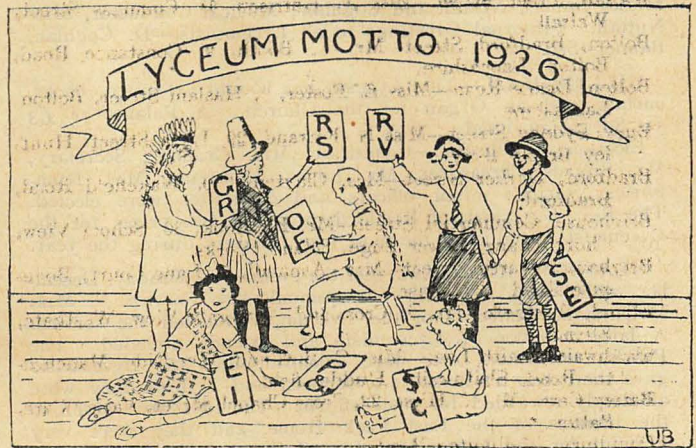
There are still in the area some Lyceums not taking a monthly supply of the *Banner*. Now, the *Banner* is the organ of the Lyceum Movement. It portrays what is happening, not only in Great Britain, but all over the world. A Lyceum without the *Banner* may be likened to a pudding without the spice, or meat not salted. The "goods" are there all right, but the flavour could be improved by adopting the course of having a fresh supply of *Banners* every month. I recommend this recipe to D.V.s East and West, and perhaps the General Secretary could send them some old copies for free distribution as an index to the dilatory or negligent ones. The price of the *Banner* is twopence. It is a paper for parents as well as children.

As I write this we approach the season when our National Bard will be feted far and wide. Even in his day and generation the "Holy Willies" existed. He saw through all the sham and humbug and exposed many of the orthodox fallacies, as well as heaping satire upon them. To-day, the day when "man to man the world-o'er, shall brithers be for a' that," still seems a long way off. Well, it is the second principle of Modern Spiritualism: the first one is the Fatherhood of God. If our religion is not also to become a sham and a humbug, we must train our children in the ethics of a spiritual existence in the interests of the physical, intellectual, and moral welfare of mankind. Once the world of men realise the ephemeral nature of wealth and riches, and the permanency of mind, memory, and spirit, we shall then be near to the Golden Age, as distinct from Mammon.

The Annual General Meeting of the District Council will be held on the last Saturday in February in Glasgow. Every Lyceum should try and be represented.

J. M. SCOTT, Area Representative.

The Children's Puzzle.



Here are a number of Lyceumists wishing to give a New Year's Greeting, but as they do not all read English they have to discover in what order they must stand so that their message might be read by all. Can you assist them?

Special Reports.

BARNOLDSWICK, Central.—On December 26th and 27th we held our Lyceum week-end services, also the children's annual tea-party and concert. Each child received a present from Father Christmas from a tree gaily decorated for the occasion. On the Saturday evening the younger Lyceumists gave a cantata, "The White Garland," also songs and recitations were given, which were greatly enjoyed. Greetings.

BARROW, Dalkeith St.—On Founder's Day we held our Open Session. Miss M. Lawton conducted a splendid programme, including recitations, well appreciated. Marching and calisthenics were excellent.

At the evening service short addresses were given by Miss M. Lawton and Mrs. Griffiths; clairvoyance by Mrs. Taft and Mrs. Hinton; solos by Muriel Griffiths and Minnie White.—W. H. Butcher, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—Our Open Session on January 3rd was most interesting, the following taking part: Miss E. North, Edith Keene, F. Waite, Mrs. Parkinson, Miss M. Ackroyd, Miss A. Hudson, Mr. Wilman, J. Farnell, Mrs. Babbs, Miss Ashworth, Mrs. Stead, Lucy Farnell, Eva Hunter and Mrs. Smith. We are still progressing.—J. Babbs, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM, "Forward," Handsworth.—On Wednesday, December 30th, we held our 10th Christmas Party, which was well attended.

In the afternoon, tea was provided to the Children, about 50 sitting down. Another tea was provided to the elder Lyceumists, who numbered about 20.

The evening programme was one full of splendour and variety, and our thanks are due to both Mr. J. Butler and Mr. S. Smith, who rendered some very interesting and amusing items.

About 40 prizes were presented to Lyceumists for attendance, pearls, and recitations, by Mr. B. P. Membery, President of the Midland District Council, who spoke very encouraging words to all.

Our thanks are extended to all those who helped to make the day such a great success.

We extend to all Lyceums our fraternal wishes for every success.—E. V. Babb, Sec.

DARNALL UNITED.—On January 3rd we had a Re-Union Sunday (old friends and new). The Lyceum took the evening service. It was the fifth anniversary of our Lyceum, and a presentation was made to Mr. Hadfield, our founder and constant friend and helper, as a token of the esteem in which he is held.—P. Ballard, Sec.

DARWEN.—On January 3rd we elected our Officers. Conductor, Mrs. Kirkham; Assistants, Miss Walker and Mrs. Turner; Secretary, Miss Leaver; Treasurer, Mr. Nightingale;

Guardians, Misses Walker, Simms, and Haworth; Flower Guild Secretaries, Misses Holliday and Jenkinson; Marching Conductors, Mr. Eatough and Miss R. Nuttall; Callisthenics, Misses Simms, Nuttall and Coghlan; Musical Conductor, Miss Nuttall. Fraternal Greetings to all Lyceumists.—D. Coghlan, Banner Sec.

GILLINGHAM.—This Lyceum has bought a tea-urn, books, curtain and an Organ for the Church. A Balance of £3 5s. 8d. is in hand.

Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mrs. Graham; Secretary, Mr. Sippets; Treasurer, Mr. James; Librarian, Mrs. Humphries; various minor officers and committee were elected. The Rev. G. Ward, of Romford, promised two prizes for the Lyceumist introducing the most new members during the year.

GLASGOW, Association.—On the evening of Sunday, December 27th, 1925, we held our Annual Toy Service. Miss McQuistan, Guardian of the Lyceum, conducted the service. A large number of Lyceumists and friends attended. The Pearls, recitations, etc. were splendid, and the Lyceumists gave their best to make it a success, and I think they were all amply rewarded for their efforts. The toys were given to the inmates of the East Park Home, and they were very grateful for the loving thoughts of the Lyceumists.

On Tuesday, December 29th, the Lyceumists were given a treat in the form of a Christmas Tree Party in the Woodside Hall. Father Christmas visited us during the evening and distributed the presents on the tree. A few items were contributed by Lyceumists and we had indeed a very jolly time. On the whole it was a thorough success, and I think everyone is wishing it was time for another such Party.—Q. McConnell, Sec.

GLASGOW S.M.U.—On 27th December we held our Open Session, which took the form of a Toy Service, with a good attendance of Lyceumists and friends. Our D.V., Mr. Shaw, was in the chair, assisted by Mr. Kerr, and our Conductor, Mr. G. Robertson. Solos by Mrs. Brown, Miss McLean, trio by Misses Livingstone and Ena Hastie. Recitations by G. Robertson and Grace Harrison (Burnley). We were kindly assisted by Lyceumists from Dalnuir Lyceum. The pearls that were given were excellent. The toys were taken to East Park Cripples' Home, to brighten the lives of the little ones. Wishing all Lyceums and Lyceumists every success in the New Year.—Mrs. E. Hastie, Sec.

HOUGHTON LE SPRING.—On Boxing Day we held our annual social evening, each child had tea and cakes, also a bag containing fruit and sweets, and a small present, provided by subscriptions from kind friends. A very enjoyable evening was spent with games, solos, and recitations.

On December 27th, we held our Open Session. The children carried out their parts exceedingly well. Pearls by all. Recitations by L. Walker, A. Walker, G. Wray, E. Wray, H. Johnson, T. Robson, T. Garbutt, H. Campbell, Miss L. Campbell. Solos by Miss F. Campbell, D. Johnson, and S. Walker. Violin Solo by Miss Elliott. The Session was appreciated by many friends.

Best wishes to all our fellow-Lyceumists.—E. Campbell, Sec.

HULHAM HOUSE, Exeter.—Open Session held January 24th (Founder's Day). Conducted by Mr. Singleton. Commenced 3 o'clock prompt. Opening Hymn 371. Invocation. Everybody gave a good pearl. Recitations by Mrs. Evason, Mrs. Searle, Miss M. Searle, A. Pyne, and W. Pyne. Addresses by Miss Chilton and Mr. Dunsford, and a spirit story by Mr. Singleton. Solos by Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Warren. Marching and Callisthenics done fairly well for a new Lyceum. S.C.R. 78 and M.R. 214 well rendered. Hymn 341 sung altogether. Lady visitor (Mrs. Crossbie) did great service at the organ. Collection in aid of "Memorial Fund," £2 4s.

A splendid session throughout and enjoyed by all.—R. E. Singleton, Sec.

JARROW-ON-TYNE.—On Jan. 17th, we held our annual Election of Officers. Conductor, Mr. Harrison; Asst., Mrs. Hardwick; Secretary, Mr. Riches; Treasurer, Mr. Abbott; Guardian and Callisthenic Conductor, Mr. Hardwick; Organist, Mr. Dunn; Librarian, Miss Dunn; Captain of Guards, Charles Daniels; Guards, Elsie Berry and James Shepherd; Group Leaders, Miss Dunn, Miss Erskine, Miss Bothwick, Mr. Abbott, Miss James, Miss Evans, Mr. Riches, Mrs. Hardwick, and Mr. Sporks; Auditors, Mr. Dunn and Mrs. Overton.—Mr. H. Riches, Sec.

LONDON, Battersea.—Our Lyceum held a Social on January 16th, also presentation of prizes. Songs were rendered by Lyceumists, who were heartily applauded. Flowers representing our Lyceum colours were handed to Mrs. Tyler, President of the Church, before she presented prizes. Congratulations must be given to Mrs. Robbins, our Conductor, for the splendid management and making the evening a success. Greeting to all.—W. F. Holt, Sec.

LONDON, Brixton.—On Wednesday, 30th December, we held our A.G.M. Officers for 1926 are:—Conductor, Mrs. Foll; Guardian, Mrs. Brown; Secretary, Miss Boddington; Asst., Mr. Hutchins; Treasurer, Miss Webb; Musical Director, Mr. Hutchins; Asst., Mrs. Brown; Sick Visitor, Mrs. Brown; Minute Secretary, Geof. Dawber; Captain of Guards, Frank Cross; Guards, Geof. Dawber, John Elwood, Alf. Wood, Albert Flack; Drill Instructor, Geof. Dawber; Group Leaders:—Liberty, Mrs. Foll; Excelsior, Mr. Tuttlebee, Asst., Mrs. Heritage; Star, Miss Boddington, Asst., Mrs. Brown; Sea, Mr. Hutchins, Asst., Frank Cross; Lake, Miss Heritage, Asst., Miss L. Sanders; Fountain, Mrs. Hadden, Asst., Mrs. Garty.

At our Christmas Party, on Saturday, 9th January, Mr. Clegg, Uncle Bert, Autie Ruth and Cousin Doris were with us. Dressed as a clown, Uncle Bert entertained the children. All have pleasant memories of a happy day.—M. F. Boddington, Sec.

LONDON, Hackney.—On January 9th we held our annual Christmas Party. All Lyceumists and friends present sat down to a good tea. The centre of interest was a large Iced Cake, made and presented by our oldest Lyceumist, Mrs. Dougall, who, unfortunately, was unable to be present owing to illness.

After tea, everyone took part in the numerous games which were organised by our conductor, Mr. Carman, and Mr. Banfield. After the games came the crowning event of the evening, the dismantling of the Christmas Tree, which was loaded with presents. All those present, including Lyceumists and visitors, had presents from the tree.

Everyone spent a most enjoyable evening, thanks to the effort of friends and church members, who so kindly contributed towards the tree, enabling us to give the children a good time. Our Open Session is on the first Sunday in every month. Greetings to all.—M. Hester, Sec.

LONDON, Woolwich and Plumstead.—Our Annual Tea and Prize Distribution took place on Wednesday, Jan. 13th, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. 30 prizes were awarded; 3 scholars getting full marks for attendance. A beautiful Christmas Tree, with presents for all scholars, was presented by Mrs. Leverell, Father Christmas distributing the presents. Mrs. Piggott's Band rendered great help with the musical part. A large number of friends were present, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.—H. Watthey, Sec.

MOSTON, Church Lane.—Election of Officers, January 3rd. Conductor, Mrs. A. Smith; Assistant Conductor, Mr. A. G. Pearce; Secretary, Mr. A. T. Smith; Treasurer, Mr. Hunt; Guardian, Mr. Tyreman; Musical Conductor, Mr. Cooper; Assistants, Miss Florrie Waite, Miss Ada Waite, Miss Polly Fletcher, and Miss Marion Fogg; Flower Secretary, Mrs. Cooper; Marching Conductor, Mr. A. T. Smith; Callisthenic Conductor, Miss Ethel Hait; Assistant, Misses Phyllis and Doris Haith, Miss May Porter, and Miss Annie Hamer; Captain of Guards, Miss Wright; Guards, Miss Florrie Marsh, Miss Edith Haughton, Miss Edith Mudd, Masters Alfred Daniels, Roland Morton and Walter Waite; Marching Leaders, Masters Alfred Daniels and Roland Morton, Miss Phyllis and Doris Haith; Assistants, Miss May Porter and Walter Waite; Sick Visitors, Miss Haslem, Miss Wright, Miss Stevens and Mr. Tyreman. Absentee Visitors, Miss Haslam and Mrs. Tyreman. A vote of thanks was extended to all retiring officers.

On January 17th, we held our Open Sessions, conducted by Mrs. A. Smith, which was very successful. Recitations were given by the children in good style. Solos rendered by Miss D. Walker and Mr. H. Cooper, also Mr. Hood, of the M.S.L.D.C. We also had a very interesting naming ceremony, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sykes, its earthly name Kenneth and its spiritual name Steadfast. Mrs. Smith officiated. 14 Lyceum representatives gave greetings.—A. T. Smith, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Corporation Street.—On January 10th a most impressive naming ceremony of a Lyceumist's child was performed by Mrs. Price, by request. Material name Irene Isobel Brown; Spirit name Grace. All the children marching

round the room led by the Conductor, Mrs. Carr, and placed flowers upon our new Lyceumist, which was also presented with a badge. A good attendance of visitors made this event a great success.—A. Carr, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH, Temple.—At our Annual Christmas Tree on December 29th, a good assembly were entertained to tea, after which a few happy hours were spent in games and social items. The climax of the evening was the arrival of Father Christmas, who presented each child with a gift from the tree with fruit and sweets. Santa Claus then wished everyone a Happy New Year and departed amid loud cheers. Votes of thanks and cheers were given for all who had helped to make the occasion such a huge success.—M. Fielder, Sec.

READING.—On Wednesday, January 6th, we held our Christmas Tree party, when nearly 35 children sat down to a very nice tea, very kindly provided by the parent church. In the evening a hearty invitation was extended to members and friends of the Church to join us in our usual jollification, which was entered into in a most hearty manner. Each Lyceumist was the recipient of 2 Christmas gifts, besides which about 200 small novelties were drawn for from the tree, which was illuminated by coloured electric lamps. The day closed with a dance, all feeling tired but happy. We extend to all Lyceums our heartiest wishes for progression in 1926.—D. R. Lawrence, Sec.

SOUTHAMPTON.—On January 13th, 85 young and 16 elder Lyceumists were entertained at a Christmas Tea. After tea, with Miss K. Baker at the piano, the following were sung: "My Beastly Eyeglass," by Ray Hart; "I don't want to play in your garden," and "If no one ever marries me" by Miss M. Baker; "The Guinea Pig without a tail" by Ray and Brenda Hart. Recitations were rendered:—"The Laughing Brook" by Roma Nola; "Robin Redbreast" by Poppy Harwood; "Crooked Man" by Winnie Johnson.

A present was given to each Lyceumist, after which dancing took place. A most successful evening, thanks to the kind assistance of Officers and elders of the Lyceum.

SOUTH MANCHESTER.—We held our Annual Party on New Year's Day, and it was a record success. 280 were present and a day of excellent pleasure was spent. Miss L. Eastwood catered for the tea, with the assistance of many willing helpers.

The entrance of Father Christmas with a decorated pram illuminated by flash lights caused roars of laughter. Thanks are due to the following for their efforts: Messrs. Vernon, Woods, and Hart, Miss Heald and the Lyceum children for recitations.

Our Conductor distributed the Reward Books on January 10th. Over 50 books (including our Guild) were presented. An additional presentation of a best Lyceum Manual was made by one of the youngest Lyceumists, Ethel Enny, to the Secretary, Albert Hope, on behalf of the Lyceumists in recognition and appreciation of his services, and a case of stainless carvers was presented to Mr. R. Hope, on his marriage, by the South Manchester Lyceum. Mrs. E. Enny made the presentation.

SOUTHEND AND WESTCLIFF.—On December 30th the Lyceum held their Annual Christmas Tea. 70 Lyceumists and friends attended, including Uncle Bert, Auntie Ruth and Cousin Doris, also the President of the Church. After tea, the children were entertained by Uncle Bert, in the guise of a clown, which was thoroughly enjoyed. At 7-30, the Lyceum Fancy Dress Carnival started; the Fancy Dresses were judged by three visitors. Recitations, Songs and Ballet Dancing were rendered by Master Jack Brook, Miss Chapman, Miss Zelinsky and Miss Turner, which were very much appreciated. Mr. C. J. Brooks acted as M.C., and delightful dance music was supplied by a Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. G. Barnes. During the interval, the draw for the Lyceum Piano, a Claw Brooch (presented by Mr. C. J. Williams) and Christmas Cake (presented by Nurse Green) took place, Cousin Doris officiating. The winning number of piano ticket was 916, and held by Mrs. G. Bland, 153, Beedell Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea. Reporters of two local papers were present and about 300 friends spent a very enjoyable evening. The hall was decorated by hundreds of flags, etc., kindly lent by the Kursaal, Ltd. Streamers, balloons and crackers greatly revived the Christmas spirit and the affair was claimed a great success by all. Greetings to all Lyceums.—Leslie R. Fulcher, Sec.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after Jan. 27th.

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

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

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than February 24th, to ensure insertion in the March issue.

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

BACUP.—Open Session, Jan. 3rd. Conductor, Mrs. Carter. Pearls and songs were given by the Lyceumists. A few old friends took part in the session. We are hoping for a greater advancement in all Lyceums. Wishing all a prosperous New Year.—B. Lord, Sec.

BATLEY CARR, Carr Street.—On January 16th we had a most enjoyable Tea, Social and Prize Distribution. Social went on till ten, singing dancing and games. Mr. Brook entertained us with his concertina; then we all went home wearing smiling faces. Best wishes to all.—Mr. Thos Hirst, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—January 10th was our election of officers. Conductor and Liberty Group Leader, Mr. Thompson; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Whitley; Secretary, Millie Hemsall; Assistant Secretary, Reg. Robb; Treasurer and Marching Conductor, Mr. E. Edwards; Guardian, Doris Dunn; Musical Conductor, Mr. Whitely; Assistant, Elsie Thompson; Callisthenic Leader, Dolly Williams; Captain of the Guards, Francis Vennis; Guards, Tom Saul, Ida Hemsall, Eric Williams and Mr. Taylor, while other Group Leaders are Mrs. Ellis, Millie Hemsall, Reg. Robb and Mr. Hirst.—Millie Hemsall, Sec.

BLACKPOOL, Albert Road.—Lyceum Day, January 10th. Visit of Management Committee of B.S.L.U.; also joint session with Fleetwood and St. Anne's Lyceumists. Mr. Mack conducted. Invocation by Mr. Knott. Marching and callisthenics good. Pearls and recitations good. Solo by Miss J. Christopher ("There is no death.") Solo by Mrs. T. Copestake ("Absent").

At 6-30 p.m. Chairlady, Mrs. Nurse. Invocation, Mrs. Tina Tims. All members of the M.C. gave short addresses. Solos by Mrs. T. Copestake and Miss J. Christopher. Mr. Williams thanked all workers. A most enjoyable day. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—Mrs. Calvert, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—Election of Officers. Conductor, Miss Ada Cliff; Assistant, Mr. Cliff; Secretary, Mr. A. Booth; Assistant, Tom Morris; Marching and C. Conductor, Miss H. Bromiley; Assistant, Mr. J. Worthington; Treasurer, Mr. Ridings; Musical Director, Mr. Farrimond; Assistant, Mr. Ridings and Jane Yates; Guardian, Mr. J. Holt; Captain of Guards, Mr. H. Farrimond; Auditors, Mr. Lintott and Mr. Brown; Guards J. Yates, M. Combs, E. Birchall, E. Speight, A. Bromiley; Librarian, Mr. J. Bromiley; Liberty Group Leader, Mr. Hibbert; Representatives to B.L.D.C., Miss A. Cliff and Mr. A. Booth. Mr. Hibbert passed a vote of thanks to all retiring officers, seconded by Mr. Robinson.—Mr. A. Booth, Sec.

BOLTON, Deane Road.—On January 1st, we held our New Year's Party. The children gave the entertainment, which consisted of songs, recitations, violin solos, toe dancing, and a delightful play entitled "The Fairy Queen's Jest." Afterwards came the distribution of prizes and Christmas Tree. Oh, how these kiddies glared at Father Christmas (Mr. Hibbert, of Bolton). It was a treat to see their eyes dance when they received a present from the tree. Every child in the room received a present and an orange.—Miss Edna Foster, Sec.

BOLTON, Henry Street.—On January 1st Christmas Tree and Prize distribution. Solos by Madames Cooper and Shackle

were very much appreciated. Our lady conductor distributed prizes.

On January 10th, we held our Open Session. Local Lyceums were well represented, and all took part in a very enjoyable session. The readings were well explained. Pearls, Recitations, etc., were enjoyed by all.—R. G. Shipperbottom, Sec.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Lyceum making good progress. Membership roll steadily increasing. 80 poor children entertained by Lyceumists at Christmas party. Most enjoyable time spent. Fraternal greetings to all.—Winnie M. Hodgkinson.

BRADFORD, Ripley Street.—An Open Session was held on January 3rd. Recitations and solos were given by Misses Bairstow, Nora Wright, Lillian Plumb, Batty, Mrs. Wilkinson, R. Wilkinson, A. Wilkinson, J. Plumb, Mr. Plumb, Mr. Pickles and Mr. Ackroyd.—E. Pickles, Sec.

BRIERFIELD, John Street.—We held our Open Session on January 3rd, conducted by Miss Oldfield and Miss Stockdale. Recitations were given by Annie Bradshaw, Edith Bird, Mary Davis, Mary Rhodes, Olive Bradshaw and Violet Rhodes. Songs by Mrs. Whittle, Miss Stockdale, Miss Oldfield and Nora Ainsworth. We had a most pleasant session.

On and after the 7th of February, the Lyceum will hold these sessions on Sunday afternoons instead of Sunday mornings, commencing at 2 p.m. Fraternal greetings to all.—T. Wane, Sec.

BRIGHTON, Mighell Street.—On December 31st, we had our Lyceum Christmas Party and Tree for the kiddies.

On January 7th we had a party and illuminated tree for 135 poor children. Each child received a present. This is the first party for poor children we have held, but after seeing the kiddies' happy faces I am sure it will not be the last. Love and greetings to every Lyceum with best wishes for a successful year.—Lilian Parks, Hon. Sec.

BURNLEY, Hammerton Street.—On January 17th we held our first New Year Lyceum Day. In the afternoon we held our Open Session. The following Lyceumists rendered excellent service: Misses Mary Hocking, Doris Carr, Ivy Hayes, Dorothy Dean, and Mrs. Perry. Masters Harold Hartshorn and Richard Hancock.

At 6 o'clock we held a Lyceum Service. Mrs. Uttley, one of our local speakers, occupied the platform. Heartly greeting to all Lyceums at home and abroad.—Herbert Brown, Sec.

BURY, King Street.—January 2nd, New Year's Tea Party. About 50 enjoyed tea. Concert by Lyceumists. Dancing brought the evening to a close.

January 3rd, we held our Open Sessions. In the afternoon a baby was named. Songs and recitations well rendered. Fraternal greetings from Daisy Hill, Bury, Sidney Street and Bolton, Henry Street.—T. Lever, Sec.

CASTLEFORD.—Election of officers took place on January 4th. Conductor, Cyril Riches; Assistant Conductors, all adult Lyceumists; Treasurer, Mr. J. Bickham; Secretary, Mrs. F. Partridge; Guardians of Groups, Gladys Rooke, and Mr. W. Craun; Librarians, Nellie Mutch and Fred Wright; Musical Conductor, Mr. S. Mutch; Captain of Guards, Mrs. J. Wright, Lily Sykes and Ernest Ball; Delegate, Mr. J. Riches; Leaders of Marching, Meud Bucktrout, Blanche Kidd Clifford Beavers and Ernest Jackson; Marching Conductor, Mr. J. Smith; Callisthenics Leaders, Hilda Bickham and Harry Wright; Auditors, Ivy Hutchinson and Mr. J. Riches.—Mrs. F. Partridge, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, January 3rd, we held our Open Session, in which the following Lyceumists took part. Recitations were given by Frances Hobster, John Slater, Jessie Orwin, M. Wagstaffe, and Harold Hobster. Songs by Monica and Christina Anthony, Lillian Slater, Mabel Smith, Alice Holland, Arthur Sutherland, Marion Holland, Connie Slater, May Wheatley, Louie Gore and Ada Adams. We had a very enjoyable session. Best wishes to all Lyceums.—K. H. Widdowson, Session Sec.

COLNE, Cloth Hall.—On Saturday, January 2nd, the prize distribution and Social was held, about 35 Lyceumists were successful in receiving prizes for regular attendances, and also for responses at Open Sessions. Mr. H. Brearley, of Colne, an old Lyceumist, presented the prizes, and spoke some cheery words and asked them all to press on and in the end victory would crown their efforts. Mr. Wrigglesworth presided over a good attendance, and an enjoyable evening was spent by all.—J. R. Wrigglesworth Sec.

DARLINGTON, Northgate.—On January 17th, we held our Lyceum day, and were honoured with the presence of the Secretary and Treasurer of D.C. Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Edwards gave appropriate addresses, dealing with Lyceum work. Good afternoon session. Lyceumists rendered recitations and solos well. Dorothy Birk, Muriel Waters, Stanley Waters, Nellie Day, George Dixon, Miss Chapman and Mrs. Curran. Pleased to say our Lyceum is gradually improving.—R. P. C., Sec.

DENTON, Market Street.—On January 10th we held our Open Session. Recitations and Solos were rendered by Lyceumists. A full programme was splendidly conducted.

In the evening a Service of Song was given by the Lyceum entitled "All's well that ends well," and was read by the composer, Mrs. Moul, of Stockport. Miss A. Walker, of Stockport, gave a recitation. Miss J. Ogden was the Soloist. An enjoyable session.—Mr. W. W. Lovett, Sec.

DEWSBURY.—On December 27th Miss E. Shearman was the conductor. We held our election of officers. Conductors, Mrs. Bentley, Mr. E. Wilson, and Mr. J. H. Collier; Secretary, Mr. V. R. Phillips; Treasurer, Mr. H. Byrom; Delegate, Mr. C. Peel; Marching and Callisthenics Conductor, Mr. C. Phillips; Guardians, Miss F. Ellis, Miss M. Hirst, Miss J. Kaye and Miss P. Kaye; Guards, Roy Collier, Jack Wright and Victor Hartley; Registrars, Miss F. Senior and Miss G. Rose; Auditors, Mr. L. Bland and Mr. J. Whittles.

On January 10th, with Mr. E. Wilson as conductor, we held our Lyceum in our New Church. We had a large gathering in the afternoon. Pearls, 5. Recitations by Miss I. Kaye Solos by Josephine Nixon and Mr. E. Wilson.—V. R. Phillips, Sec.

DONCASTER, High Street.—We held our Open Session on January 3rd, conducted by Miss Johnson. The following Lyceumists took part: E. Gomersall, Mrs. Webb, Miss Nutter, W. Trout, A. Crossland, Miss L. V. Batty, L. Gomersall and A. Trout. Mr. Gibson, of Horbury, spoke a few words of encouragement.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

DOVER.—The opening of the Dover Spiritualists' Lyceum took place on January 17th. The ceremony was most ably performed by Mrs. Blanche Petz, of London. A large number of adults were present and enjoyed the proceedings very much.—John Ash, Sec.

EARBY.—On January 10th, we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists contributed to its harmonious success. Recitations by Misses M. Aldersley, E. Clark, A. Bannister, A. Nuttall, and Master A. Bannister. Songs, duets and quartets by J. Jordan, Alice Bannister, Queenie Jordan, Queenie Dawson, M. Pilkington, M. Cragg, M. Nicoll, M. Enniss, J. Blackburn, E. Taylor, Edna Taylor, J. Barker, T. Enniss, C. Clark, W. Wintersgill, S. Jordan, C. Cryer, Mrs. Clough, Mrs. Fellows, E. Wardle, F. Ward, P. Goode, M. Robinson and A. Ward.—Thos. Hodgson, Sec.

EDINBURGH, 9, Gayfield Square.—On December 27th the Lyceum conducted both morning and evening services. The following assisted in making them a success: Recitation by Louisa Dawson, Pianoforte solos by George Cobb and Jack Blaik. Pianoforte duet by the Misses Gray. Songs by Molly Brown and Bessie Houston. Duet by William Woodsell and Douglas Malcolm. Quartette by the Misses Lyall, Woolford, Cobb and Lawrence. Violin solo by John Cobb. A very enjoyable day was spent.

On January 24th we had the naming of twin boys, by the Rev. W. Heald, of Bolton. All who were present agreed that it was a very beautiful and interesting service.—P. Lawrence, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—We held our Open Session on January 3rd, Mr. Batley conducting. Recitations by May Dewes, Frank Harris and Mr. Ridgway. Pearls by Phyllis Jordan, Frank Harris, Peggy Wilson, James Frith and Wm. Sergeant. Altogether a splendid Session.—Mrs. Leadbetter, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—On January 3rd our Open Session was particularly enjoyable. The readings were well gone through. The marching and callisthenics were good, seeing that we had new leaders. Recitations and Solos were well rendered by various Lyceumists. We are anticipating a really good year.—Clara Waterhouse, Sec.

GRIMSBY.—Annual Tea Party held in our Hall on January 7th. A grand wind-up of the old year; everything went

off in splendid fashion. Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Smith, Mr. Hales and others in fancy dress caused much laughter and fun. A jolly fine evening for all concerned

Election of officers on January 10th. Mrs. Parron, Conductor; Miss Carroll, Assistant conductor; Mrs. Howard, Treasurer; Mr. Keyworth, Marching Conductor, and capable junior officers. Very best greetings to all. "The workers' win." Percy Stanham, Sec.

HANLEY.—The Annual General Meeting was held on January 3rd. The attendance was poor, probably owing to bad weather. The Election of Officers resulted as follows:—Conductor, Mr. F. Rowley; Assistant Conductor, Mr. F. Warrilow; Secretary, Mr. H. Marland; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Timmis; Treasurer, Mrs. T. Luke; Musical Director, Miss Sherratt; Liberty Group Leader, Mr. J. Morris; Junior Group Leaders, Mr. Street, Mr. W. Brock. Misses Bowen, Warrilow, Griffiths and Baddelley.—H. Marland, Sec.

HEATON NORRIS.—On January 9th, Annual Tea Party and Prize distribution. A well decorated Christmas tree added to the amusement, the Lyceumists gave a good concert, and we had some beautiful scenery that was also done by our own Lyceumists.

On January 10th, we held our Open Session, we had friends from Lord Street Central, also a visitor from the N.E.C. Council. Many pearls and recitations.—A. Craig, Sec.

HORWICH.—Promoted by one of our Lyceum members (Mr. J. Bolton), a children's Christmas treat was held on December 22nd. The church was gaily decorated for the occasion, and was filled. Parents and children alike evinced great interest. The younger members provided an excellent concert, and each item was rendered in fine style and well merited encores were repeatedly called for. Miss Vernon was the accompanist. Miss A. Greason and Master A. Davies, as heralds, acquitted themselves admirably as they announced Father Christmas, who was received amid a volley of cheers. He afterwards presented every child with a toy, during which time Mr. Roberts (senior) very successfully photographed the proceedings. Wishing all a bright and happy New Year.—L. Wilkes, Sec.

HUDDERSFIELD, St. Peters Street.—We held our Open Session on January 3rd, conducted by Mr. Garside. Recitations by George Buttle, Leslie Midgley, Elsie Kerrison, Mary Midgley and Doris Richmond. Solo by Florence Gillon. Pianoforte solo by Phyllis Wilson. We had a very pleasant time together.—Miss Elizabeth Farnhill, Sec.

LANCASTER.—We held our first Open Session on January 3rd, under the conductorship of Miss Swale. This promises to be a successful year. The following helped to make the session an instructive and enjoyable one:—Florrie Dennison, A. Bond, Reggie Dennison, John Peel, Betty Kelly (3), Alma Copland (2), Nellie Lowther and G. Parkinson.—E. Thompson, Sec.

LEEDS PSYCHO.—We held our election of officers on January 3rd. Conductor, Mrs. Exley; Assistants, Miss Orman and Miss Grace Johnson; Treasurer, Mr. Russell; Secretary, A. Daisley; Musical Directors, Mrs. Burley, Miss Eva Johnson and Miss Ivy Brown; Marching and Callisthenics Conductor, Mr. Chattell; Assistant, Mr. Daisley; Guards, Misses Howson, Burley and Exley; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Smith.—Arthur Daisley, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—On January 2nd, we held our Annual Christmas and New Year's party, at the Vaughan College before a large concourse of members and friends, including Ald. and Mrs. J. Chaplin, J.P. About 120 sat down to tea. A concert followed after, and the artists were: Mrs. and Mr. F. G. Banton, Miss L. Walton, Bros. O'Neill, Freda Carvell, Miss Salt, Mr. Beck, A. Friend, Mrs. F. Thwaites, Miss Jayes, Mr. Warden, Bros. O'Neill, Miss Jephcote. Some dances finished the evening.

On December 24th, the wedding was solemnised of our Lyceumists, Mr. Meadows and Miss Horner. Long and prosperous life to each.—C. W. Banton, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—On January 2nd we held Open Session. Good attendance of Scholars. Pianoforte solo by Miss H. Iliffe, duets by Misses N. Lucas, N. Forrian, Miss Hughes and M. Coysh, Miss C. Lowe and Mr. Wiley. Solo by Miss Greenhough and Mr. Cartwright. Recitation by Miss L. Lucas. Marching and callisthenics well done by all

who took part. Pearls good. A very enjoyable session. Supported by a few friends, thanks to all for their support. Session conducted by Mr. W. Beck and Mr. L. Dobby.—L. Underwood, Sec.

LIVERPOOL, Boaler Street.—We held our Annual Social and prize distribution on New Year's Day. 14 prizes were awarded to regular attenders last year, and many other gifts. A most enjoyable evening.—Wm. G. Gates, Sec.

LONDON, Bowes Park.—We had a very happy day on the occasion of our anniversary, and wish to thank all Lyceumists who supported us; also those who have sent us encouraging messages. Uncle Bert worked very hard both on the Saturday and Sunday, and we were glad to have Mr. Clegg with us. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceumists.

LONDON, Croydon.—Election of officers: Conductor, Mr. Stewart; Assistant, Mrs. Davis; Secretary, Miss Robertson; Guardian, Mrs. Robertson; Captain of Guard, Jack Turner. Our thanks are given to all the retiring officers.—Miss Gwen Robertson, Sec.

LONDON, Fulham.—On December 20th we held our usual Open Session, and were honoured by the visit of Mrs. Paterson, an ardent Lyceum worker, and her class. Many of her class had never visited a Lyceum before. They all went away delighted with the session, and stated that they would visit Fulham again, and wished us every success and God speed in our work.—J. A. Dix, Hon. Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham.—On January 18th, we held our Annual New Year's Party, which was given to all Lyceumists. 60 sat down to a most enjoyable tea. We had a Christmas tree for the children. Many friends joined us after tea, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.—Hilda Holloway, Session Sec.

LONDON, Stratford.—We held our tea and prize-giving on January 16th, regardless of the weather. Uncle Bert, Auntie Ruth and Cousin Doris, and Mr. Clegg, were with us. Two bouquets were presented, one to Auntie Ruth, and one to Mr. Clegg, with best wishes to Mrs. Clegg. Everyone spent a pleasant evening.—R. A. M., Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—The children had their tea party on December 30th. A happy time was spent in games, etc. Songs were given by Mrs. Swindells and Miss Kay. Dances by four of the elder "gym" girls. Solo dance by Miss Hulley, and marches by the younger girls. Much fun was caused by the "Dip tub" from which each person drew a prize. Most of the tea, and all the presents, were given by members of the church and Lyceum officers.—Hannah Rushton, Sec.

MANCHESTER PROGRESSIVE, Maskell Street.—On January 2nd we held our Annual Tea Party and Prize Distribution, which proved a great success. About 130 sat down to tea provided by the Lyceum and followed with games. Prizes were presented by Mr. G. Dixon, our Conductor, who gave words of encouragement to the children, also to Miss G. Ratcliffe, who attended without missing during the year 1925. Wishing all Lyceumists and Lyceumists every success.—T. G. Cross, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Swinton.—On December 27th we held our Annual Tea Party, Christmas Tree, and Prize distribution. Everyone spent a most enjoyable evening, especially the children.

We also held our Open Sessions and 1st Anniversary on January 3rd, with every success. The evening session was conducted by Mr. Hart, President of the D.C. Recitations, solos, etc., were well rendered by our own and visiting Lyceumists. 6 Lyceumists were represented. Fraternal greetings to all.—Leonard Breedon, Sec.

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—On New Year's Day we held our treat, at which all enjoyed themselves; the children more so at the visit of Father Christmas and Fairies.

On January 10th, we held our Speech Day, when all old and new officers and other Lyceumists had the privilege of expressing their views.—A. H. Colbourne, Sec.

MOORTHORPE AND SOUTH ELMSALL.—We held our Annual Meeting on January 17th. The officers are: Conductor, Mr. J. Smith; Marching Conductor, J. Lyons; Guards, H. Dawson and Constance Bradley; Secretary, Geo. F. Dawson; Treasurer, Mr. J. Smith; Delegate, Mrs. Dawson; Assistant Conductor, Mr. J. Kelly; Auditors, Mr. Exley and Mr. Jones.

Thanks were given to all retiring officers.—Geo. F. Dawson, Sec.

NELSON.—On January 9th we distributed 70 prizes for yearly attendance, with Mr. Raw as distributor, an old Lyceum conductor. The event took the form of a Tea, Concert and Social, and all were very happy indeed.

January 10th was our Lyceum Day. During the morning session, Mrs. A. Parkinson named the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Greenwood with beautiful flowers. Earthly name, Stanley, spirit name, Love.

A service was held in the afternoon, conducted by Miss Leigh. At night a large gathering witnessed a good Open Session, with many visitors from other Lyceums. Sweet Memories.—Cissy Smoothy, Sec.

NORTHFIELD AND DISTRICT.—This Spiritual Church Lyceum was opened on the first Sunday in November by Mr. Kind and the members of the Stirchley Lyceum. We opened with a demonstration of Lyceum work and had a splendid afternoon, for which we thank Mr. Kind and the Stirchley Lyceumists.

We have also had a visit from Mr. Newton, of Answorth, and also Miss Barnes of Birmingham. We wish all Lyceums a hearty success and hope to meet in Mass Session this coming summer.—J. G. White, Con.

NOTTINGHAM, Mechanics' Hall.—On Saturday January 16th, we had our Annual New Year Party, consisting of Tea and Social Evening. About 130 Lyceumists and friends had tea, and then spent a very enjoyable social evening. Interesting items were contributed by Lyceumists and friends which were interspersed with games. The most interesting item to the children was the arrival of Father Christmas, who presented each child with a present, followed with an orange and a packet of sweets. Miss Rayner, who conducted, wishes to thank all friends who contributed in any way to make the party a success.—O. Peel, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—On January 9th we held our Lyceum Party. At night, our President, Mr. Standish, distributed the prizes to the children for recitations and attendances. All spent an enjoyable time.

On January 10th, we held our Open Sessions, when recitations, readings, solos, and duets were well rendered.—L. Palmer, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott Street.—On January 17th, we had our Open Sessions. A good number from Hooper Street took part in the afternoon with recitations and pearls.

In the evening prizes were given to Eva Clifford and Harold Morris for regular attendance during the past year.—J. Barratt Sec.

PRESTON, 68, Lancaster Road.—We held our first Open Session for 1926 on January 3rd. We had a very good session, with good discussion, and the various exercises done in nice style. The following contributed: Duet, Misses Daniels and Curtis; Trios, A. Curtis, V. Martin, R. Daniels, Messrs. Marsh, Smalley and Curtis; Readings by Mrs. Rae. Fraternal greetings to all.—Rd. Smalley, Sec.

QUARMBY.—Open Session January 10th, with the distribution of prizes by Mrs. Baxter. Recitations by J. Ward and I. Ward. Duet by Miss Ollerenshaw and Mrs. Baxter. The session was a great success.—H. Baxter, Sec.

RIPLEY, CODNOR AND DISTRICT.—Our first Tea-party, provided by members and friends, was held on New Year's Day. Games, solos and recitations followed. Father Christmas gave toys from the Christmas Tree to all present. An enjoyable time was spent.

On January 4th, prizes were presented to each child by Mrs. George, of Eastwood. The cost of the prizes was borne by a Lyceum member.—J. E. Eyre, Sec.

ROTHERHAM.—We held our election of officers on January 10th, and have now settled down to hard work. We wish all Lyceums every success for the future.—A. B. Hollis, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—On January 3rd we held our Open Session, conducted by Mr. Smith. Officers, Mr. Mortimer, Mr. Thwaites. Five girls gave recitations; only one boy, Jimmy Hird, responded. Very wet day, but still we had a very nice session. The spiritual feeling was very good. We thank all retiring officers.—N. Thwaites, Sec.

SOUTH MANCHESTER.—On January 17th, we held our A.G.M. The officers' reports showed excellent work and progress. Officers for 1926: Conductor, Mr. R. Hope; Ass. Conductor, Miss L. Clarke; Secretary, Albert Hope;

Treasurer, Miss D. Whally; Trustee, Miss L. Eastwood; Musical Conductor, Miss M. Booth; Captain of Guard, Mr. G. Taylor; Guards, Miss Elsie Pitt and Master Kenneth Hamil; Delegate, Mr. F. Taylor; Marching Conductor, Mr. H. Pitt; Guild Leader, Mr. R. Hope; Caterer, Miss L. Eastwood; Librarian, Mr. R. Hope; Group Leaders, Miss Clarke, Mrs. A. Hope, Mrs. Whalley and Mrs. Berry.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—We held our Annual Social on Jan. 2nd. The children had games and tea. At the close all received a present from the Christmas Tree and also an orange, young and old enjoying themselves immensely.—J. Lugo, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On January 3rd a very successful Open Session was conducted. Recitations were given by Muriel Sutcliffe, Donald Rushton, John Hesseldene, Arthur Smith, Bessie Holt, and a song by Miss Florrie Rushworth. Mr. Shipley gave a very interesting address.—A. Sutcliffe, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—On Saturday, January 2nd, we held our New Year's Party for the elder Lyceumists and members. We had a splendid tea, followed by games, refreshments and ices.

On January 3rd we held our Open Session, conducted by Mrs. Edwards. Good pearls and recitations were rendered. At 6.30, Lyceumists gave a Service of Song, written by Mrs. Moul, entitled "Christmas Stories." Mrs. Sanderson conducted the after circle. Best thanks are due to all who helped to make these efforts a success.—Mrs. Springate, Sec.

STOCKTON-TEES, Brunswick Street.—We held our Open Session on January 4th, with a fair attendance, despite the bad weather. The G. C. was taken by Conductor and a few questions asked and answered. Marching good; callisthenics fair. Beacon Group in pearls and recitations, Liberty, Excelsior, River Sea and Shore Groups followed. Recitations were given by two child visitors, making it an agreeable session.—A. Hickman, Sec.

STOCKTON, Cecil Street.—A very successful treat was held at our Lyceum on Monday, December 28th, about 80 adults and children taking part. We had a glorious afternoon. Refreshments were provided and fruit, etc. given to each child. Thanks are due to our never-failing friends who always do their best for the children.—Geo. E. Atkinson, Sec.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Kent Terrace.—The Lyceum still continues to make good progress. The attendance is good and the children are very attentive during the session. We have entered quite a number for the P.S.L.U. Education Scheme.

On November 29th Mr. G. H. Bodell, our Lyceum Treasurer, read the quarterly statement of the Lyceum, and we were exceedingly glad to learn that there is £16 3s. 6d. in hand. This is the best report in the history of the Lyceum and it speaks well for the efforts of the Conductor, Mr. R. A. Webb, Officers of the Lyceum, and the willingness of the children. After the reading of Mr. Bodell's statement, the Lyceum immediately donated £5 to the Sale of Work. Wishing the Editor of the *Lyceum Banner* and all fellow Lyceums success in the New Year.—(Miss) L. Webb, Sec.

WEST MELTON.—Open Session Jan. 3rd. Mr. Lee conducted. We are pleased to have him with us again after his unavoidable absence from the Lyceum. Recitations were given by M. A. Speight, R. Elliott, T. Lister, F. Darby, B. Guest, F. Peat, Miss Farrar, B. Rawlinson; Songs by E. Peat, M. Darby, T. Lister, R. Elliott, M. Elliott, I. Penaluna.—Minnie Farrar, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Canada.—On January 3rd we held our Open Session. Pearls and recitations were given by the following: Millie Crawley, Edna and Harold Brown, Verna and Kenneth McLeod, Mr. Brown, Walter Chadwick, Irene Vurner, Sylvia Parkinson, Olive Forrest and Harry Town; song by Harold Brown; reading by Miss Helen Lawrence; and pianoforte solo by Verna McLeod.—Winnie Brown, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Princess Street.—We held our Open Sessions for the first time, under the leadership of our new Conductor, Bro. Symons, who came from London, England, three months ago. Pearls were given by many Lyceumists. Songs and recitations were given by Dolly Sutherland, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Knox, Mrs. Higley, Dora Freestone and Minnie Beecher. Mr. Walker gave remarks on the progress of the Lyceum.—J. Knox, Sec.