

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 421. Vol. XXXVI.

MARCH, 1926.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

Lyceum Manual Revision Committee.

Minutes of Meeting held at 12, Moss Terrace, Upper Moss Lane, Manchester, on Saturday and Sunday, 14th and 15th November, 1925.

Present:—Mr. E. A. Keeling (Chairman), Mrs. Pickles, Misses Halliday, Kitson and Lawson, Messrs. Mack, Knott, Shuttleworth and A. T. Connor (Secretary). Miss Hesp (ill) and Mr. Nurse and Mr. Kitson were unable to attend.

The Minutes of previous meeting having been confirmed, a voluminous correspondence was read and discussed. Arising, it was decided that (1) Mr. Harrison's suggestions *re* the inclusion of *Sol-fa* notation in the Song Section of the *Lyceum Manual* should be considered later, when preparing submissions for Conference; (2) that Mr. A. L. Wareham's Golden Chain Recitation be acknowledged; (3) that the *Spiritual Songster* version of "The Lord's Prayer" be included; (4) that Mr. Bell's suggestion of including Healing under the classification of Physical Phenomena should be considered with G.C.R. 141, but that his arguments in favour of a re-arrangement of the S.C.Rs., M.Rs., and G.C.Rs. were not sufficiently conclusive; (5) that Miss Kirkham's suggestion *re* a Child's Section of the *Manual* should be adopted as far as possible; (6) that Mr. Kitson's letter should be published; (7) that the adoption of Simplified Spelling in the *Manual* did not rest with the Committee. Interesting and helpful letters were also read from Messrs. Tinker, Whorlow, Bramley and others. The Correspondence was finally adopted; and then the various suggestions for amendment or deletion of the Silver Chain Recitations were carefully considered.

It was decided, by 6 votes to 3, to retain S.C.R. 1—but that the original word *point* should replace *self* in line 17; that it should be read in couplets instead of in single lines; and that the question of a more fitting title than *The Divine Order* should be further considered.

It was decided to remove the S.C.Rs. with *Spiritual Songster* settings to the Songs Section, and to invite contributions of Silver Chains to fill in the resultant vacancies. The remaining Silver Chains were then discussed in turn. As a result, it was decided to recommend deletion of Nos. 6, 12, 20, 24, 26, 35, 46, 60, 61 (as a S.C.R.), 82, 86, 89; and to suggest the following alterations (the word ADAPTED to be put after every selection in which the Author's words are altered in any way):

- S.C.R. 28—Omit verse 5;
34—Last line to read: *With happiness untold*;
44—Substitute Massey's original poem, omitting verse 4;
70—Verse 2, line 5—Substitute *Oh* for *O*;
74—Verse 4, line 4—Read *stout* of heart.

Further consideration of 63 and 64 was held over till the Sunday session, and 2-3, 9-10, 14-16, 19, 21, 23, 31, 33 (with the spelling of *O* reserved), 39, 42-43, 45, 48, 51, 53, 55, 57 (with a note *re* "wrathful Jove"), 59, 66-69, 71-73, 75-79, 81, 91-96, 98-100, were approved for retention.

On Sunday morning, 63 and 64 were brought up for further discussion. It was decided to substitute for 63 the original poem (section 105 of *In Memoriam*), the last line to read *Ring in the Christ that is to be*—and the word "Christ" to be interpreted (if afterwards found necessary) in a footnote as "The Perfected One." The final decision *re* omission or retention of No. 64 was left over to next meeting of the Committee.

The S.C.Rs. with musical settings were next considered. Nos. 5, 11, 13, 17, 22, 25, 32, 37-38, 56 and 83 form the Song Parts of M.Rs. 211, 214, 221, 212, 227, 231, 222, 218, 235, 217, 232 and 236 (respectively), and could be used as Songs or Recitations if a note to that effect was put at the beginning of the MUSICAL READINGS section; and it was decided that they should be retained in the above Musical Readings and omitted elsewhere. Nos. 7-8, 27, 29-30, 36, 40, 47, 50, 54, 58, 62, 65, 80, 84-85, 87-88 and 90 were approved for the Song Section, with a note similar to that in the M.R. Section; as were the following, with the suggested amendments, etc.:—S.C.R. 4, verse 3, line 8, to read: *Sitting at the Masters' feet*—with a note referring to Acts xxii., 3, where Paul describes himself as having being brought up at the feet of (that is, having been taught by) Gamaliel.

S.C.R. 18, verse 3, line 5, to read: *Look to God* in hours of sorrow.

S.C.R. 41, verse 3: transpose the first four and the last four lines, the verse to read:—

Little deeds of mercy,
Done by every hand,
Bind and bless all nations,
In one loving band;
Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Make our earth an Eden,
Like the Heaven above.

The idea of this alteration is that as now amended the whole teaching of the poem is summed up in the last four lines, which also suggest finality.

S.C.R. 49, verse 1, line 7—substitute *cling* for *sing*.

S.C.R. 97—To make inquiries *re* an alleged third verse.

S.C.R. 52 was suggested as the song for M.R. 217, with verse 4, line 8, to read: *In Spirit Life shall bloom*.

During the discussion on S.C.R. 4, a projected revised *Helps to the Study of the Lyceum Manual*, in course of preparation by the Management Committee was mentioned, and gave rise to a keen and at times rather warm discussion, which ended with the expressed hope that the M.C. would not arrange for any publications likely to handicap or prejudice or tie the hands of the Revision Committee in its task of preparing a revised *Lyceum Manual*.

Mr. Connor undertook to attend Conference as the Committee's representative; Mr. Keeling was uncertain. The Chairman and Secretary were appointed to draw up the Conference Report. The Secretary was instructed to send a summary to the M.C. and a report to the U.D.C.

It was decided to deal next with the Golden Chain Recitations, the rule of criticism to be that where objection was made to any section or teaching in the present version, the objector should submit a substitute—members of the Committee to report to the Secretary as often as possible, and not less often than once a quarter.

The next meeting was arranged for November 20th and 21st, 1926, at 12, Moss Terrace, and a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Hope brought the proceedings to a close.

A. T. CONNOR, Secretary.

TO ESPERANTISTS OF ALL COUNTRIES.

VOKO AL CHIULANDAJ ESPERANTAJ LICEANOJ
KAJ SPIRITUALISTOJ.

(A call to all Brother and Sister Lyceumists in foreign lands, to form one great International Lyceum Group through the medium of Esperanto, the International Auxiliary Language. Will all interested please write as soon as possible to the address below?)

En la mondo estas Liceoj (Lernejoj) de la Spiritulistoj kaj ni pensas ke estus bone se ni praktiki la veran ideon de nia instruo. La Patreco de la Dio, Kaj La Frateco de la Homaro, Kaj Fari "Unu grandan rondon familian" de la liceanoj Kaj Spiritulistoj Chiulandaj. Estas necese Ke ni Kompreni bone unu la alian: kaj intershanghi ideojn, spertojn, pensojn. K.T.P. kaj celi al la progress del' homaro.

En Anglujo estas Liceanoj kaj Spiritulistoj Esperantistaj kiuj subtenos la fondo de "Internacia Liceo Grupo."

Ni tial petas al chiu Esperantistoj de la mondo skribu tuj al ni Kaj fari la unuajn pashojn al la fondo de la chisupra Grupo. La adreso estas "Esperanto Grupo," 39, Regent Street, Rochdale, Anglujo.

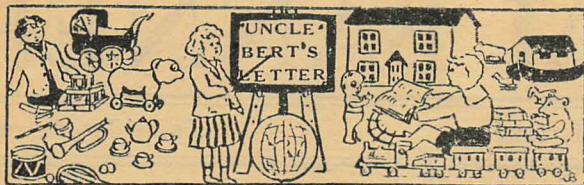
Mi certe respondos al chiu skribontoj. Nun estas la tempo semi la semojn por la rikolto de la estoneco.

Skribu tuj. Ne prokrastu.

"Kun angheloj mane
Iru tra la viv'."

La via Esperplene

RICHARD H. CARMAN.



My dear Boys and Girls,

If there is any one of the more or less modern words I have taken a liking to, it is the word "stunts." Not with its old meaning of stopping growth, but with that meaning of something novel; out of the ordinary. For instance, when a little birdie just whispered to me, "I have a real good stunt for the boys and girls," I at once felt all over alike (with my hands, of course, you great little big silly, but when the same little birdie said, "Are you game?" that did it altogether. "Am I game? Yes!" game for anything, every time, so I said, "Carry on, Sergeant Major; let's hear what your stunt is." "Give them a Carnival in your next letter. Carry on, Uncle Bert. Good bye-ee."

Some stunt that, and then to leave me to it like this. A Carnival; why, that is a Roman Catholic feast before Lent. It is a sure thing that we do not want that sort of Carnival, whether any of you would like a feast or not.

A Carnival Party and Dance; well, seeing you have not had one since your Christmas Party, that would not be too bad.

Some of you could dress up as "Little Miss Muffet, who sat in the corner, eating her Christmas pie." "Jack Horner, who sat on a tuffet." "Little Bo-Peep, who sat amongst the cinders." "Little Polly Flinders, who lost her sheep." I've got mixed up somewhere here, have I not? Never mind, you can sort them out for me and put them in their right places.

You might go as a fairy, with a wand; Little Boy Blue, Red Riding Hood, and so on.

Again, we might try a Street Carnival, but as it is only March, I think it would be a little too cold for that yet, so just, while you are making up your mind what sort of carnival you would like, I want to call your attention to a much more wonderful Carnival than all these. It is a God-given Carnival, which is known to us as "The Carnival of Spring"; one of the most wonderful and most welcomed Carnivals of the whole year. Just consider those taking part in it. The little brown bud, the snowdrop, the crocus, the daffodil, the tulip, the birds and thousands of other plants and creatures.

God's Carnival; yes, not a feast set for just those who believe one creed, but for the whole world to enjoy and become a part of it.

How often do you and I say The Fatherhood of God, The Brotherhood of Man, etc., etc. Do we realise what a loving Father we have, or are we allowing it to become a custom or a part of our session to say these words. There are many things in Spiritualism which are too advanced for you boys and girls to understand the full meaning of at your present age, but this "Carnival of Spring" is for you as much as for the King, Statesmen, or men and women of high rank.

It is God's gift to all, then, when we sing such hymns which contain verses like 567 in the S.N.U. book.

Every tree and flower we pass,
Every tuft of waving grass;
Every leaf and opening bud,
Seem to tell us God is good.

Little streams that glide along
Verdant, mossy banks among,
Shadowing forth the clouds above,
Softly murmur, God is Love.

We must think of God's great love to us all, and so sing them with a full meaning of praise.

One of the questions asked in the Examination is, "Why are you a Lyceumist?" The answer one little girl gave was "Because my mother and father put me to it." It was a very true answer, for the little girly was not old enough to know the deeper meaning.

I want each one of you boys and girls to be Lyceumists because you have the desire to love God and to serve Him. A real Lyceumist, to me, is the boy or girl, man or woman, who strives daily to live a real spiritual life. Life is a Carnival, in which we each take our part. Then as we consider all the joy

and happiness which is brought to us by this Carnival of Spring, let us, too, endeavour to bring joy and happiness wherever we go; at home, at school or at play.

In exactly the same way as the crowd along the street express their opinions as to the merits of the various costumes in a public carnival, in like manner do they express their opinions of our characters. Then let them see in our lives that which is truly beautiful. We each one have to make our own costume, so let us make it with great care and consideration.

There is a great prize for every one in life's carnival. It is just a few words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Some other month I must talk to you about Prizes and their value.

I hope you will take full advantage of the "Carnival of Spring" by getting out into the fresh air and sunshine as much as you can, thus becoming strong boys and girls.

That brings my Carnival stunt to an end, and I expect you are all getting your hats and coats on to go out and see it for yourselves.

COMPETITIONS AND PUZZLES.

I see several of you have been very busy with Puzzle No. 26, making three-lettered words. Owing to the extension of time for February, results will be published next month. I will tell you that the number to be made is over 100.

The answer to Picture Puzzle is "PROGRESS AND SERVICE."

The Children's Competition for this month is another "Do as you please one," which may include Essays, Paintings, Map Drawing, Fancy Work, or anything else you wish.

Liberty Section "Open Subject" Essay.

RULES.

Name in full, age, address, name of Lyceum in full, with Conductor's name and address.

Write Essays on one side of paper only.

Open to all Lyceumists, Prizes for Competitions only (not Puzzles) to those not over 14 years of age.

All Efforts recorded for the three months Individual Effort Certificate.

Address as below. Closing date March 18th.

ENCLOSE STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE if reply is desired.

Competition for April, Children and Liberty Section. "Essay on Springtime."

PUZZLE No. 27. Hidden Proverbs.

"The time was nine, the sun glitters as gold upon the water that flows by the mill.

Mother puts a stitch in Tom's coat, and saves him getting a good caning for untidyness, which is not at all pleasant."

To members of the Liberty Section who write each month, I would like you, too, to consider the Carnival of Spring, and consider what part you will play in it. Youth and maidenhood is surely the golden opportunity of life and service. If we neglect the little chances of to-day, they may not come our way to-morrow. Awake, then, with the Spring, put on the whole armour of God and go forth into the highways of life. I often think what great service those of you who live in centres where there are a number of Lyceums could render the Cause by forming Lyceum Service Leagues. If two or three from each Lyceum would take it in turn to visit, say once a month, one of the weaker or newly-formed Lyceums, with just the desire to help and encourage them, how much it would be appreciated and create a spirit of fraternal love. I am sure such service is needed in many sections.

It is just an idea, but when we behold the big stores, etc., in our towns, these too were once an idea.

Many avenues lead from this idea in which you can render service. I appeal to you to devote to God and the angel world the most active time of your life, and you will never regret it.

Go forth thro' all the earth,
There waiteth work for you;
The harvest truly seems most fair,
But labourers are few.
With tireless, hopeful love,
Fulfil your lofty part;
And yours shall be the blessing, too,
Blest are the pure in heart.

With Love,

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middlesex.

Your Loving Friend,

UNCLE BERT.

MEDIUMSHIP AND THE RELATIVE VALUE OF PHYSICAL EXERCISES.

By M. E. PICKLES.

I have had under my observation for quite a long time the psychical results of marching and callisthenics and their bearing on the remainder of the session. I am of the opinion that the manner they have been conducted makes all the difference in the world. I would advocate limiting the time for exercises to a quarter of an hour, and certainly not to try and cram all the possible marches into one demonstration.

It tells us in the "Physical Exercises," "That officers should guard against this, and that it is not intended that they should all be gone through at each session, but selections from them, as time and occasion may require. They should not occupy more than fifteen minutes, so that ample time be allowed for lessons in the groups or classes for the study of spirit teachings."

But when we consider that in a number of Lyceums there is an excess of marching and callisthenics, thus hindering, rather than furthering, in this direction, we might take time to think, and, whenever possible, discuss this question. It is of vital importance, if we are desirous of good results through and by the labours of leaders.

Some Lyceums have recognised this, and never take up more than 15 minutes for physical exercises. The actor, the singer, the elocutionist and educated speaker, all through their course of training, learn deportment. This deportment, or carriage, should gradually develop with the trained Lyceumist, if the method of application has been correct. But it spells failure if there has been laxity, carelessness, or lack in understanding of the purpose and aim of the exercises.

Originally the session was arranged, as we know it generally, for the sake of variety and to avoid restlessness, especially amongst the little ones, but I feel sure that a wise conductor will take some initiative, and vary the ordinary course of procedure from time to time, to help to cultivate the art of concentration in the Lyceumists.

We are lacking in this art, and there is always the danger of becoming too much like automatic machines.

The Lyceum ideal method of tuition is to help us to think for ourselves; to be able to reason, and to meditate, and eventually to have acquired some mastery in the difficult task of concentration.

Our receptivity is limited, and to a large extent conditioned by environment, so that leaders should try to impress by method, example and teaching, and this can only be effected by the study and understanding of the various aspects of our session.

The faculties, the character, tendencies and circumstances are the fruits of endeavour and development, either of home life or school.

Our Lyceum system is an educational one, differing in its method of application from other educational systems, and the real purpose of education is to aid life's opportunities and eliminate obstacles as far as possible.

Subject matter is wanting in many Lyceums for their Liberty Groups, and I am sure it would be beneficial if this matter was given earnest consideration.

Watch closely the result of good physical exercises, performed with concentrated unity of purpose, and you will see the marked tendency towards mental and spiritual advancement.

But if there is laxity of purpose and "doesn't-matter-sort-of-thing," it would be far better never attempted at all. How many marching conductors realize the significance of our different marches?

I am afraid we lag behind here, and it is necessary for conductors, if they are trying to attain to more perfect conditions, to be able to explain to the Lyceum why we do exercises, and their significance. If this is done, the children will be more attentive and will perform their part, not because it is a case of "follow the leader," but conscious of the necessity for each one to create harmonious conditions by doing the right thing.

I shall now quote from "Physical Exercises" to suit my purpose here.

CALLISTHENICS.

"This term is derived from two Greek words signifying beauty and strength, and embraces those gymnastic exercises which are more especially adapted to the public hall or school.

Their introduction into the Lyceum has several objects in view.

They throw off the physical restlessness of the children, while furnishing them with an innocent diversion; they teach the grand lesson that physical and mental culture should go hand in hand; they harmonise the minds of the participants, provide the means of thorough education of the muscles in graceful movements to the mandate of the will.

Half of education is to give the mind this perfect gracefulness; ease of action depends upon it; awkwardness results from its defects.

In no manner is it possible to attain to this result so perfectly as by callisthenic movements simultaneously executed to music.

Although the exercises are practised but once a week, they tone the muscular system for the entire intermediate period; and those who comprehend their purpose can practise at any time.

The conductor should impress the members with the necessity of promptness, decision and gracefulness in all the movements.

If executed in an awkward, thoughtless manner, their influence is not only lost, but pernicious."

"At the first lesson in these exercises, the conductor should teach the correct manner of sitting and standing; sitting with crossed legs should not be allowed in the Lyceum.

While promptness and perfection, and gracefulness of motion are desirable, it should be remembered the objects of the Lyceum are not wholly to learn callisthenics and marching; they are only means to certain ends, and should not occupy more than ten or fifteen minutes each at the extreme."

Here is plainly to be seen "a means to an end," and I maintain there is a close relationship in right and healthy physical exercises to the development of psychic powers.

In the building of fit and harmonious conditions, the psychic body becomes more and more receptive to the force, which is of infinite importance, and the attuning oneself to spiritual revelations will also be the means of bringing about well-balanced mediumship.

It is an acknowledged fact that the circle held in Albert Road Church each Sunday morning is the finest service of the week.

There is reverence, devotion and the sure feeling of harmony and peace always prevalent.

What is the reason you would ask me? The Lyceum session has been held, the children have made the conditions by all the varying aspects of the session, and the elders step into a psychic atmosphere of love and harmony.

They may be unconscious of this, but the result has been watched by many of us. The sooner we all develop to that consciousness of the need for all to become builders, by performing each duty well in the Lyceum, the sooner shall we realize a more perfect exposition of the Lyceums in the Summerland.

If we turn to page 173 in *Outlines of Spiritualism*, we shall gain a clearer conception of our physical exercises and the necessity of performing them correctly.

Mr. A. J. Davis informs us that they (spirit children) have lessons in music, poetry and the various sciences.

They have their recreations, or more correctly speaking, the method of instruction is so arranged as to be a recreation in itself; never wearying, but always fresh and entertaining.

They are taken on errands of love and kindness, and shown how to influence boys and girls, and men and women, to kind acts and deeds. They have beautiful and happy marches. Mr. Davis tells us these marches are made the instrument of illustrating those lessons which, from their very nature, call for illustration, and ordained for their minds to fully comprehend them.

Thus, if they desire to teach the order and working of the solar system, their marches will be arranged and conducted so as to represent the planets as they move in their orbits.

That of our solar system would be something after this manner:—There would be an august, reverential and wise spiritual being to represent the sun, as the ruler and controller of the solar system. Then a minor group would march round this centre to represent the orbit of the planet Mercury. Another group would march outside of this to represent the orbit of the planet Venus, then outside of this another and more advanced group to represent our earth and its orbit, with a minor group marching round it to represent the earth's satellite, the moon.

And so on until all the planets and their satellites of the solar system were represented in that grand march of worlds which is truly sublime in its conception.

Mr. Davis further informs us that these children can be so grouped, classified and arranged as to illustrate almost any conception of art, poetry, music, or the principles of the sciences.

Thus we have been able to glean from our private circles and Mr. Davis something of the simplicity, beauty and grandeur of the methods of education carried on under the able management of spiritual men and women, who are mighty in wisdom and power and well versed in the truths and principles of life and nature."

After quoting the above I think it is unnecessary for me to add much more. Our Lyceums are heaven inspired, and the least we can do in undertaking the responsibility of leadership in them is to emulate those spiritual men and women in our management: and psychic and spiritual results will surely be the result.

Education Department.

THE EXAMINATIONS.

On 21st February, the B.S.L.U. Education Examinations in six Grades were held at 127 different centres. There were just over 1,700 entrants, and the papers of those who took the examinations are now in the hands of the Examiners. As all the Examiners are voluntary workers, and with but little leisure time, they cannot mark all the papers in less than six weeks. After then, at least another three weeks are needed to enter up each candidate's marks, to compile the Lists of Results, to make out over 1,500 certificates, and to dispatch them to the Lyceums concerned.

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

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

THE QUESTIONS.

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

ORAL GRADE QUESTIONS.

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

1st (20 marks). *Either* S.C.R. 55 (on page 7), *or* S.C.R. 15 (on page 5).

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

Marks.	If over 8 years.	If under 8 years.
3rd (10)	Answer to Question 2, on p. 11, or Question 5, on p. 11.	
4th (10)	" " " 3, " 11, " "	10, " 13.
5th (10)	" " " 4, " 11, " "	23, " 18.
6th (10)	" " " 9, " 13, " "	24, " 18.
7th (10)	" " " 22, " 18, " "	27, " 19.
8th (10)	" " " 30, " 21, " "	32, " 21.

GRADE I. QUESTIONS.

1. PART A. M.R. 211, "Be Kind to Others." In what ways does this teach us that we can be kind to others?

OR

PART B. M.R. 208, "Home Affections." Give a summary of the lesson taught by the verses.

2. PART A. Write down the Principles of Spiritualism, and say what you can about the one you like best.

OR

PART B. What led to the temporary withdrawal of the spirit operators from the Fox Circle at Rochester, and what very important events followed their return?

3. PART A. G.C.R. 148, "The Origin of the Lyceum." Explain (1) What is meant by a Lyceum?
(2) Why are Lyceums needed?

(3) How does one Lyceum in the Summerland keep in touch with others?

OR

PART B. G.C.R. 108, "The Lyceum." Explain what is meant by (1) *A liberal and harmonious education*;

(2) *The unfoldment of the faculties in their due order and degree*;

(3) *Judicious information and careful discussion*.

4. PART A. What is meant by a PIONEER? Name two early American pioneers (not members of the Fox family) and say what you know about them.

OR

PART B. How has Alfred Kitson earned the right to be called the Father of the British Spiritualist Lyceum Movement?

5. PART A. Say what you know about how children are taught in the Summerland Schools.

OR

PART B. Discuss the mediumship of A. J. Davis.

GRADE II. QUESTIONS.

1. PART A. S.C.R. 78, "Invitation to the Lyceum." What do you think is meant by:—

(1) *'Tis Heaven's way to teach you*;

(2) *This glorious scheme is not a dream, but of angelic birth*.

OR

PART B. Explain, as to a friend of your own age, who is NOT a Spiritualist, what is meant by the Principle:

Personal Responsibility, with Compensation and Retribution hereafter, for all good or evil deeds done here.

2. PART A. S.C.R. 4, "Our Mission."

What, in your opinion, are the lessons taught by this S.C.R.?

OR

PART B. Give a summary of G.C.R. 136, "The Teachings of Spiritualism."

3. PART A. One of the Teachings of Spiritualism (Handbook, page 7) is given as *The Duty to Obey the Laws of our Being*. Say what you think this means.

OR

PART B. Do you believe in *The Naturalness of Mediumship*?

Give reasons for your answer.

4. PART A. M.R. 210, "The Hereafter."

"*Wouldst thou learn how thou mayest enter into the delights of Heaven?*" Give in your own words (or in the words of the *Manual*) five ways in which the "delights of Heaven" may be earned.

OR

PART B. M.R. 218, "Are we not Brothers?"

Explain the meaning of verse 4:

Let love and truth and peace alone

Hold human hearts in thrall

That heaven at length its work may own

And men be brothers all!

5. PART A. Name the Principles of Spiritualism, and explain the *Fatherhood of God* and the *Brotherhood of Man*.

OR

PART B. (1) How do you arrive at the conclusion that *Spiritualism is a Personal Reform*?

(2) What do you think is meant by *The Displacement of Creed by Conduct*, as a means of salvation?

GRADE III. QUESTIONS.

1. Write a Connective Reading, of about 100 words, to follow S.C.R. 51, verse 5:

Let your works be fair to see—

Trace the lines of grace and beauty

Round the rugged front of duty;

And, where'er your lot may be—

Wayside tent or marble palace,

Cottage girt about with lilies—

*Make life something worth the living;
Use God's gifts, whatever the giving;
And his record pure shall tell
You have builded true and well.*

2. Write a summary of the teachings of either G.C.R. 138 or M.R. 223.

3. *Either*—*Explain: The moral hero must strike at all systems of policy and cunning.*

OR

Discuss:

*Hand in hand with angels ever let us go;
Clinging to the strong ones, drawing up the slow.*

4. What are the vital differences between the teachings of Orthodox Christianity and Spiritualism on (1) standard of truth, (2) ascent of Man, and (3) the Spirit World?

OR

Answer two of the following:

- (1) What is a medium?
- (2) What is inspiration?
- (3) What is trance?

5. Say what you can about any three of the following:

- (1) The first Lyceum Conference, and its results:
- (2) The publication of the *English Lyceum Manual*;
- (3) How the early lesson difficulties were overcome—before the publication of the *Manual*.

GRADE IV. QUESTIONS.

1. (15 marks). You have been asked to prepare a Lyceum Session Programme—the keynote of the Session to be BEAUTY or JUSTICE. State what Songs (hymns), S.C.R., M.R. and G.C.R. you would select, and show how you would explain the connection between the various readings.

2. (10 marks). Write out an Invocation and Benediction suitable for the same Session.

3. (15 marks). State any alterations (additions or eliminations) you would make in the Programme for a Lyceum Session (as given in the *Manual*), with reasons for any change suggested.

If you do not think that any alterations are necessary or advisable, give your reasons for wishing the Session to remain as at present.

4. (20 marks). If asked to take M.R. 236 or M.R. 240 in the full Lyceum Session, show what points you would emphasise in each Conductor's part.

5. (20 marks). Write NOTES for a half-hour's class with Grade II. students (that is, from 12 to 14 years old)—on G.C.R. 136 or 148.

6. (20 marks). Write an essay on MEDIUMSHIP.

GRADE V. QUESTIONS.

(Four Questions to be attempted).

1. *In physical phenomena we have an example of a force at work outside the body of the medium, and the experiments . . . show that there is a relationship between the amount of power drawn and the work done.* (Handbook, page 6).

(a) Give an account of your own personal experiences in the study of this "power":

OR

(b) State what is known about this "power," and for what purposes it has been or can be employed.

2. *A dozen clairvoyants may be in a room and . . . each may behold scenes of which none other is cognisant.* (Handbook, page 13). Discuss and explain this statement.

3. *The Spiritualist who would build up a philosophy of Spiritualism must do so after a study of mediumship.* (Handbook, page 19). Admitting the truth and reliability of mediumistic phenomena, how would you build up such a philosophy?

4. Discuss the effects of Spiritualism on Science, Philosophy and Religion.

5. *All modes of psychic operation point to the fact that there are modes of perceiving and transmitting knowledge*

not known to, nor explicable by, the ordinary physicist or psychologist. (Handbook, page 39). Show how the Materialist and Agnostic may consistently adopt our facts and philosophy, in the light of modern science relating to ether, telepathy, etc.

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

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

JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Our Grade V. students will be interested in the doings and decisions of the Joint Education Committee, at its meeting in Manchester on 21st February. The Advanced Scheme, as published in the October, 1925, BANNER (with the exception of "Ether and Reality") was finally adopted; and a set of Regulations governing the S.N.U. Section and a Lesson Plan for the Intermediate Grade were drawn up and approved. A suggested Constitution for a really National Spiritualist College—under the auspices of our two Unions—was carefully considered article by article, and finally recommended for adoption. Should the College Scheme be adopted by the two Unions, all Grade V. students who have passed First Class or higher, will be able to claim the Degree of Associate of the College (A.N.S.C.) and work through the Advanced Section to the full Degree of Graduate of the College (G.N.S.C.).

A full report and Scheme will appear in the May BANNER.

ORAL GRADE OBJECT LESSONS.

We regret that, owing to the rush of work at the end of the last month, one or two printer's errors were overlooked in the proofing. For the sake of Oral Group Leaders who are cutting out the lessons and pasting them in an Oral Grade Lesson Book, the paragraphs as submitted by Mr. Connor are here reprinted:

"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. I wish sometimes that I had never taken on this Education Scheme work. 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."

* * *

"Why, to read and write and count."

* * *

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 the rest 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.

* * *

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. KIRSON, B.A.,
17, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton,
BATLEY (Yorks).

TO GUILDITES.

Owing to the length of the Education Article the Guild Article has been held over till the next issue. As all Guildites are supporters of the Education Scheme, it should not be too great a disappointment. A story has been inserted to retain your interest and the Guild page will be resumed next month.

We learn the London District Council is making some changes in the office bearers. Mr. A. T. Connor is retiring after many years of good service. The London District has made much good progress under difficulties during the past ten years and we hope the good efforts and enthusiasm will continue.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

EDITOR: G. F. KNOTT, D.N.U.
Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

The *Lyceum Banner* is supplied at 1/9 per dozen copies (13/12) up to four dozen. Additional half dozens may be ordered. All orders for four dozen copies and upwards are supplied at 1s. 8d. per dozen. All parcels sent post free. Accounts due quarterly: March, June, September and December. Single copies, 2½d. post free.

Send your Orders not later than the 23rd of each month.

Annual subscription, post free, 2s. 6d. To Canada and the United States, 60c. Foreign currency taken.

Money and postal orders should be made payable at Wardleworth post office.

Office: 39, Regent Street, Rochdale, Lancs., England.

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 6-30 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Callers by appointment.

MARCH, 1926.

The Revised Manual.

Now that the Annual Examinations are over there is a lull in the course of studies as planned by the Education Scheme. Lyceums are free to choose some method of filling in the gap till next September. One method of growth is to encourage a larger number of young children to attend, and our immediate duty seems to be to provide the sessions which will attract and retain the interests of the youngest minds.

There is great scope for adults in a study of the *Lyceum Manual*.

A Committee started in 1922 which will continue its sittings till 1932. There will be annual reports given to each Annual Conference of the Union. The *Manual* will not be altered till 1932 at the earliest, and it is hoped to produce an even more composite text-book for the Lyceums. The fact that the revision is taking place is not a slur on the previous compilers. The popularity and versatility of the *Manual*, as well as the constitution of the Union will ever be a lasting tribute to the deep foundation which was made by Mrs. Emma Harding Britten, Mr. H. A. Kersey and Mr. Alfred Kitson.

In a broader sense we also owe our gratitude to the earnest Spiritualists who founded the Lyceum Union, and later, started the Publishing Fund by which we have been able to produce our own books and in other ways build up a strong financial position.

We now own the copyright of the *Manual*, and it is surely the idea of the original compilers that the present *Manual* is incomplete, as the vacant numbers between the musical readings, golden chain recitations and Lyceum songs testify.

Many of the silver chain recitations are being transferred to the song section, and these will require replacement, unless a new arrangement is adopted. And this is possibly the first thought which local revision committees could give when considering their suggestions. There seems to have been no adverse comment up-to-date.

There is a thought of adding some further explanatory details in the preface. The Revision Committee will be glad to receive some definite suggestions describing what should be added or amended.

Regarding any new items which are submitted, it will be necessary to give the name of the author, the title, the book, the page, and also the period when the author lived, if such person is deceased, as well as the name of the publisher.

There are a number of silver and golden chain recitations and a number of musical readings required to make the *Manual* complete under the present arrangement.

As all life is from God and nature, we have a wide field to gather the rhymes for the additional silver chain recitations. Health, home life, friendship, love, beauty, cheerfulness, charm, joy, self-control, courage, flowers, birds and animals, which are instinctively attracted to man, the benediction and companionship of angels, etc., may form the subject of our research and possibly of our own production. It is an intellectual study reading up the poets to find poems which will be suitable for

the *Manual*. Many poems will have to be passed over, but the memory will retain many of the sentiments expressed.

Ours is a damp climate, so when it is too wet to be comfortable, just pop into the library (either private or public) with this view in mind. You may miss a meal time but will have a mental feast and be able to give some help to the people you have elected to produce a book founded on truth and revelation and influenced by your search in bringing forward some sweet thought that can be broadcasted to the whole movement.

The deeper things and thoughts will occupy a place in the golden chain recitations. The short science teaching in "Matter and Spirit" (No 111) does not explain our present knowledge. That reading could be amended and others compiled to deal more fully with each phase.

Space provides for recitations on Music, Art, Literature, Philosophy, Reason, Will, Religion, Materialisation, Clairvoyance, the Human Aura, Chromoscopy, Etheric Force, Spirit-bodies, Imagination, Inspiration, Subconsciousness, Superconsciousness, Normality, Prophecy, Dreams, Hypnotics, the Guidance of Thought, Travelling in Spirit, the Control of Passion, Emotions, Liberty, Freedom, Service, Labour, Duty, Integrity, Perseverance, and Ethics. These are a few subjects that flit through the mind as the thought of data is invoked. Fifty-one readings are wanted at present. There is a chance now for the Lyceumists to turn on a brain-wave or tap the writings of some classic author. It is our *Manual*, and though what you do may be anonymous, the memory of having assisted will always be a pleasant thought that will never leave you.

The next effort should be an easy one for many Guildites who have already done it in the examinations: It is to write or find some suitable connective readings for the numbers of the *Manual* ranging from 243 to 299. Possibly the Silver Chains which have *Songster* music could be inserted in this portion, instead of swelling the Song section.

There is plenty of scope in the foregoing suggestions to awaken your enthusiasm and provide some material for the Revision Committee to work with. There was a great meeting last year and the members are eager to do the work well. No Lyceumist is outside of this effort. Distance is no drawback. There are quite a number of writings from overseas already in the *Manual*. Some are from Australia, America, India and other countries. We shall welcome all contributions.

But don't let the revision stop your Lyceum from getting any supplies which are needed to replace worn-out *Manuals*, as the *Revised Manual* will not be issued till 1932 at the earliest.

G. F. KNOTT.

£2,000 Effort.

My Dear Comrades,

Here is my report for February. As the result of the Founders' Day appeal both of the Vice-President, Miss Elliott, and myself, I have received donations as follows:—Hulham House, Exmouth, £2 4s.; Halifax, Alma Street, 10s. 6d.; Hyde, 10s.; Castleford, 8s.; Bury, 3s.; Northampton, 5s.; Hirst, 3s. 3d.; Barnoldswick, 5s. 3d.; Leicester, Rupert Street, 5s.; Nottingham, Hyson Green, 9s. 5d.; Tunstall, 7s. 9d.; Moston, 12s.; Reading, 5s.; Nottingham, Mechanics' Hall, 8s.; Letchworth, 6s.; Leeds, Psycho, £3 11s.; South Manchester, 5s.; North London, 10s. 6d.; Accrington, Pearl Street, 10s.; making a total of £11 18s. 8d., for which, on behalf of the Union, I tender sincere thanks. Last year to this date I had received £3 17s. 3½d., so that so far we are promising well. I am very pleased indeed to notice that the majority of Lyceums donating are newcomers to the effort. I am looking forward to further donations from the old Lyceums and hope to yet obtain the sympathy and thought of some new ones. If any Lyceum has not yet sent the Founders' Day collection see to it that your Treasurer or Secretary forwards it at once. I am intending to publish a full list of Lyceums and Individuals donating in the May BANNER for Conference, so please see that your Lyceum's name appears there. To all who have taken the recent exams. may I offer my very best wishes and hopes for a good success.

Yours faithfully,

29, Kliffen Place,
Coronation Road, Halifax.

W. BURROWS,

Hon. Sec., £2,000 Effort.

Unkindly and Kindly Lands.

By MARYLLIS AND PELEPONE.

CHAPTER I.

The twins woke decidedly cross and bad tempered, and Mary, the nurse, concluded that a troubled day was ahead of her. The twins happened to be the children of an artist, who had named them Apollo and Daphne. Apollo seemed well named for strength of lungs, but the fact which otherwise would have been sweet and cherubic, was peevish and discontented, through want of parental discipline and through gaining all that he asked for.

Daphne reminded one of a harebell, dainty and frail, and would have been a remarkably sweet child, but for following the lead of her stronger partner.

Their age was seven years and three months, but as yet school had not claimed them, for they had a nursery governess.

In the hour after awakening they played havoc with the poor nurse's nerves; then the governess was the next sufferer for two hours, until they were both making up their minds that they could not stand those horrid children any longer and would give their notice in.

Then came the time for the children's walk, and when alone they made plans to slip away from their governess and go where they thought. They seemed very quiet and subdued by the time the nurse had dressed them, and the governess sighed with relief. They had not far to walk to reach the borders of a wood, and when they got to the edge of it they proposed that the governess should sit down while they gathered a few flowers. She was glad to fall in with their suggestion, and they seemed so kindly disposed towards her that she felt (for once) quite easy in her mind about them. For a time they gathered the flowers near, until they saw that their governess had begun to doze. Then, hand in hand, they tiptoed off, and when they were out of sight and hearing they took to their heels and ran as hard as they could, until at last, exhausted, they had to pause in their flight.

CHAPTER II.

They found themselves a good distance in the woods, and the overhanging branches made it rather dark and weird; but they would not let themselves think of that, and boldly walked on.

Just when their fears were beginning to get the better of them, the wood suddenly opened and they came to a clearing. The clearing was in the form of a circle, and flowers grew in perfect circles in it, forming one big wheel of flowers. The twins gave a scream of delight and rushed to pick some of those flowers; but they no sooner stepped within that circle than they felt like concertinas, gradually being pressed down smaller and smaller, until those bowers seemed like giant trees to the frightened children. They began to cry, for they felt so small and helpless, when a harsh, grating little voice called out, "Now, cry babies, what are you howling for?" They stopped their weeping to find the owner of the voice, and then outstepped such a disagreeable-looking man. His lips pouted, his eyes were sullen and his clothes were black. How unpleasant he looked.

"Who are you?" gasped both children.

"I am Apollo," he said.

"But you can't be. I am Apollo," said the twin.

"O, yes," said the little man, "but this is the Land of Thoughts."

"We have never heard of that land," said the twins.

"O, haven't you indeed; when you have helped to build it," said Apollo the second.

The children looked thunderstruck until the little man waved his arm and said "Come, come and see the land that you have built: 'Unkindly Land.'"

The children shivered, but felt impelled to go forward; and so they followed the little man. It grew darker and darker and there was such a lot of nasty, smelly weas growing under the flowers, and their feet kept getting entangled, until they reached a little hall about as large as a peanut, but it looked so big to the children.

CHAPTER III.

Over the door of the building was written "The Picture House of Thoughts and Actions."

The twins were led in, and by this time they were uneasy and would have tried to fly back to their governess, if they could have done so, but they were held too firmly by the little man to be able to escape.

They were taken to a front seat, and the pictures began, the titles coming first.

1. Apollo kicking nurse while she was combing his hair.
2. Daphne biting nurse's finger.
3. Apollo putting ink on the dress of the governess, and her so poor.
4. Daphne screaming that nurse had slapped her when she had not.

O to see those horrible faces, spiteful, sullen and hateful; the twins wanted to close their eyes, but, no! they could not, and the horrible sights went on. Their own actions formed into pictures, until they cried bitterly and longed, oh so greatly, to tear all those pictures up, but the little man said, "You built them, and you have got to unbuild them."

At last the children grew so desperate that they begged the little man to show them the way to destroy all those horrible pictures.

"We'll have to travel into a different land," he said.

And the twins said "Anywhere but here."

"Oh, well," he said, "I can only take you to the borders of that land, and then you must find your way, for I must not step over the border."

They stepped out of the Picture House and all three sat on the back of a caterpillar, which seemed to the children like a big long train. It travelled through the dark ways until it stopped just at the entrance to a very sunny spot which lay straight ahead of them.

"I must not go any further, now," said the little man, until you have unbuild all the cruel, unkind things that you have done, then I will be changed, and I will come to be your play-mate."

The children would have stepped right on to that sunny spot, but they found they could not. They could only "toe the line," as it were, between the shadow and the sunlight.

CHAPTER IV.

Just as they were wondering, a beautiful little girl came along, so tiny, but with such a big smile, that it made Apollo and Daphne smile, too.

"Oh," said she, "Now you have smiled, you have opened the door and you can step over the threshold of 'Kindly Land.'"

"We never heard of that land before," said Daphne, for Apollo seemed too shy to speak to the little dear.

"Ah, no," said the little maiden, "you have yet to learn about it."

"May we learn now?" said the children, both in one breath, for remember they were twins.

"Yes, I will take you to the Picture Palace."

"What is the name of it?" said Apollo.

"Oh, it is called Sunshine and Kindness Palace," and she took hold of each of their hands and led them, for otherwise they could not have gone by themselves.

How bright the sky was, and how beautiful the flowers. How the little birds hopped and chirped in front of them, as though they were a little band leading a procession; and how the bluebells and hairbells chimed and swung as they passed. And how the pussy-cats they met on the way came and rubbed themselves against their legs, purring, quite unlike the poor little kitten they had at home, that ran away from them as hard as it could because they pulled its whiskers and tail. Such a different land, and the twins' little hearts began to grow warm in that atmosphere of love.

Now they arrived at the Picture House. It was about as large as a brazil nut, and that seemed very large to the children. It was very bright inside and crowded with happy little faces. The first picture described how to untie a tin can from a little dog's tail without hurting it, and how to comfort it afterwards. The second picture was how to get out of bed at the right side. The third was how to make a ball of loving thoughts and send them out in lovely coloured streamers.

CHAPTER V.

One picture was so lovely that Apollo and Daphne will never forget it if they live to be a thousand years old. This picture showed a row of houses, Oh, so poor and sad-looking, and such miserable, hungry children at the doors; their clothes all ragged and their little faces pinched and cold. The title of the picture was "Poverty Street."

Then at the side of that picture came another: the street the twins lived in; the plump and well cared-for faces and forms

of the naughty pair, and showing all the good things that were in their lives. Then across the screen came a question: "What can Apollo and Daphne do to help these poor little ones to be happier?"

The twins looked at each other helplessly, and so sorrowful, for their little hearts had been warmed by the loving atmosphere they were in. But while they were still wondering, a picture flashed on the screen. A coat of Apollo's, not half worn out, but cast aside; and a pair of Daphne's shoes that she had declared pinched her toes, though it was only really because she did not like them that she had said so. Then came a large cupboard, and as the doors opened there was a great heap of discarded toys inside.

Apollo gave a great whoop, or so it seemed to him, though you would not have been able to hear him at the back of a biscuit, it was such a weeny whoop, and he shook Daphne's shoulder excitedly. "I know, Daff.," he shouted, "let's give those things we don't need to those poor children."

How the sun shone in the windows of that picture palace, how all the children smiled, etc., and the poor children in the picture danced a merry-go-round with joy. And the little maiden who had brought them stood up and with a beautiful wand touched each of their foreheads and presented them with the Order of the Kindly Land Society."

CHAPTER VI.

All faces beamed with joy, and a great procession left the picture house, and this was the order of the procession:—

Nine pussycats waving their tails as batons and purring like little drums.

Nine lovely blackbirds piping a high treble.

Nine thrushes singing alto.

Nine jackdaws strumming the bass.

Then came nine lovely big dogs carrying on their backs the smallest children that had been in the picture palace. They were able to sit upright and straddle-legged, for the dear dogs walked so carefully that a tiny wee baby could not have fallen off.

Then came all the children, and in their midst, each side of the bright maiden, danced Apollo and Daphne. Oh, what laughter and fun; and the big dogs waved their tails very gently and the flowers nodded gaily as they passed.

At length they came to the borders of the sunny spot, when lo, and behold, out stepped the little man, no longer in black, no longer disagreeable-looking, but bright and happy and dressed in bright blue, the chief colour in "Kindly Land."

Then all the procession formed into a great big ring, with Apollo and Daphne in the centre, and danced round them with joy.

CHAPTER VII.

At last the time came for farewell. The twins were very sorrowful at leaving such loving company, until the lovely maiden stepped forward and said:

Dear ones, be not sad and forlorn,
For every night you will sojourn
Into our Kindly Land.
But we give you to understand
That every unkindly thought
On the wings of the wind will be brought.
And here you will see your face;
So do not our land disgrace.
Each day you must do your part
To cheer up some lonely heart.
Then we'll meet you at close of day
And bring you all the way
To the land of joy and song.
So farewell, and run along,
For your governess waits for you;
So be kind and loving and true.

As she said the last line, the Kindly Land children scampered off and the band played a farewell march, and then the twins were left standing alone.

They looked at each other and then stretched out ever so big again; and then, arm in arm, they hurried back the way they came.

But the woods were not dark this time, for the sun seemed to peep through the branches and shine on the twins.

At length they came to their governess, who seemed just to be waking up from a doze. Daphne ran to her and put her arms round her neck. "O, dear governess," she said, "I am going to be so kind and good now."

The tears came into the eyes of the governess, for the relief was so great to think that at last she was going to be happy with her troublesome charges.

They all went happily home together; and then the two children went to nurse and said how sorry they were for the way they had treated her. And, actually, the little kitten came and purred and rubbed itself up against their legs, for it knew that they had been to Kindly Land, which all pussycats know.

Nurse spoke later on to the governess, and said that she was afraid the children were not going to live long, because they had so suddenly turned good. She knew that was a sign; but, you see, she did NOT know that the children wanted, oh so badly, to be taken at night to Kindly Land; and they knew they would not be able to go unless they were kind to all.

When the sun went to bed that night the children sank down like concertinas do and there was the little man waiting to drive the caterpillar train, with Daphne and Apollo sitting on top, straight through into "KINDLY LAND."

THE END.

BIBLE STUDIES.— No. 5.

(Reprinted from "The Two Worlds".)

THE CREATION

By ALFRED KITSON.

The general idea and conviction of Christians concerning the creation of the earth and the heavens is based on the account given in Genesis, the authorship of which is attributed to Moses. As it is also assumed that Moses was divinely inspired by God to write the account of the creation, it therefore, must be true.

Many Spiritualists share this belief, which has been taught them when scholars in the Christian Sunday schools, which teachings tend to bias their opinions against certain aspects of the spiritual philosophy which do not chance to harmonise with the teachings received prior to becoming Spiritualists.

It is my desire to bring before the notice of these people certain evidence that will help them to a better understanding of the works of God, and so broaden their views concerning God's love, wisdom and powers by bringing before them certain information concerning discoveries bearing on our subject, the origin of the Mosaic account of the creation, and time of its production. In doing so I shall quote none but recognised Christian authorities on Biblical criticism, as my desire is to help those seeking the truth, and not to wound their sensitive natures.

The majority of Christians believe that the world was created in six days, 4,004 years before the birth of Jesus. This belief has been at the root of the opposition offered to the revelations made by scientists concerning the age and structure of the earth, and also the mechanism of the heavens. But the facts of geology and astronomy could not be refuted for long, and ultimately the opposition of Biblical literalists had to give way.

On closer examination of the Biblical accounts of the Creation it was found that there were two accounts which somewhat differ (we shall also find in due course that there are two accounts of the Deluge).

The two accounts of the Creation referred to are to be found in the first and second chapters of Genesis. The first one ends with the third verse of the second chapter. The term translated "God" is "Elohim," and is plural, and is evidently intended to mean both male and female. This will help the reader to understand the making of man as recorded in verses 26 and 27, which is as follows: "And Elohim said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And Elohim created man in their own image, in the image of Elohim created they him; male and female created they them."

The term "Elohim" occurs more than 2,000 times in the Old Testament, and is generally translated God. It was held by the Jews to be as sacred as the term Yahveh, which, as we have already learned, was the name of their tribal god.

In the second account of the Creation, which commences at the fourth verse of the second chapter, Adam and Eve are not created at the same time. Adam is created before the fowls of

the air and the beasts of the field. The LORD God (Yahveh) brought them to Adam to be named, and "whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name. . . . But for Adam there was not found an help-meet for him" (verses 19 and 20). According to this account Eve had not been made when Yahveh forbade Adam to eat of the Tree of Knowledge (see verse 17).

There are two sources from which the author has drawn his account of the Creation and the Flood known to Biblical scholars as the "Elohistic," as in it the Creator is called Elohim, and "Jehovistic," as in it the Creator is called Jehovah, or Yahveh.

Prof. A. H. Sayce, Queen's Collège, Oxford, says that "Reflections of both accounts are found in the cuneiform tablets (clay tablets containing writing in characters shaped like barbed arrow heads) of Babylonia and Assyria. Portions of an Assyrian Epic of the Creation, describing it in a series of successive acts, were first brought to light by Mr. George Smith. He pointed out the remarkable correspondence which existed between the order of the days in Genesis and the order of the tablets or books of the Assyrian poem, the first book of which describes the beginning of all things and the watery abyss of primeval chaos; while in the fifth tablet comes the appointment of the heavenly bodies to rule the day and night, and in the sixth an account of the creation of the animals." The learned Professor goes on to say that even the Sabbath is of Babylonian origin, and that the Biblical writer is acquainted, either directly or indirectly, with these traditions.

When it is remembered that the Jews were carried as captives to Babylon in B.C. 605, and remained there for over 250 years, during which time their scribes had access to the Babylonian tablets, we shall cease to wonder how they were able to learn of the Babylonian story of the Creation.

Prof. A. S. Wilkins, when addressing the Salford Sunday School Union in 1895, said, "They knew now that they had two distinct traditional accounts of the Creation dove-tailed together in such a manner as to leave evident discrepancies and even contradictions. They knew now that the narrative of Genesis was a blending of two accounts current about 800 years after the traditional date of Moses."

As those early accounts of the Creation are now acknowledged to be based on myth and legend, derived from the ancient Babylonian and Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions, let us treat them as such and revere them only as being evidences of the efforts of those ancient people to account for the Creation of the world, and the origin of sin and suffering in it, which arises from selfishness and ignorance, and not from any act committed by Adam and Eve.

THE DELUGE.

We now come to examine the story of the Deluge, when, it is said, all the people of the earth were drowned with the exception of Noah and his family.

These Bible studies are intended for readers who have been brought up in the Christian faith, and whose minds are naturally inclined to look upon the Bible as being divinely inspired, and on all teachings that do not harmonise with it as being false and misleading. Moreover, many readers also have neither time nor money to devote to Biblical commentaries, nor books dealing with the Higher Criticism, nor have they the help of a Polychrome Bible (Polychrome: from "polys," many; and "chrome," from "chroma," colour). This Bible is so named because chapters and sections of chapters found to have been written by different persons are shown on different colours of paper. Some of the pages have the appearance of a patch-work of colours. So it is necessary that I present in plain language, the facts known to Biblical students. For this reason I must also remind the reader of certain facts concerning the story of the Creation, which are uncommon to all but Biblical students, so that their value, as bearing on the story of the Deluge, will not be lost sight of. For instance, we learned that there were two stories of the Creation dove-tailed together: one of them called the "Elohistic," because the writer of it used the term "Elohim" (Gods) as being the name of the Creators; and the other story called the "Jehovistic," because the writer of it used the term "Yahveh" (Jehovah) as being the name of the Creator, which has been changed to Lord. We also learned that their accounts of the Creation do not agree with each other.

In studying the account of the Deluge we find a similar dove-tailing together of two stories to make them appear as one. In both cases it is safe to say that the person who did the dove-tailing lived at a later period than the writers of the original stories, and that he was fully aware of the two, and was actuated with a desire to produce a better version by uniting both of them.

The first account of the Deluge is to be found in Genesis vi., and is from the pen of the Elohistic writer. In verses 19 and 20 we are told that God commanded Noah to take "of every living thing of all flesh two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of the cattle after their kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee to keep them alive."

The second account is from the pen of the Jehovistic writer, and is to be found in Genesis vii. In verses 2 and 3 Jehovah says to Noah, "Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee SEVEN and SEVEN, the male and female; and of the beasts that are not clean, two, the male and his female; of the birds also of the heavens, SEVEN and SEVEN, the male and his female, to keep them alive upon the face of all the earth."

It will be observed that in the first account Noah is commanded to take TWO of every kind, the male and his female; and in the second account he is commanded to take SEVEN males and SEVEN females, of all birds and beasts that are "clean." (The reader is referred to Lev. xi. for a description of the "clean" and "unclean," and why they are called such).

It would take up too much space to discuss the probability of either Noah or anyone else collecting all the animals, birds, and creeping things as commanded, whether in pairs or seven pairs, and feeding, cleaning and providing room for them. I will leave that task to the naturalist. All I need do after pointing out the two accounts of the Deluge is to indicate the sources from which they have been derived.

The material for these and other accounts of the Deluge, one of which will be introduced shortly, have been derived from a Babylonian source, as is now proved by the cuneiform inscriptions that have been discovered which confirms the account given by the ancient historian Berosus. On this point Prof. A. H. Sayce, in dealing with the discovery made of the Babylonian version by Mr. George Smith, says: "We have only to compare it with the narrative found in Genesis to see how strikingly alike they are." After giving a translation of the Babylonian account, also that of a fragment, another version from the same source, he gives the probable time when they were written as B.C. 2,350. So that it would be 800 years old when Moses was born. The Professor adds that "a comparison of it, according with the two accounts of the Deluge, which criticism has discovered in the Book of Genesis, become of importance."

It is important that the reader bear in mind the age of the Babylonian account of the Deluge, because some Christian writers try to make it appear as if the ancient Babylonian writers had copied from the accounts given in Genesis.

Another ancient Babylonian version has been added to the list, as is shown in the following cutting: "According to a translation of a recently deciphered inscription on one of the Sumerian tablets, Prof. Landen, of Jesus College, Oxford, says the Deluge PRECEDED the Fall of Man.

"The tablet, which has been almost completely restored, contains six finely written columns of about 240 lines, most of which are intact. It begins by describing the land of primeval bliss, which it locates at Dilmun, an island in the Persian Gulf. In this paradise dwelled mankind, whom Nintud, the creatress, with the help of Ealil, had created. After the Deluge this King (the King of the people) is called Tagtug, the Divine. And this Tagtug lives in a garden, is himself a gardener, and the wise Enki reveals unto him wisdom.

"Tagtug, as in the Hebrew history of Noah, plants a garden, names the trees and plants, and is permitted to eat of all but the cassia-tree, a herb of healing par excellence. Of this plant Tagtug was not to eat, for thereby he would attain eternal life. Mankind, until this time, possessed extreme longevity, but not immortality. Tagtug, on his own initiative, takes and eats. He is cursed by Nintud and becomes a prey to disease and ordinary mortality.

"Thus, in the original Sumerian story, Noah, the survivor of the flood, is the one who eats from the tree of life. No woman is concerned in this disobedience, which resulted in our

loss of perfect health, peace and countless years." (The "Sumerians" referred to by Prof. Langdon were the pre-historic, or very ancient, Babylonians.)

Is it not time that the stigma that Eve was the cause of all sin, pain and death being introduced into the world by eating of the "Tree of Knowledge" was eliminated from the Christian teachings? It is not true, and has caused untold suffering and indignities to be inflicted on womanhood.

The story that God planted the rainbow in the clouds as a covenant, that He may look upon it and remember His promise not to destroy the world again by flood, is not seriously entertained by any intelligent man or woman unless their minds have been warped by their Sunday school teachings. The phenomenon of the rainbow has always appeared whenever the sun shone on the falling drops of rain at a certain angle, and the Biblical writer has made use of it to lend colour to his story.

In my next article I shall deal with the Biblical injunction, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."

Correspondence.

THE EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—May I crave your indulgence in voicing a very painful grievance. On receiving our question papers for the Exams. on Sunday, February 21st, we found, to our surprise and dismay, that the questions for Grade I. and II. had been divided into Part A. and B., but Part A. was only given 15 marks instead of the usual 20. May we be allowed to protest most emphatically against this unfair action, on the ground that we have taught the whole of the syllabus for both grades as laid down by the Education Committee, and so far as we have always known the whole was of equal value. If the scheme of instructions had been divided into Part A. and B. previously and we had taught on these lines, well and good; we should have been prepared and not complained, but we do think it most unfair for the Education Committee to spring such a thing upon its students at the last moment. It amounts to a breaking of faith with them. If any other tutors are of the same opinion I would advise them to write to the Education Committee or to the BANNER, if the Editor will allow space, and ventilate the grievance.

Yours faithfully,

W. BURROWS,

Tutor, St. Paul's, Alma Street, Halifax.

The Education Secretary's reply is printed below.

To the Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the protest from Mr. Burrows, may I state the position as it appealed to me, as Education Secretary, and as I pointed it out to the Sub-Committee that drew up the questions; for it was on my outline of the position as it affects our candidates, and of how a similar difficulty was being met by a Public Examining Body, that the final selections and decisions were made.

Now for the reasons, which I think will appeal to all fair-minded Lyceumists, whether Tutors, Candidates or Examiners. We have repeatedly been told that the questions set in Grades I. and II. were too hard for children of 10 to 12, and for uneducated or backward adults, and that there ought to be a children's section of the paper. As conditions are at present, it is not possible to set two papers for each Grade; so, whatever method was adopted had to be one that allowed all questions to be on the one paper. How to do this and be fair to (i.) the children and illiterate adults, and (ii.) the cleverer children and educated adults was a problem. The lead and solution came from an unexpected quarter, viz., the Joint Board of the Northern Universities.

In the coming School Certificate Examination, held by the above Body, there is this year to be provision made for candidates who have studied the WHOLE syllabus in a subject, but who can only tackle "mechanical" questions, that call only for a good memory and ordinary powers of reproducing what has been carefully learned. This is to be done by setting an *easier section*, on which a pass can be obtained BUT NOT HONOURS; and a more difficult section for those who can discuss, compare, reason out and apply the knowledge acquired.

Those who answer from this section SCORE HIGHER MARKS. This gives both sets of candidates a fair chance and does not penalise either by catering only for the other.

This year, in our own examinations, the Examiners themselves have been co-opted to help in the drawing up of the questions for their respective Grades. The number of Examiners for Grades I. and II. is big, so all the questions sent in could not be used, therefore a selection was made. Of these the easier ones were made Part A. and the more difficult ones Part B.; with lower maximum for Part A. This should prevent the result of former years, when a child has been "indulged" by a generous Examiner and romped into Distinction and Honours, on a very meagre paper indeed; while an older person or cleverer child has tackled a stiffer question, and had no such indulgence. Consequent complaints of unfairness became frequent.

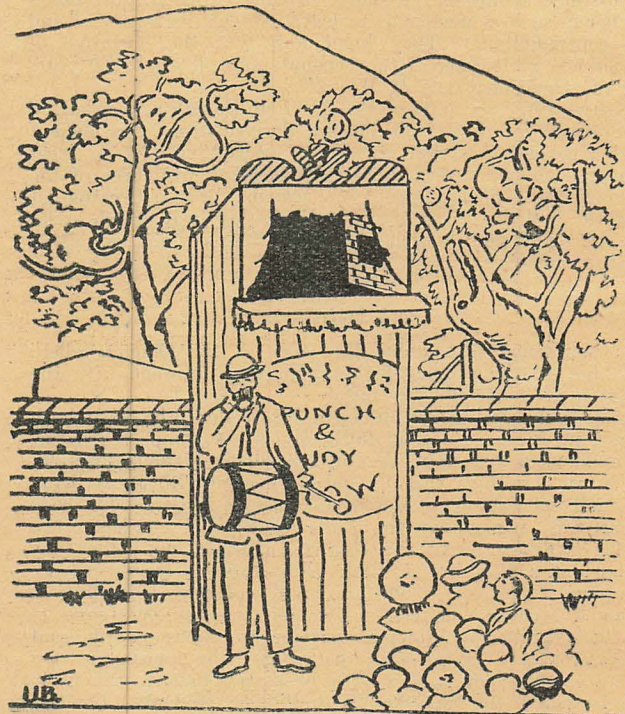
I do not think that either the children or their Tutors have any grounds for complaint; as, if the candidates are clever they can do a good paper on the Part B. questions, and earn merited Honours; while, if they are not clever, they can answer the easy questions of Part A., and score up to 75 marks and a First Class, and not be either discouraged by the "posers" beyond their powers, nor inflated by unearned high scoring on weak answers given big marks by over-sympathetic Examiners.

And several letters already received from Tutors show that the new system of awarding marks according to value has met with widespread approval.

Yours faithfully,

MARY E. KITSON (Education Secretary).

The Children's Puzzle.



All the things and people needed to complete the show are behind the wall. They won't take any notice of the drum. Can you help the man to find them all?

Here is a picture with a PUNCH,
Who takes his JUDY out to lunch;
The CLOWN has stayed behind a while,
Keeps BABY from the CROCODILE.
The SCAFFOLD with the COFFIN lies
In the picture before your eyes.
The show's complete when you discern
DOG TOBY and the BEADLE stern.

THE LYCEUM REPORTS.

The attention of Secretaries is called to the limitation of words in the Lyceum Reports. Lyceums taking 13 copies are allowed 25 words; 26 copies, 50 words; 39 copies, 75 words; 52 copies, 100 words. All additional words must be paid for at the rate of 6 for each additional 9 words.

The above rules do not apply to Lyceums with less than 30 members. In such cases 100 words are inserted free of any charge.

District Council reports should be within the limit of 200 words. Any special items should be sent separately.

Nomination Forms for Officers and Area Representatives have been circulated to all Lyceums who have paid their Fees for 1926.

TO LONDON LYCEUMS.

Intending Entries for "Rounders" are requested to communicate with Mr. H. Tiffin, 47, Porth Side, Clapham Common, London, S.W.4.

District Council Reports.

UNITED DISTRICTS COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF U.D.C. MEETING.

The above Council will hold the half-yearly meeting on Saturday and Sunday, March 13th and 14th, 1926, in the Scottish District. The Saturday meetings will be held in Glasgow. Delegates are requested to write Mr. J. Shaw, 115, Smith St., Govanhill, Glasgow, stating their requirements. It is particularly requested that every district will be represented, as this is a good opportunity to do good work for the Lyceum cause. Will all delegates arrange to arrive in Glasgow for a 3 p.m. start, as to get through the business we shall need to start early. The Scottish D.C. have arranged for delegates to take the sessions and services in the various centres. All D.C.s please note and arrange for your delegates to stay for the Sunday night services.

Fees for 1926 are now due.

The following motions are to hand: N.E. LANCs., "That in future editions of the *Lyceum Manuals* the musical expression marks be added to all songs and musical settings." From MANCHESTER AND SALFORD, *re* Bye-Law 5, "District Councils shall pay a sub. of 1/- per annum for each Lyceum in membership. Section 5 to read: The S.U.L.D.C. shall pay 1/- for each D.C. in membership. Section 6 to read: Subs. from the S.U.L.D.C. and from the D.C. shall be based upon their annual returns to the B.S.L.U. and be at the rate of 1/- for each Lyceum in membership." With all good wishes.—J. S., Sec.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council was held at Bradford Street, Bolton, on Saturday, February 13th, 1926; Lyceums were well represented. Election of Officers resulted: President, Mrs. Johnson; Secretary, D. Ward; Treasurer, Mr. Hibbert; D. Visitor, Mr. Walsh; Adjudicator, Mr. Jones; Auditors, Messrs. W. and R. Johnson.

An interesting feature in the business was the Adjudicator's report for the Shield Competition. Horwich Lyceum was the winning Lyceum and will hold the Shield for another twelve months. Congratulations to Horwich and encouragement to other Lyceums is given; always keeping in mind the motto: "The Workers Win."—D. Ward, Sec.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting was held at Idle on February 14th. Six Lyceums were represented. A letter of sympathy was sent to the President, Mr. Hudson. Mr. Bottomley presided. Minutes of last Annual Meeting were confirmed. Dewsbury have asked for help in billeting delegates at the B.S.L.U. Conference. Saltire was admitted to the Council. President's, Secretary's, Treasurer's and District Visitor's reports were accepted. Quarterly Council and District Visitor's reports are to be sent to the *Banner*.

The officers elected are: President, Mr. Bottomley (Idle); Vice-President, Mr. Thistlethwaite (Keighley); Treasurer, Mr. O'Neil (Keighley); Secretary, Mr. E. Aked (Shipley); D.V., Miss S. Hudson (Keighley); Auditors, Mr. E. H. Coles and

Mr. Illingworth; B.S.L.U. Conference Delegates, Mr. Aked and Mr. O'Neil; Standing Orders Com., Miss Teal, Mr. Illingworth, Miss Allan, Mr. Binns, Mrs. Brook; Manual Revision Committee, all officers, Mr. Binns, Mr. Coles and Mr. Illingworth.

It was agreed that the Council should withdraw from the U.D.C. A neutral judge is to be elected for the Shield and Bell Competition. Three new Associates were enrolled. A vote of thanks was given to the retiring officers.

An Open Session, held in the afternoon, was well attended. Mr. Bottomley conducted. Each delegate was presented with a satin bookmark with an engraved verse thereon.

Evening Service: Mr. Aked presided. Mr. W. Barnes, Mr. H. Barnes and Mr. O'Neil took part in the service. Mr. Thistlethwaite and Miss Hudson gave the thanks.

Please note Secretary's new address is: Mr. E. Aked, 15, Aireworth Street, Keighley.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at West Vale. As the time at our disposal was very limited the business was purely routine. Our balance sheet showed a cash balance of £2 5s. 2½d. The officers elected for the next twelve months were: President, Mr. W. Burrows (Alma Street, Halifax); Vice-President, Mr. T. Coldwell (Slaitthwaite); Secretary, T. Ellis (Ramsden Street); Treasurer, Miss Hirst (Sowerby Bridge); D.V., Mr. S. Ackroyd (Ramsden Street); Delegate to B.S.L.U. and U.D.C., T. Ellis. Our recommendation for nomination for Area Representative on the B.S.L.U. is Mr. W. Burrows.

Thanks were given to our West Vale friends.

Mr. J. Manning (Hebden Bridge) and Mr. Gaiside (St. Peters Street) conducted an evening meeting.—T. Ellis, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

PRESENTATION OF SILVER BELL AND CERTIFICATES.

The Presentation took place on Saturday, Jan. 2nd, at Cleckheaton. The proceedings opened by a Concert given by the Cleckheaton Concert Party, composed of the following:—Messrs. T. Brook, A. Minchall, A. Robinson, Mrs. Tweedale, Miss E. Emery, E. Tilliday, C. and A. Thorton, A. Wilson, N. Burke; Mrs. Hutton, accompanist. Refreshments: Messrs. C. Burke, C. Wright and Mrs. Collins.

Mr. J. Jackson, Area Representative and Adjudicator, presented the Bell to Cleckheaton. Mr. W. Connor, Sec., received it on Cleckheaton's behalf.

Mrs. Hurley, President of Council, presented certificates to Cleckheaton, Wakefield, Dewsbury and Easy Road.

The Concert was splendid, and Cleckheaton Lyceum should be proud of their Concert Party. The room was crowded, and after expenses were paid, £4 os. 6d. was handed to the Council.

Secretaries Note.—Your Lyceum cannot take part in the D.C. business unless Affiliation Fee (now due) is paid.

Also Associate Fees are due.—Mrs. Hurley, President; A. W. Harding, Sec.

The above report should have appeared in the February issue, but was overlooked by the Editor. The A.G.M. Agenda has been deleted as the date of the meeting has passed. G.F.K.

The Annual Meeting was held in Theaker Lane, Armley, on Saturday, Feb. 20th. The invocation was given by Mrs. Harrison. Mrs. Firth gave the local welcome. Mrs. Hurley, President, thanked all delegates for their support at Scarborough, and said we are out to further the Children's Cause. We may have lacked in our duties in the past, though we may not have understood our duties, and we are here that we might do a great deal more work. Work that is worthy for the little children. No work has been left undone that could have been done by your Officers. We want to give our children a greater outlook in life, meet friends and make the chain of brotherhood and sisterhood stronger. The Lyceum method is to give us more backbone; throw our moral shoulders back and give greater efforts in life. We are carrying the Banner of Freedom, and let this be a pleasure to all of us and let us recognise we have a great truth.

The Minutes and the Correspondence were accepted. There were only two reports of Interchange which were accepted. The D.V. reported seven Lyceums had been visited. All were good reports. The D.V. was thanked and the report accepted. The Treasurer's report showed that we are financially sound

with a balance of £6 4s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the General Fund, and £15 12s. 3d. in the Field Day Fund. The Auditors reported that all was in good order. There was no report from the B.L.D. nor from the Revision Committee. The L.D.C. report and the Secretary's yearly report were accepted.

Much discussion followed Castleford's conditional invitation for the Field Day. Ultimately it was agreed to accept it on the usual terms, but if not, the E.C. are left to deal with it. The closing date for the 1926 Competition is March 31st, and the Adjudicator is Mr. Branhal.

A notice of motion *re* the remuneration of the Secretary resulted in much discussion, but it was agreed to give £1 for past service and to reconsider the matter at the next Annual Meeting. Arrangements for future Conferences from June, 1927, are: Saturday for business, Sunday afternoon, Open Session; and Sunday evening, Propaganda. Five new Associates were enrolled. Interchange is to be continued for 12 months. Mrs. Hurley, President, assisted by Mr. Tweedale, Vice President, will conduct the Easter Celebrations at Wakefield. Wakefield Lyceum will provide Marching and Callisthenics Conductor.

The elected officers are: President, Mrs. Hurley; Vice-President, Mr. Tweedale; Treasurer, Mr. Wilson; Secretary, Mr. Harding; D.V., Mr. Spencer; U.D.C. Delegate, Mr. Harding; B.S.L.U. Delegate, Mr. Harding. The Officers to be nominated for the B.S.L.U. are: President, Mr. Mack; Vice-President, Mr. Jackson; Treasurer, Mr. Williams; Auditor, Mr. Thistlethwaite; Area Representative, Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. Hogg.

It was agreed that the D.V. see Heckmondwike re ceeding from Union and Council. The Revision Committee was re-elected *en bloc* and the Secretary was instructed to call a meeting as soon as possible so that the findings could be sent to the Lyceums for consideration. Lyceums who have not paid their Fee are to be asked to do so as early as possible. Arrangements for the next meeting were left with the Secretary.

The Vote of Thanks to the local people was accepted by Mr. L. Firth. Roll Call:—Officers 4, Lyceums 14, with 21 Delegates, Associates 5, Fraternal Delegate 1.—A. W. Harding, Sec.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council was held on Saturday, February 13th, at Hawkshead Hall, Hawkshead Street, Southport.

Mr. Watson presided over delegates from Birkenhead, Dauby Hall (Liverpool), Boaler Street (Liverpool), Runcorn, Rock Ferry, Warrington, Wigan and Southport.

The Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was accepted. The Treasurer and Secretary were instructed to pay the fees due to the U.D.C. The Officers reported on the work done during the year; progress has been made and the Council is in a flourishing condition.

The Election of Officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. Watson; Secretary, Mrs. Clitheroe; Treasurer, Miss Owen; D.V., Mr. Watkins; Auditors, Mr. Keeling and Mrs. George; B.S.L.U. Conference Delegates, Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Clitheroe.

It was decided that we do not send delegates to U.D.C. Meetings. Mr. Watson was elected as Representative to S.W.L. Group. It was decided to hold an Open Air Demonstration at Southport on July 10th. Miss Elliott was elected Adjudicator of Session Competition; failing Miss Elliott, Mr. Walker, of Crewe, to be asked.

Nominations for Management Committee of B.S.L.U.: President, Miss Elliott; Vice-President, Mr. Mack; Treasurer, Mr. Williams; Auditor, Mr. Watson; Area Representative, Mrs. Raymond.

Boaler Street and Rock Ferry Lyceums were accepted as members of the Council.

A vote of thanks to Southport Lyceum for their hospitality brought a successful meeting to a close.—E. Clitheroe, Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

The above Council held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 13th, at the Newton Heath Progressive Lyceum. The following business was dealt with: Invitation from Newton Heath to hold Demonstration in their district was declined in view of the large expense which would have to be incurred by each Lyceum, which was not possible at the present time. A motion brought forward *re* Associate's

voting powers was very fully discussed, the result being that the rule at present in operation was confirmed. The President, in his address, emphasised the need for the adult members of Lyceums to bring themselves to the level of the child-mind and teaching by sympathy. He stated the child was the repository of infinite possibilities, and knowing this—and by putting our energies to work without expectation of reward, we should eventually have that perfection for which we as a movement stand. He also stressed the point that all Lyceums should strive to bring about the much needed co-operation with their churches. He concluded by giving the Council and Lyceums six points to consider, viz., 1. a complete understanding of a harmonious marching and callisthenic system, both as to time, completion and understanding of movement and rhythm. 2. A thorough understanding of the Group System with efficient group leaders and lists of subjects. 3. Rules: what they are and how they are made. Also why they are broken. 4. A thorough knowledge of Officers' duties either in Council or Lyceum. 5. Membership: how to keep it and how we lose it. 6. Efficiency, tolerance and sympathy: what are they? The President's address was accepted and after some discussion was adopted.

The District Visitor then gave his report, in which he stated that the Lyceums in general had progressed during the last year, though not as much as he desired. He urged that all Lyceums should concentrate on more progress this year.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £3 3s. 2d. against last year's balance of £1 11s. 0d., which was quite satisfactory.

The adjudicator gave his report and it was found that Newton Heath and Higher Openshaw had tied for the Shield. In accordance with arrangements made, each Lyceum will hold the Shield for six months. It is hoped that the presentation will take place some Saturday in March.

Election of Officers: Mr. Betts was elected Chairman pro tem and the whole of the Executive was re-elected to office.

During Open Council it was decided that the adjudicator should only visit each Lyceum once a year and not twice as previously. This was considered necessary owing to the large increase in the number of Lyceums in the Council.

Council Meetings for 1926: May 15th, Saddleworth; Aug. 21st, to be arranged; Nov. 20th, Manchester Progressive; Feb. 12th, Pendleton.—G. A. Dixon, Sec.

NORTH EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council took place on Saturday, February 6th, at Cumberland Street, Macclesfield.

The President, Mr. J. Marston, was in the chair. 34 delegates and associate members were present from Heaton Norris, Lord St. (Central), Ashton, Hyde, Denton and Macclesfield. Mrs. Hodgkinson, Mrs. Parkinson, Mrs. Deplitch and Miss Barrett, of Heaton Norris, Mr. Davies, of Ashton Lyceum, and Mrs. Smith, of Macclesfield, were accepted as new members. Correspondence was accepted. The Secretary gave the Financial Statement, which was considered a very good one, as there had been no special efforts made to raise finance.

The auditors' report and D.V. report were accepted with thanks.

The result of Silver Bell competition was announced, Lord Street (Central) being the winners of the Silver Bell. It was resolved to adopt the method of massed session.

The Election of Officers took place. A vote of thanks was given to retiring officers.

The next meeting to be held at Ashton.

The best thanks were given to the friends at Macclesfield for their hospitality.—E. Edwards, Sec.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council was held at West Hartlepool Lyceum on Sunday, February 14th. Good sessions were held in the morning and afternoon, under the presidency of Mr. Roeder.

Nearly all Lyceums were represented. The Officers elected were as follows:—President, Mr. Fishburn; Secretary, Mr. Atkinson; Treasurer, Mr. Edwards; D.V., Mr. Foster; A.D.V., Mrs. Cumiskers; Representative to B.S.L.U., etc., Mr. Roeder; Auditors, Mr. Lunter and Mrs. Hirst.

Various reports were given. Best thanks were given to our West Hartlepool friends for their welcome and attention to all our wants. A fuller report will be sent to each Lyceum. An invitation is required for our next E.C.—Geo. A. Atkinson, Sec.

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.

In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Joseph Coldbeck, late of Hartley Street, Dewsbury, who passed away on February 17th., 1922, aged 57 years.

Also our dear son, Gunner-Signaller Joseph Coldbeck, R.G.A. who was killed in action on October 9th, 1918, aged 19 years.

"Time has no force to break love's golden link."—From the dear wife and mother, Mrs. M. Coldbeck.

DARNALL.—In loving memory of our first musical conductor, Miss Marjorie Foster, who passed to the higher life on the 5th March, 1924.—"Ever Remembered."

DEWSBURY.—In affectionate memory of our young Lyceumist, Edith Brown, who passed into the higher life on March 7th, 1925.

"She had a nature you could not help loving,
And a heart that was purer than gold."

—From Grandma.

HOLDING.—On the 14th February, 1926, at her home, 16, East Street, Blackburn, Sarah Ellen Holding, aged 72 years. Her earthly body was interred at Blackburn Cemetery on the 20th. Mr. Hepworth, of Bury, officiated.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—Passed suddenly into the Summerland, on Jan. 30th, 1926, Mrs. Johnson and Alec Croft.

"They've only dropped their mantles,
Their souls can never die."

MANCHESTER, Stanley Grove, Moss Side.—Jones, in loving memory of Baby Lena, who passed to the Higher Life on March 3rd, 1925, aged 2 years. Love from Dad, Mam, Brothers, Sisters and all members.

"A Flower of Welcome in God's Summerland."

Maud Harrison, President.

District Visitors' Reports.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

On January 10th I visited Quarmby Lyceum, the session was instructive. Questions were asked and answered and Pearls given. The Physical exercises were very interesting and fresh marches were displayed which gave interest to the Session.

On January 17th I visited Ramsden Street, and found it going along, but not yet very strong.

On January 31st I visited Westgate, Elland. Exercises moderately well done; there were Group Lessons, the topic for the Liberty Group being "Forgiveness."

On February 7th I visited St. Peters Street. There was an attendance of 42; the Session was educational. I have never seen this Lyceum so effective in the Physical exercises. The examinations are now over, and I hope that all Lyceum Leaders will remember how wide and varied are the subjects which can be dealt with in the Group Lessons.—Seth Ackroyd, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

Mr. H. Spencer, the Leeds Visitor for the District Council, reports visits to Lyceums at Liversedge, Wakefield, Leeds (Psycho), Hull (Holborn Hall), Hull (Dairycoates), Batley Carr, and Leeds (Easy Road).

Good reports are to hand from all the Lyceums, in which the Conductors are noted for the explanations given for the readings. A pleasing feature is also the bright way in which children have spoken about the readings they have conducted.

From the report there is commendation of the general activities.

Special Reports.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—February 7th, Open Sessions conducted by Miss N. Hudson. Recitations by Mr. Wilman, Miss Keene, Miss Phylis Wilman; songs by Miss Farnell, Miss A. Hudson, J. Pearson, J. Farnell, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Hartley, Miss Coke; pearls by Miss L. Batty, Mr. Waite, Miss Raynor, F. Babbs.—J. Babbs, Sec.

BRIERFIELD, John Street.—Open Session February 7th, conducted by Mr. Dilworth, assisted by Miss Oldfield. Recitations: Ivy Dean, Edith Bird, Mary Davis, Mary Rhodes, Mrs. Whittle. Duet, Eva and Ivy Dean. Pianoforte Solo, Annie Bradshaw. Pearls by Elders and children. A most pleasant Session.

On February 21st we held our first Lyceum Sacred At-Homes, conducted by Mr. Dilworth and assisted by Miss Oldfield. Mrs. Astin, of Burnley, was our speaker, and gave a short address. We were pleased for the help which our friends from Hammerton Street gave us, which helped to make our first attempt at Sacred At-Homes a huge success. It was a day that will live long in memory.—T. Wane, Sec.

EDINBURGH, Church Lyceum.—On January 24th we held our business meeting and election of officers: Conductor, Mrs. Duncan; Assist. Conductor, Mrs. Smith; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Hunter; Librarian, Miss McDonald; Badges, Miss A. Hunter; Guardian, Mr. McIntosh; Conductor of marching and callisthenics, Mr. E. Thomson; Guards, Katie Johnstone and Bertie Wilson; Musical Conductor, G. Hartley. A hearty vote of thanks and appreciation was given to Mr. Thomson, our retiring Conductor, for kindness and helpfulness during the past session.—M. Hunter, Sec.

JOHANNESBURG.—A Christmas Tree was held during December, which was attended by over 200 children, everybody was as usual; hot, tired and happy. Lyceum Prizes for the year were distributed among the members, and some very high percentages were recorded. Everyone spent a very pleasant afternoon. A Carnival was held on New Year's Eve by the parent church; a number of Lyceumists were present, and at the conclusion at 2 a.m., "Show me the way," etc., seemed a very popular air with all.

Owing to the holidays the usual bright open session is not so much in evidence lately. As the Conductor of the Lyceum has been on holiday several of the senior members of the Lyceum acted; Alice Lloyd, Olga Hart, and J. Jones have all participated with great success.—E. Hart.

HETTON AND DISTRICT.—On Saturday, February 20th, we repeated our Christmas Cantata, entitled "Evergreen Cottage." All took their parts well, namely, Mrs. Ross, Mr. Best, Mr. Reay, Leslie Best, Elsie Younger, and a chorus of children. Great credit is due to Mrs. Kennedy, our musical director, for the hard work put in at the practices. The children responded well and Mr. J. Lawther assisted at the organ. A sketch was ably given by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Lawther, Mr. Fatherly, Mr. Colledge and Miss Kennedy, and was followed by a duet by Mr. Fatherly and Mrs. Kennedy which caused much merriment. The proceeds were in aid of a sick brother.—E. Reay, Sec.

LONDON, Brixton.—Illness has depleted our numbers very much during the past few weeks. Our children are busy rehearsing for concerts, and we hope to raise enough money to pay the expenses of our Summer Outing.

Slowly, but steadily, and in spite of difficulties, we are making good progress.—M. F. Boddington.

LONDON, Forest Hill.—On Saturday, January 30th we held our Christmas Tree Party, with over 80 children and adults present. Amongst the visitors were Mrs. Barnard, Uncle Bert and Auntie Ruth. After tea we all took part in games, etc.

At 8 p.m., Uncle Bert distributed presents from the tree. He afterwards made a presentation of gold brooches, from the older Lyceumists, to Mrs. Payne (Conductor) and Mrs. Williams (co-worker).

A pleasant evening ended with each child being given sweets and an orange.—A. E. Payne Sec.

LONDON, Manor Park.—On Saturday, January 30th, we held our Lyceum Annual Tea. Proved a great success.

Some 66 sat down to tea and thoroughly enjoyed it, looking very smart in coloured paper hats made by Mrs. Trinder. Balloons and Bon Bons were also handed round.

After tea the children had a few games, and a Fairy Play entitled "Tom's Dream," which had been arranged for the evening by the Lyceumists. Great credit was due to those who took part, for they certainly excelled themselves before a very large audience. The church was crowded, and we are being urged to repeat it.

Next came the prizes, which were presented by a much respected worker, Mr. Clegg. At the close the Fairy Queen presented her bouquet of flowers to Mr. Clegg, with love from all Lyceumists, for his wife who is lying very ill.

We finished up with a Bran Tub for the children, and each one went home with a photograph of our dear Spirit President (Mrs. Thomas Brooks), provided by a much valued friend and worker of the Church, Mrs. Goater. Our Conductor closed with a hearty vote of thanks to all those who had provided such a happy evening.—(Mrs.) E. M. Marmog.

LONDON, Surbiton.—On January 20th we held our Second Anniversary, and were honoured by a visit from Mrs. Barnard and Mr. Miles. There was a good attendance, and individual efforts were given by Maggie Hossack, Natthey Kremnoff, George Cowlard, Peter Scott and John Firth. The Session, which was very enjoyable, was conducted by Miss Brown, who has again been elected Conductor for 1926.—Edith Etheridge, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham.—During the past month, we have been steadily progressing. On February 6th the Lyceum and Church combined and held a dance at Sperling Road Schools, which proved a huge financial and social success.

On February 21st, 18 Lyceumists sat for the Education Scheme Exam., also 3 for Oral Grade, for which we had been preparing during the last few months. We sincerely wish success to all Lyceumists who sat for the exam. Hearty greetings are extended to all Lyceums.—Thelma Carman, Session Sec.

RAWTENSTALL.—We held our Open Session on February 7th, Conductor, Miss A. Walmsley. Recitations were given by Masters W. Hoyle, H. Howarth, Misses E. Parkinson and P. Greenwood. Also Solos by Misses L. Richardson, P. Greenwood, M. Entwistle and M. E. Smith. We had an enjoyable Session.

On February 13th we held our Annual Tea Party, concert and Prize distribution. Mr. W. Entwistle presided. We had a Cantata entitled "A Holiday Concert," given by the Lyceumists, which was well done under the leadership of Mr. A. Howarth, Mrs. Tann and Mrs. R. Howarth. Prizes were given by Mrs. Tann, then we had a few songs and recitations. The pianist was Mr. Tann. Votes of thanks were given to all helpers. It was a great success.—Mrs. Greenwood Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—On February 8th we held our Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers: Secretary, Miss L. Paget; Treasurer, Mr. Grice; Guardian of Groups, Mr. Wheeler; Musical Conductor, Miss W. Paget; Captain of Guards, Clara Jones; Guards, Ada Johnson and Leonard Ventham; Delegates, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Hayward; Auditors, Mrs. Bond and Miss Fielder. Votes of thanks to the chairman, our Church President and the retiring officers concluded a very happy meeting.—L. Paget, Sec.

READING.—On February 7th we held our usual Open Session. The attendance was good and our progress is steady. Individual efforts were rendered by Miss E. Duffield, pianoforte solo. Mrs. Duffield read us a short address, which was much appreciated. Miss Gladys Kirby—a recent addition to our ranks—gave a pianoforte solo. Kathleen Stratford read us her paper, which gained 2nd prize in our recent essay competition. All agreed that it showed a mastery of Lyceum principles. Miss Rene Giles obliged us with a recitation, and Mrs. Lawrence sang us a sacred song. It is gratifying to see continued interest and regular attendance at the ordinary sessions. We send fraternal greetings to all and a hearty invitation to Lyceumists and others visiting Reading.—D. R. Lawrence, Sec.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Kent Terrace.—The closing of the Lyceum for the 3 weeks Christmas vacation was signalled by the holding of an Open Session. Recitations were well given by Ray Jarvis, Winston Wahren, and Mr. Easton, the Librarian. A violin and piano duet by Seth and Elva

Harris, and a Guitar duet by Lena and Gladys Webb, contributed much charm to the musical portion of the Session.

On Wednesday evening, the 23rd of December, the eagerly looked for Christmas Tree and Prize Distribution was held. Both Father and Mother Christmas filled their parts well, and gave much pleasure to the little ones. The Lyceum Conductor, Mr. R. A. Webb, handed to the Scholars the book prizes for attendance and for Pearls. The financial position is this year the best in the history of the Lyceum. Every officer of the Lyceum has done his or her best for the school. Best wishes to Lyceumists everywhere.—(Miss) L. Webb, Sec.

WIGAN.—On Saturday, February 6th, we held our Anniversary Tea Party and Social. About 115 sat down to tea. An excellent concert was provided by the Lyceum, conducted by Mr. W. Monks.

On Sunday our Anniversary Services were conducted by Mr. J. Bell, of Moss Side. At the 2-30 meeting two Lyceumists read essays from the Education Scheme, one of the Oral Grade Students recited "The Spirits' Mission." Mr. Bell distributed the prizes and gave a few clairvoyant descriptions.

At the evening meeting Mr. Bell gave an excellent address on "Mediumship."—Mrs. E. Clitheroe.

WINNIPEG, Polson Avenue.—We were visited by the Princess Street Lyceum on February 7th, and held a combined open session. The singing and responsive readings were the best ever heard in our little church. Many pearls, two pianoforte solos, recitations, readings and vocal solos were rendered, and explanations of pearls given by members of both Lyceums. Mr. H. Forrester, Conductor of Polson Avenue, and Mr. G. H. Symons, Conductor of Princess Street, gave short addresses, which were highly appreciated. About 80 were present, including visitors. A very inspiring session.—Winnie Brown, Sec.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

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

RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after Feb. 24th.

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

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

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

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

BIRKENHEAD.—On Saturday, February 20th was held the Lyceum Annual Tea Party and Prize Distribution. The excellent and wholesome tea provided was thoroughly appreciated by a party of about eighty Lyceumists and a few friends. Games were indulged in and then our Conductor, Mr. Thompson, undertook the Prize Distribution. After this more games were played with increased zest, and then the children and adults wended their way home, tired perhaps, but happy in the knowledge of a day well enjoyed.—Millie Hemsall, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On January 31st we held our Lyceum Day. About 90 Lyceumists and friends took part in the Marching and Callisthenics. Recitations were given by Master H. Railton, E. Holding, F. Holding, A. Wilkinson, O. Duxbury and Carrie Robinson. Solos were rendered by Miss E. Hopper and Miss B. Wilkinson. Mr. Frank Hepworth, of Bury, was our speaker for the day and he gave us a short address which was enjoyed by all. About 180 Lyceumists and friends were present. Greetings to all other Lyceums.—H. Bullen, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—On Feb. 14th we held our Open Session. Despite the weather we had a very good attendance; friends from Bury (Sydney Street), paid us a visit. Pearls recitations and solos were rendered very well. Also the naming of a baby (one of our members) was performed by

Mrs. Entwistle, of Radcliffe (the Speaker). A pleasant session was held throughout.—Albert Booth, Sec.

BRADFORD, Ripley Street.—On February 7th we held our Open Session which was a success. Misses Bairstow, N. Wright, Albert Wilkinson, A. Abbott, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Plumb, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Hill and Mr. Schofield rendered items. Best wishes to all.—E. Pickles, Sec.

BRIGHOUSE, Commercial Street.—On January 30th and 31st we held our Anniversary Services. On Saturday the Annual Tea, Concert and Prize Distribution took place. On Sunday an Open Session was well attended.—F. Brook, Sec.

CALGARY, Canada.—Annual Meeting December 27th. Officers elected: C. Adam, Conductor; Mrs. A. E. Rushton, Guardian; B. W. Robinson, Capt. of Guards; Miss V. Potts, Musical Director; J. Roberts, Treasurer; W. G. Kitchen, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Jan. 10th the Annual Meeting was held, and the following were elected for the various offices: Mr. Bown, Mr. and Mrs. Wootton, Mr. Beckett, W. Campbell, K. Widdowson, G. Adams, M. Smith, I. Mariott, L. Howell, Mr. Campbell and Mr. J. J. Hobster.

On January 31st being Founder's Day, we held our Open Session, when the following rendered items:—Francis, Sidney and Harold Hobster, Jessie Orwin, John, Lillian and Connie Slater, Lillian Briggs, Mona Longden, Christina Anthony, Avis Bown and Marion Holland.—E. Hobster, Session Sec.

CLECKHEATON.—We held our Open Session on 4th, conducted by Miss A. Wilkinson. Questions and answers were good. A good number of pearls and solos.—A. E. Rayner, Sec.

DONCASTER, High Street.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 7th, with a good attendance of Lyceumists, conducted by Miss L. V. Batty. The invocation was given by Mr. Minchen. The following took part:—Francis Comersall, Master C. E. L. Gomersall, A. Crossland, Miss Trout and Miss D. Batty. Miss L. V. Batty gave the benediction. An enjoyable afternoon was spent. Greetings to all Lyceums.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

DUNEDIN.—Four more children were dedicated by Miss Burgess. Many people present. Invocation and benediction by two girls, 11 and 12 years. Recitations good. Solo: Miss Stentiford. Greetings to all Lyceums.—Miss R. Burgess.

EARBY.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Session when the following Lyceumists contributed to its harmonious success: Recitations by Jessie Blackburn Mary Ennis, Queenie Jordan, Margery Pilkington and Allan Bannister; duets and solos by Hugh Foster, Jessie Jordan, Evelyn Taylor, Edna Taylor, Alice Bannister, Adeline Nuttall and members of the Liberty Group.—L. Hodgson, Sec.

EAST HAMLTON, Canada.—On Jan. 1st we held our Annual Party and Distribution of Prizes. The programme, prepared by our Marching Conductor, Mr. Woodstock was full of splendour and variation, which included a doll drill by some of our youngest Lyceumists and a sketch by the Junior Liberty Group. The duties of Santa Claus was ably carried out by our Vice-President, Mr. Holt. We extend hearty thanks to all who helped to make this a success.—W. Parkinson, Sec.

EASTWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 7th. Mr. Slater conducted and Mrs. George gave the invocation. Miss Martin, Silver Chain; three volunteers for musical reading; Mr. Orrel, Golden Chain; recitations by Gladys Martin and a pearl by all Lyceumists. A very bright session throughout. We are endeavoring to work out or Motto: "Eastwood leads the way."—T. Walker, Sec.

ELLAND.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 30th, conducted by Miss E. Hesseldene. Songs by Mrs. Longbottom, Miss Smith; duets Mrs. Pilling and Mrs. Williams, Miss Clare and Miss Berry.—A. Crossland, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Session and Prize Distribution, when about 50 Lyceumists received prizes for regular attendance. We also had a naming ceremony, conducted by Mr. Batley. A very busy day for our Lyceum and quite enjoyed by all. Hearty greetings to all Lyceumists.—Mrs. Leadbetter, Sec.

GT. HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 7th. Recitations were rendered by several Lyceumists. Mrs. Pickles (of Blackpool), who was our speaker, contributed some comments and notes of interest.

We had our Annual Tea Party, Concert and Prize Distri-

bution on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Lyceumists from Padiham provided an enjoyable concert. Our Conductor presented the prizes, with the President of the Church occupying the Chair for the occasion.—Clara Waterhouse, Sec.

GRIMSBY.—Our Open Session on Feb. 7th was conducted by Mrs. Barron. Songs by E. Howard, V. Clayden and Miriam Marshall, E. Cole, E. Couling and Mrs. Sutton, P. Stanham, A. Smith and M. Heckley. Recitations by Rosie Barron, D. Devereux, L. Sutton and Rosie Howard. Mrs. Smith, our Musical Conductor, accompanied very nicely and altogether we had an enjoyable time.—P. Stanham, Sec.

HORWICH.—On Sunday, Jan. 24th, we held our Open Session with quite a large number present. We had the naming of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Wadson, who are two old Lyceumists. Mr. Walsh, an old Lyceum worker, named the baby Raymond, with the spiritual name of "Conquest." Lyceumists gave a number of recitations and solos which altogether proved a beneficial and encouraging Open Session. We wish success to all students in the Education Scheme.—S. Wilkes, Sec.

HUDDERSFIELD, St. Peter's Street.—On February 4th we held Open Session, conducted by Mr. Garside. It was also our Prize-giving and we had recitations and solos by our Lyceumists, spending a very enjoyable afternoon together.—Miss Elizabeth Farnhill, Sec.

LEEDS, 8, Alpha St., Dewsbury Road.—We held our monthly Social Evening on Saturday, Feb. 13th. The children of our Mauvette Troupe—that is doing so well at Alpha St.—took a great part in the entertaining, which everyone enjoyed. Refreshments were served. Dancing concluded our programme. The proceeds were added to the Building Fund.—E. Crowley, Sec.

LEEDS, Armley.—We held our Lyceum Anniversary during February. On the Saturday a tea was provided, followed by a Social.

On the Sunday Mrs. Firth conducted the Session. Pearls, recitations and solos were well rendered. Mr. Carter, of Halifax, presented over 30 prizes for good attendance. A very happy week-end was spent by all.—Miss Hilda Sykes, Sec.

LEEDS PSYCHO.—On January 31st we held Founder's Day, conducted by Mrs. Exley. Mr. Daisley, our Assistant Marching Conductor, took the A.J.D. march as a supplement. Miss Elliott, Mr. Keeling and Mr. Gush came in while waiting for their train and gave a few encouraging remarks.

On Saturday, Feb. 13th we held a Concert in aid of the £2,000 Effort. Praise is due to Miss Orman, who trained the children and engaged other talent, thus ensuring us a success. Many kind friends helped us with the refreshments.—Arthur Daisley, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—Election of Officers on Jan. 24th. Mr. Sutton presided. Conductor, Mrs. F. Thwaites; Assistant, Mr. J. Kenney; Treasurer, Mr. Jayes; Secretary, Mr. C. W. Banton; Guardian, Miss Jephcott; Marching Conductor, Mr. Hunt; Guards, Mr. F. Beck and R. Ryan. Our Conductor, Mrs. Thwaites, received a present on completion of five years' service with the Lyceum.—C. J. Banton, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Session. Good attendance of scholars. Marching and callisthenics well done by all who took part. Distribution of prizes by Alderman J. Chaplin, J.P. Pearls were good and made a very enjoyable session. A few friends attended. Thanks to all for their support.—S. Underwood, Sec.

LONDON, Battersea.—We are pleased to report that very good results have been obtained since we started our choir. Fraternal greetings to all other Lyceums.—W. Holt, Sec.

LONDON, Clapham.—We held our "A.G.M." on Jan. 31st. The following Officers were elected:—Conductor, Mrs. K. M. Barnard; Assist. Conductor, Mr. A. Mitchell; Treasurer, Miss Pennington; Guardian, Miss E. Luxton; Musical Conductor, Mrs. A. E. Young; Marching Pianists, Miss H. Tiffin and Miss I. Young; Librarian, Frank E. Wright; Captain of Guards, Maurice Allen; Guards, Mrs. Tiffin and Frank E. Wright; Drill Instructor, Mr. H. Tiffin; Delegates to L.L.D.C., Mrs. and Miss H. Tiffin.

This commences the ninth year of Mrs. Barnard's Conduc-

torship, and we hope she will be spared to carry on her work for many more years. We have made steady progress during the year and are out to better this. Fraternal greetings to all Lyceums.—Arthur A. E. Young, Sec.

LONDON, Woolwich and Plumstead.—On Thursday, Feb. 18th, we held a Farewell Social to our old friends and Lyceumists, Mr. Mrs. and Miss I. Giles, who are leaving for Australia next month. They have been connected with our Lyceum ever since we started on Nov. 10th, 1910. Both the Lyceum and Parent Church will greatly miss these good workers, but we hope that our loss will be Australia's gain. We wish them every success in their new life.—H. Watthey, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Lower Broughton.—Election of Officers: Conductor, Mr. Colly; Treasurer, Mrs. Leonard; Secretary, Mr. Day. Our sessions now start at 2-30 p.m.—C. Day.

MANCHESTER, Pendleton.—We held our Open Sessions on January 31st. In the evening we had an excellent session. Mr. W. H. Shaw, the Lyceum President, conducted. Fifteen Lyceums were represented and also the Manchester and District Council. About 175 people were present.

On Saturday evening, February 20th, the "Loconian Concert Party," of Salford, gave us a first class entertainment which was well supported. The proceeds of this concert are to be devoted to the Building Fund.—H. Greenwood, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Stretford.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Sessions, conducted by Miss Miller. The readings and explanations were very good. Pearls, recitations and solos were well rendered by the Lyceumists and a most enjoyable time was spent. Seven Lyceum representatives gave the greetings. Fraternal greetings to all.—E. Miller, Sec.

NELSON.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Session, and the following Lyceumists rendered items. Recitations: Cedric Pidwell, Violet Forrest, George Dodgson, Mrs. Parkinson, Herbert and Jack Tillotson. A musical selection by Harry Craig. Each small effort proved to make the Session a very harmonious one.—Cissy Smoothy, Sec.

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE, Heaton and Byker.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Session, in which the following Lyceumists took part. Pearls by Mr. Ronaldson, Miss L. Wardle, Grace Tomlin, Irene French, Vera Lunn and Eva Dickinson. Recitations by Irene French, Nancy Arthur, Olga Pybus, Doris, Jim and David Ronaldson, Harry A. McEwen, Alec Ronaldson and Miss Steele. Solo by Miss McMillan.

Our Conductor also presented 24 prizes for regular attendance. A splendid session throughout, and enjoyed by all.—S. J. Hunter, Sec.

PRESTON, 68, Lancaster Road.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 7th, and had a very good Session, with a nice number present. The following contributed: Trio, A. Curtis, V. Martin, R. Daniels; Duets, Misses Curtis and Hough, Misses Bradley and Hough; Quartet, Messrs. Marsh, Smalley, Rae and Curtis; Reading, Mrs. Rae. A morning enjoyed by all.—Rd. Smalley Sec.

ROTHERHAM.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 7th. The children responded readily to the request for individual effort. Mr. Smith very ably led the marching and callisthenics.—Annie Hollis, Minute Sec.

RUNCORN.—As is our annual custom, we celebrated Foundation Sunday with a special service. Mr. Mack, the President of the B.S.L.U., conducted the session, and introduced a special feature in the marching. The Lyceumists formed the letters A J D F D; then the chain march to link up the next series, which were C Y O B. The following interpretation explains the happy thought:—

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS, FOUNDATION DAY, CENTENARY YEAR OF BIRTH.

SALFORD, Central.—Open Sessions were held on Feb. 7th, at New Shaw Street, and enjoyed by all who were present. Seven Lyceums were represented.—Miss Goldstraw, Sec.

ST. ANNES ON SEA.—On Jan. 2nd we had our Annual Tea and Social. A most enjoyable tea was provided and all had a good time. Games were played during the evening and recitations were given by some of the children. Apples and oranges were distributed, and at the close each Lyceumist

received a toy. Although only a small Lyceum we are progressing favourably.—L. M. Evans, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—On Jan. 31st we held Founders' Day, conducted by Mr. Smith and Officers. The outstanding feature of this day was very marked by the feeling of sadness over our Lyceum. The passing into Higher Life of two Lyceumists, our oldest member and founder, Mrs. Johnson (Grandma to every Lyceumist); and Alec Croft aged seven years; called away from us in a moment, may their spirits ever visit us. We had recitations by Kathleen Jones, Nettie Hawksworth, Leslie Jones, Kathleen Fukes. Solos by Madge and Helen Jones.—N. Thwaites, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Gifford Road.—On Feb. 7th we held our Lyceum Day. The members contributed to an enjoyable afternoon and evening with solos, recitations, etc. The day was a success.—J. E. Overment.

SOUTH SHIELDS, Fowler Street.—On Jan. 24th we held our Election of Officers. Conductor, Mr. N. E. Ainley; Ass. Con. Mr. J. T. Robertson, Mr. Gillart; Secretary, Mr. R. Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Ainley; Organist, Miss Doris Gillart; Asst. Organists Miss Stanger, Mrs. Sleigh, Margaret Brimer; Guardian, Miss N. Robertson; Captain of Guards, Mr. Reaburn; Guards, Harry Dennison, J. Williamson, N. Brimer, L. Vorke, I. Williamson; Librarian, Mrs. Sleigh; Auditors, Miss A. Robertson, Mr. J. Gillart; E.C., Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Brimer, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Vorke, Miss N. Robertson, Miss D. Gellart and Mr. Reaburn.

SOUTH SHIELDS, High Shields.—Founders' Day was kept at High Shields Lyceum by Mr. Hall, of Gateshead, presenting prizes to Lyceumists for attendance and individual efforts. Solos and recitations were rendered by Lyceumists at intervals.—J. Lugo, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—We held a most enjoyable Open Session on Feb. 7th. There were recitations given by A. Smith, D. Rushton, G. Smith, C. Pearson, J. Rushton, K. Rushworth, M. Sutcliffe. Pearls by Mrs. Hardy and Miss F. Lees. A song was rendered by Miss F. Rushworth.—A. Sutcliffe, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Central.—On Saturday, Feb. 13th, we held our Lyceum Tea Party and Prize Distribution. A large number sat down to tea. In the evening the children gave a short concert, which everyone enjoyed. Mrs. Edwards, the late conductor, presented the prizes, and in return she received a beautiful biscuit barrel for her past services. Mr. Bowden, of Hyde, Vice-President of N.E.C. Council, presented Mrs. Ennion, our conductor, with the silver bell which our Lyceum has won for the third year in succession, gaining 94 marks out of a possible 100.—Mrs. Springate, Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Brunswick Street.—On Jan. 26th and 27th we held a children's Operetta entitled "Queen Lily and her Subjects," to very good audiences. The success was due to Mrs. Dodsworth, who was the producer, and to all friends who helped her.

On Feb. 7th, Open Session. Marching and callisthenics was a great improvement on previous sessions. First the Liberty Group led with pearls and Excelsior and Beacon followed. We had a fair amount of solos, duets and quartets, with a few good recitations, making a very agreeable session.—A. Hickman, Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cecil Street.—A Lyceum Sunday was held on Feb. 21st. We had a good afternoon Session.

The evening services were taken by Lyceumists and choir. Several anthems, solos and duets were sung. The addresses were given by Lyceumists, and the D.C. President, A.D.V. and Secretary. It was a great success which will be repeated.—Geo. A. Atkinson, Sec.

WEST MELTON.—An Open Session on Feb. 7th was conducted by Mr. Lee. Recitations were given by: Girls—G. Warren, T. Lister, Miss Chappell, J. Kenning, M. A. Speight, R. Elliott, Miss Farrar, H. Kenning, Miss Walton, E. Peat. Boys—O. Wright, S. Hallworth, B. Rawlinson, G. Penaluna. Songs by T. Lister, R. Elliott, M. Elliott and Miss Chappell. An enjoyable Session spent together.—M. Farrar, Sec.

WEST PELTON.—On Feb. 7th we held our Open Session, solos being sung by Mr. Abbott, Misses Cooper, Bell, Abbott, Douglas. Mr. Greenwell, organist. Conductor Miss Gray.—(Mrs.) A. Dryden, Sec.