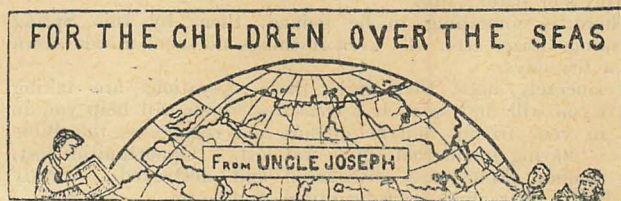


THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 433. Vol. XXXVII.

MARCH, 1927.

PRICE TWOPENCE.



ABOUT ACTIONS.

Dear Children,

One more month has gone, and here we are again for a further chat. It reminds me very much of a harriers' race; we see them leaping hedges and ditches, and following up the trail laid by the speedy hares whom they are trying to catch. That is very like our everyday life; we are striving hard all the time, and each of us is leaving a trail behind us. So we must see that the trail we make is fit for those who come after us to follow, so that they can make good tracks also.

We started with a thought, and I hope you have asked your Conductors to have that moment's thought for other Lyceums, because that is one way to help others. After that we went on to words, and I asked you to speak to others of friends, both near and distant, so that our movement might grow.

That brings us to Actions; in one of our Silver Chains we have a line,

"Let us then be up and doing."

The workers win, but only if they work, and we shall have to struggle very hard, not only for ourselves, but for those in whom we are interested, and whom we wish to be interested in us.

A lot of letters have come in from girls and boys, and they are not all young boys and girls either, and they all want to write to children overseas. So you will see that even now our sowing is worth while, and the tiny seedlings are showing their heads. The first letters will have gone speeding away across the wide seas, and in good time we shall have replies back again, making another link in the chain of fraternal love.

I have had many letters also wishing our new venture well, and I am now waiting for names and addresses, so you must hurry if you want to become one of the first to open up a new avenue of action.

Age does not matter. I can accommodate any number of nephews and nieces, and those who may feel too old for that relationship will be welcome as brothers and sisters, so long as we make it one united happy family.

During February we have all been busy, no doubt, preparing for our Lyceum Examinations, and all have been studying hard, and thinking and doing the thousand and one things which help to make us reach that high standard of knowledge which will earn honours certificates.

As we go through the various Grades we are continually meeting people who stand out in the history of the movement. The handbooks make grand and interesting reading, and although the beginnings were small and humble, we are growing big now and ought to feel proud of those who opened out the way for us.

That brings us to our own little corner. We are pioneers ourselves, for we are setting out to open up fresh friendships, and to tell people something they have never heard before; and what a lot you can tell your new-found friends! What about? Well, suppose you are writing to Canada. Perhaps your new chum has never been in England or in a British Lyceum, so they will be interested in your Lyceum Session. You can tell them what a splendid Lyceum you belong to, and then you can set about doing your very best to make your Lyceum the best, or one of the best. Your Conductor is the one to approach about that matter, but each child can help to brighten the Lyceum, and make it a Lyceum worth talking about; and people are always willing to learn how others work. If you write about

your Lyceum, and try to make it better, then you will be improving yourself, as well as giving hints which might be of use to others.

You can also tell them about your weekday doings, and you will have to be doing something for others, so that you can have something to talk about, and make your letters "sunshiny." I don't mean that you must *boast* about your good actions; oh dear no! But if you perform good actions you can always *tell* about them in a friendly way, and get up a spirit of friendly competition with your friend across the sea, to see which can do the most good, say in any one week or month.

You can also get your new friends interested in the other corners of the BANNER, for we are only one tiny part which helps to make up the one great *whole*.

The Guild Imp wants some fairies across the seas (the Guild Imps are good imps, you know, not the mischievous sort), and you must introduce them to Uncle Bert's Riddles and Competitions, so you see you can work hard for two Uncles and one big Brother, and try to make new members for each corner. That is the fine part we Uncles have to do; you can belong to both of us at the same time, because we are "brother-uncles," and the more uncles you can get, the better it will be for you in many ways.

Now I think I have told you enough of what you can write about; you must find out the rest for yourselves. The link is started, and all must do their very best and see that their part is carried out, and then we shall have no worrying because nobody sends us letters.

I have got a little register now of those who have promised to write, and some day I will tell you how many there are, but not yet, as we want the number to grow.

Now you are making new friends, and you must talk to them (with your pen) just as if they were sitting with you and you had known them all your lives; the more natural you are the greater interest your letters will have.

And whilst you are making your new friends, don't forget that loving actions and kind thoughts will keep the old friends with you also, and they are as needful to you as the new ones, if you have found them good and true friends. The only things we can afford to lose are the bad habits.

Now we have had a lot about action, but I just want a little more.

First. Secretaries, please do not forget to advise me of any special Open Sessions or anniversaries.

Second. When writing Overseas, do not forget to send the greetings from your Lyceum, as you want your Lyceum known, as well as yourself.

Third. When you visit another Lyceum, don't forget to give the greetings of your new friend's Lyceum. That wants to be known also.

Whilst we are dealing with Overseas Lyceums, may we also just give a thought to those Lyceums who are not so strong or so fortunate as our own. Do you know of one which has just started? Well, go and give a helping hand some time, until they get on their way.

"Mony a mickle, maks a muckle,"

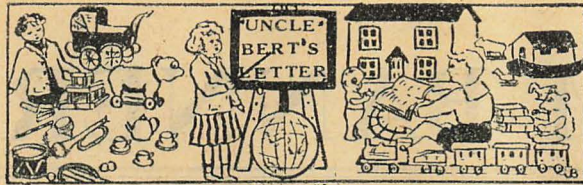
say our Scots friends, and we want each Lyceum to be well and strong.

In the Manchester District the Moss Side Lyceum has started again in Cornbrook Street, Manchester, and any help that can be given to them will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Don't forget that work done for others is just so much more building material put into our own "Mansions in the skies." By helping others we shall be building true and well, and giving them the incentive to do the same.

GREETINGS TO ALL LYCEUMS EVERYWHERE!

Yours lovingly,

UNCLE JOSEPH.



My dear Boys and Girls,

I expect you are all very busy arranging Farewell Parties to Mr. Winter, who is going to Australia, and also making preparations to receive Mr. Summer, when he arrives, with open arms.

Of course, like all modern day travellers, he is sending his luggage on in advance; in fact, some has already arrived.

Out of his brown portmanteau, which was labelled Mother Earth, thousands of beautiful flowers have been scattered all over the country.

These make our hearts rejoice with gladness, and even the birds are singing that well-known chorus:

"The more we are together, together, together;

The more we are together, the merrier we'll be.

For your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends;

The more we are together, the merrier we'll be."

You little girls who are known as the Charlestonites will have to get busy now and learn to skip in Charleston steps.

The boys who have been so busy using their lips at social parties will now have to watch the tulips grow instead.

That reminds me of two boys who wrote to me in January, telling me about their New Year's Party.

One said, after tea he got some mistletoe and kissed about forty girls, while the other said he was kissing girls nearly all night through.

What do you think of such saucy young rascals as these?

Who were they? Ah! that's a secret I must not tell. Perhaps some of the forty girls know all about it, for I expect they were just as bad as the boys, don't you?

I saw a lady the other day with her nightcap on. No; I'm wrong. I mean a dusting cap. She had a dusting brush in her hand, giving one the impression that she intended business in the right way.

So I said, "Hullo! Mrs. What's-me-name. Going to a fancy dress dance as a modern Cinderella, or the lady with the duster?" "Oh! no," says she, "I am just going to start Spring cleaning."

Oh! of course; this is the time everybody gets the craze, except Daddies; and they get out of it if they can.

I am afraid some of our new College students will want to know what this has to do with Lyceum Education, so I will try and tell you all.

There are many lessons to learn from this annual homely custom, for, however clean we try to keep our homes, there are always little corners where our friends, the spiders, make their little nets; known to us as cobwebs. The meaning of the word cobweb is "Any snare or device intended to entrap."

Not only do they appear in our homes, but also in our lives. Cobwebs of a different nature, it is true; webs which are set for us as a trap—"Temptations."

Therefore it is just as important that we should enter this Spring Cleaning Craze and remove the cobwebs which are about us.

One of Auntie Ruth's favourite pearls, "Habits are at first cobwebs, but later become cables." This, of course, explains itself.

There are also the cobwebs of laziness, which we can build ourselves. Every time a request comes along for you to take part in a session and you say to yourself "I don't want to." This is but a thread of a web you are making. Then buy yourself a broom (of energy) and sweep such troubles away.

Now we must take the pictures down to clean. Oh, what a surprise for our eyes; there is left on the wall a clean patch of wallpaper, just where the picture has been, while all around it the wallpaper has faded, but we had not seen it before.

Have you ever realised, boys and girls, how often our characters become faded, because we do not remove the picture of self off its walls.

It is only when we start to work for others that we see faded opportunities which we have missed.

I am now coming a little nearer home to you, boys and girls. I have reached a corner in which I find a toy cupboard, box, or

a bookcase, with your books on. At first sight I am inclined to say, "What rubbish!" But I look a little closer and see toys and books, some of which have not been used for years because you have grown too old to play with them. I wonder if some of them would not be of greater service if I found some poor little boy or girl who could use them, or if I sent them to a poor children's home.

Yes, I think if I were just to keep those which I had won as prizes and those which may have a sentimental value, and give the rest away, I should be helping Mamma and at the same time bringing a ray of bright Spring sunshine into some little brother's or sister's life.

There is something to be gained, then, by this Spring Cleaning Craze, after all; even if things do seem upside down for a few days.

I sincerely hope that while these operations are taking place you will find some lost treasures which will help you to call in your friends and neighbours and rejoice, as the Bible says, "having found that which was lost." Opportunities lost, but found. Selfishness discovered and destroyed. Untidy patches in characters made beautiful, and so on.

Let the bright sunshine of God's love shine through the clean windows of our lives and happiness will be revealed by its penetrating rays.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES AND RIDDLES.

No. 51. (1) Because it stands over six feet without shoes or stockings.

(2) Because it's a dear little thing.

(3) When he walks along his banks and braes (braes).

No. 52. MABEL.

No. 53. Kettle. Saucepan. Basket.

Clock. Umbrella. Cushion.

Brush. Perambulator.

Answers to above from:—Madge Spence, Madge Tyrer, Ivy Whitehead, Marjorie Slingsby, Newton Heath; Joan Fraser, Woolwich.

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES AND RIDDLES.

No. 54. (1) What part of the sea represents a dandy?

(2) What is the best remedy for a stolen kiss?

(3) What weighs the most in a herring?

No. 55. The first letter of each of the following will give you the name of a well-known Seaside Resort:—

1. Used at Cricket. 2. Used at Weddings. 3. Used at School. 4. Used at Dinners. 5. Used for Dogs. 6.

Used at Laundries. 7. Used for light. 9. Used for Travelling. 10. Used for Machines. 11. Used for Fish-

ing.

No. 56. Six ways of spelling Travelling.

ASEERNOALP.

NISOUMB.

SBYICLEC.

TREESMA.

HNAABRCCS.

TSIAX.

Many of my nephews and nieces are getting very busy trying to catch me with Riddles and Puzzles.

One little boy wants to know "What a Canary is?" while a little girl wants me to tell her "When a piano is like a village green?" I shall have to put my smoking cap on between now and next month.

To my older readers this month I would like you to read Ella Wheeler Wilcox poem "Hidden Gems," for in this she endeavours to reveal to each of us, that within each of our lives are gems of great value.

As she puts it, "It is for us to dive into the vast ocean of our mind, and to sink a shaft into the mine of thought."

The reading of this poem will convey its own message.

Your Loving Friend,

2, Villiers Road,
Osterley, Middlesex.

UNCLE BERT.

We are pleased to compliment Mr. Arthur Buckton on his election as a Poor Law Guardian for the city of Hull. Mr. Buckton is a Grade 5 Lyceumist, and has been conductor of Holborn Hall Lyceum, and President of the Holborn Hall Church. We hope he will have a useful time during his new duties.

Some of the members of the Stanley Grove Lyceum have reopened as the Moss Side National Progressive Lyceum Church, at 78, Cornbrook St., Brook's Bar, Manchester. The Secretary is Mr. H. Higginson, 43, Lacy Street, Stretford, Manchester.

Education Department.

Joint Education Committee.

The Joint Education Committee of the S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. met at Huddersfield on Saturday, 12th February, and discussed the entries for the forthcoming Entrance Examination and plans for the 1926 Winter Session and the 1928 Entrance and Intermediate Examinations.

Mr. Oliver (S.N.U. Education Secretary) reported 19 entries for the Entrance Examination, but, judging from the many letters read from Churches which had promised to form classes, the small number of entries seems entirely due to the mining deadlock and its unsettling effect on general industrial conditions. Hopes are entertained of a much larger list of entries in 1928. Miss Kitson reported 1,329 entries for the various Grades of the B.S.L.U. Scheme, the drop of about three hundred being put down to a similar cause.

A Lesson Plan, to cover a 26-weeks course in the Intermediate Grade subjects, was submitted. The Secretary reported that he was unable to obtain a guarantee *re* the date of publication of the booklet on "The Doctrine of Immortality" (Morse), and it was decided to omit this and its companion booklets from the Syllabuses until they were in print, the time planned for the study of the first being devoted to revision work on "Psychic Philosophy." The Plan, as amended, was passed for publication, and for the issue of 5,000 copies.

The S.N.U. Executive Council having requested the Joint Committee to consider and define the relation between the National Spiritualist College and the Union, it was decided that the College was "an educational institution legally established as a body within the orbit of the Union and an integral part of its activities."

The Secretary reported having been queried as to the eligibility of Lyceumists who are also Church members to sit for the Entrance Examination, and his reply, that all members of a Church, whether Lyceumists or not, are eligible for the Advanced Scheme, was approved.

It was decided to accept the offer of a Study Column in "The National Spiritualist," and to use it for monthly notes on educational work. Also, it was decided to try working through Church and other Secretaries for the next examination, instead of amongst individual Spiritualists.

Provisional arrangements were made for Questions and Examiners in the 1928 Intermediate Examination, and it was decided that the Errata List for "Psychic Philosophy" should be put in hand at once.

Students can obtain information on the Entrance and Graduate (S.N.U.) Schemes, by sending a stamped addressed envelope (foolscap size) to the S.N.U. Education Secretary, Mr. T. Oliver, 272, Edmund Road, Sheffield, Yorks., and stating their requirements.

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST COLLEGE.

The College Governing Board met at the end of the Joint Education Meeting, and considered the report of the work from July to the end of December. The results of the six months' working were considered very satisfactory, and a report to the Annual General Meetings of the two Unions was discussed and adopted, two names being added to the list of recommendations for the award of the Degree of Fellow of the College.

The Joint Education Committee's definition of the relationship between the College and the S.N.U. was adopted.

The Secretary reported that the membership of the College on 31st December, 1926, was 1 District Centre, 24 Local Branches and 36 Associates (A.N.S.C.). The Treasurer's report showed a satisfactory balance on hand; and arrangements were made to conduct the audit.

A. T. CONNOR, *College Secretary.*

The B.S.L.U. Education Examinations.

(Held on 20th February).

THE QUESTIONS.

For the benefit of all candidates and tutors and Lyceumists in general, we again give the questions of all the six grades.

These will be useful for next Session's practice work, so *save this copy* of our Paper.

ORAL GRADE QUESTIONS.

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

1st (20 marks)	Either S.C.R. 19 (on Page 6-7).			
	OR S.C.R. 100 (on Page 9-10).			
2nd (20 marks)	THE PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUALISM, in answer to Question 31, on Page 21.			
	<i>If over 10 years.</i>	<i>If under 10 years.</i>		
	Question Page	Question Page		
3rd (10 marks)	the answer to 7 ... 13	1 ... 11		
4th (10 marks)	the answer to 15 ... 16	2 ... 11		
5th (10 marks)	the answer to 18 ... 17	3 ... 11		
6th (10 marks)	the answer to 20 ... 18	14 ... 15-16		
7th (10 marks)	the answer to 29 ... 19	25 ... 19		
8th (10 marks)	the answer to 34 ... 22	26 ... 19		

GRADE I. QUESTIONS.

Answer *either* Part A *or* Part B of each question (NOT both parts).

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

OR

PART B—Say all you can about Children in Spirit Life.

- PART A—S.C.R. 93, "*Deeds are powerful, mere words weak.*" Give three examples to show that this is true.

OR

PART B—G.C.R. 108, "The Lyceum." This G.C.R. tells us that the glorious aim of the Lyceum is "The spiritual, moral, and intellectual elevation of its members, and through them of the world at large." Say what you think this means.

- PART A—M.R. 208. What have you learned about "Home Affections" from your study of this Musical Reading?

OR

PART B—M.R. 211, "Be Kind to Others." What do you think is meant by—"We are all brothers and sisters; and there is no high, no low, except in spiritual attainment."

- PART A—Give the story of the Hydesville knockings, up to the removal to Rochester.

OR

PART B—Say what you know about three of the following American Pioneers:—(a) E. W. Capron, (b) Mrs. Tamlin, (c) Mrs. Seymour, (d) Judge Edmonds, and (e) Professor Hare.

- PART A—Say what you can about Alfred Kitson's work for the Spiritualist Lyceum cause.

OR

PART B—Show the difference between Summerland Lyceums and Earthly Lyceums.

GRADE II. QUESTIONS.

Answer *either* Part A *or* Part B of each question (NOT both parts).

- PART A—M.R. 210, "The Hereafter": Explain what you think is meant by the following teachings:—

- Placing a wanderer's feet in the right road is heavenly;
- Removing thorns and stones from a brother's or sister's pathway is heavenly.

OR

PART B—M.R. 218, "Are we not Brothers?" Explain verse 3: Sect, clan and nation—oh, strike down

Each mean partition wall!
Let love the voice of discord drown:
Are we not brothers all?

- PART A—G.C.R. 136, "The Teachings of Spiritualism":

- What good has Spiritualism done for humanity, and
- Is there anything in it to fear?

(Answer in your own words, or in the words of the "Manual.")

OR

PART B—G.C.R. 142, "The Aim of Spiritualism": Explain the meaning of any three of the following teachings:—

- It prizes the sign only for the signification;
- It lays down no creed;
- It makes each man his own redeemer;
- All true aspiration, all noble effort, is worship.

3. PART A—The Handbook informs us that *every right enforces a duty*. Name four Human Rights and show the corresponding Duty.

OR

PART B—From your study of the Handbook article on “The Aim of Spiritualism: a Reform,” how do you think we should put into practice the Commandment of Brotherhood—“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”?

4. PART A—“Spiritualism is not a system of dogmas. It is the science of spiritual life, here and hereafter, founded on facts.” . . . Say all you can about “The Teachings of Spiritualism” to show that this is true.

PART B—“Reforms are needed in all departments of this life.” Name four ways in which you think reforms are needed—saying why you think so.

OR

5. PART A—Explain, as to a friend who is not a Spiritualist, what we mean by “A Path of Eternal Progress open to every Human Soul that wills to tread it by the Path of Eternal Good.”

OR

PART B—Say what you can about any two of the following:—
(a) Why are Spiritualist Sunday Schools necessary?
(b) How did A. J. Davis obtain his knowledge about Summerland Lyceums?
(c) When, where and how was the first Children's Progressive Lyceum started on Earth?

GRADE III. QUESTIONS.

Answer *one* part of questions 2, 3 or 4 (NOT both parts).

1. Write a Connective Reading of about 100 words, to follow S.C.R. 93, verse 4:
Worship God by doing good;
Works, not words; kind acts, not creeds!
He who loves God as he should,
Makes his heart's love understood
By kind deeds.
2. Write a summary of the teachings of EITHER S.C.R. 51, “Life's Builders,” OR G.C.R. 148, “The Origin of the Lyceum.”
3. EITHER—Discuss “Submit—in this or any other sphere, Secure to be as blessed as thou canst bear.”

OR

Explain the following verse, with special reference to the TWO lines printed in *italics*:

Lo! the dim, blue mist is sweeping
Slowly from our longing eyes,
And our hearts are upward leaping
With a deep and glad surprise.
We behold them, close beside us,
Dwellers of the Spirit-land;
Mists and shades alone divide us
From that glorious seraph band.

4. EITHER—What are the *vital* differences between the teachings of Orthodox Christianity and Spiritualism on (1) Standard of Truth (2) the Ascent of Man, and (3) the Spirit World.

OR

Say all you can about Clairvoyance.

5. Say what you can about two of the following:
(a) The establishment and growth of the Education Scheme;
(b) The formation and development of the Lyceum Union;
(c) How the early Lesson difficulties were overcome—before the publication of *The Lyceum Manual*.
- N.B.—Only very important dates need be given.

GRADE IV. QUESTIONS.

1. You have been asked to prepare a Lyceum Session Programme which has for its keynote EITHER *Spirit Return* OR *The Brotherhood of Man*. State your Opening Hymn, S.C.R., M.R., G.C.R. and Closing Hymn; and *briefly* state how you would link up the various readings. (20 marks).
2. Write a suitable original Invocation and Benediction for your selected Session. (10 marks).
3. Write NOTES for a lesson to be given to Grade II. students on “The Lyceum”—using the information given in S.C.R. 78 and G.C.R. 108. (20 marks).
4. Show how you would explain the 2nd Conductor's part in

M.R. 236, if asked to do so in the full Lyceum Session. (15 marks).

5. What is the “absolute rule” for guidance during DISCUSSION in the Lyceum? Show how you would justify this point of view to an adult (new-comer to the Lyceum). (15 marks).

6. EITHER—Write an essay on TRUTH or LOVE;

OR

Explain as to a Liberty Group your idea of what is meant by the following phrases from S.C.R. 1:

- (a) *Spreads undivided, operates unspent;*
(b) *Know thy own self; this kind, this due degree*
Of blindness, weakness, Heaven bestows on thee.
(20 marks).

GRADE V. QUESTIONS.

Answer FOUR questions.

1. In Handbook III., page 9, Mr. Oaten writes:—

“We advise the student in his investigation of these perplexing subjects to sub-divide it clearly under three heads and endeavour to gain evidence of:—

- (a) The existence of an *unknown force* used externally to the medium and beyond his control;
(b) The existence of an *intelligent director* who may or may not be dependent on the mentalities of the medium and sitters;
(c) The evidence of the *identity* of that controlling intelligence with some discarnate entity.”

What are the results of your investigations? Give evidences, as stated above, from personal experience and from information.

2. Mr. Kitson states (page 10) that “a medium is a person whose *psychic aura* can be operated on and drawn from”

- (a) What do you understand by the terms “psychic aura,” “nerve aura,” “ectoplasm” and “psychic influence”?
(b) How are these means used in various phases of mental and physical phenomena?

3. Mr. Kitson (page 16) defines the Ethics of Spiritualism as “the customs, habits and practices of Spiritualists in relation to everyday life.” . . . Habits are the results of inner motives and principles called moral principles (*mores*, manners). The science of Ethics deals with the grounds and nature of these motives and manners or habits, and their effects on society, and thus evolves a *science of Duty*:

- (a) Where is the standard of duty got from for Spiritualists to rule their habits? (b) What are the names of the moral principles involved? (c) What are the effects of habits ruled by, or contrary to, those principles as manifested in the after-life? (d) How do you know that what you write now is true?

4. Mr. Connor says our central principle is built up on the basis of mediumship (page 21). He also indicates how the other principles are dependent on mediumship.

How does mediumship get and give evidence for the other principles of Spiritualism?

5. Mr. Tinker says that fundamentally the Christian is a Spiritualist—more so than the ordinary Spiritualist (page 34). What, then, are the essential differences between the Modern Spiritualist and any Christian who believes that Jesus is *the Christ* (that is, the Messiah)?

ALL CORRESPONDENCE about the Education Scheme and the Examinations should be sent to the Education Secretary. Enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if a direct reply is desired.

Honorary Education Secretary:—

Miss M. E. KITSON, B.A.,

37, South Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury (Yorks.).

Hanley National Spiritualist Church.

NEW PREMISES OPENED.

On Feb. 2nd a large gathering was present in the afternoon to witness the opening and dedication of the new premises of the National Spiritualist Church in High St., Hanley.

The Church as a body has been in existence for 20 years, and various premises have been occupied during that time. Recently, however, the Welsh Wesleyan Chapel in High St., Hanley, which has been closed for some time, was acquired, and it has been renovated and converted to the needs of the Church.

The gathering assembled outside the Church, which was formally opened by Mr. E. W. Oaten, editor of "The Two Worlds." The first to enter the newly-opened Church were the scholars of the Lyceum, the adult members following.

Mr. James Jones, one of the trustees of the Church, extended a hearty welcome to all present.

In dedicating the Church, Mr. Oaten heartily congratulated the members on the step they had taken. They were gradually seeing, he said, that wonderful movement of theirs spreading itself throughout the length and breadth of the land, and establishing itself in suitable homes in various localities. They were to be congratulated upon having obtained a home. They prayed that they might find there not only a solid resting place, but a place from which they might spread the spiritual influence throughout the district.

Mr. Jones presented a silver key to Mr. Oaten to commemorate the occasion, and Mr. Oaten suitably returned thanks.

Following the service tea was served in a room below the Church, and in the evening a public meeting was held.

Tommy the Bootblack.

AN INSPIRATIONAL STORY.

By FLORENCE MORSE.

Reprinted from the *Lyceum Banner* of 1894, by kind permission of Miss F. Morse.

Part II.—LONDON (*continued*).

Tommy followed her up several flights of dirty stairs, until at last they reached the top. Jennie pushed open a door, and the two children entered the room together. It was not a large room, poorly furnished, but spotlessly clean; a small fire burned in the grate, and a kettle was singing on the hob, Jennie placed the bread she had been carrying on the table, and handed some money to her mother.

"Mother," said Jennie, "a boy tried to steal the money, an' this boy hit him and made him run away, an' then he brought me home."

"That was very kind of him," answered the mother; "what's your name, my lad?"

"Tommy, ma'am."

"Tommy what?"

"No, Tommy. I ain't got any other."

"Well, Tommy, it was kind of you to take care of my little girl. Have you had your tea?"

"No; I had some breakfast."

"Then sit down and have it."

Tommy did as Mrs. Barnes bade him, and between mouthfuls of bread and butter answered all her questions, telling her of his work all day, of the odd places he slept in, and of his friendship for Jimmy. When he had finished, he thanked her for the tea, and once more started for the Strand, whistling a popular song with a heartiness which made several people smile.

Nearly every day he met Jennie on her way to and from school, and a close friendship sprang up between the two, and as early spring gave place to summer, they would wander into St. James' Park, sit on the grass, and talk of the country, Tommy declaring it couldn't be better than the park, Jennie declaring that, although the park was beautiful, real fields were ever so much bigger. "Why, Tommy," she would say, "yer can't see nothin's else, only trees an' edges, an' birds an' wild flowers."

"Where do yer live then, if there ain't no houses?"

"There is houses, only they ain't all together like they are 'ere; there's four or five, then you go a bit an' there's more, not all against one another, with a dirty street between them, as there is 'ere," replied Jennie.

"Lots of streets 'ere ain't dirty, an' some of 'em's wide."

"But it's nicer, an' I wish I was there."

"Never mind, p'raps you'll go some day. Let's go ter 'Ide Park, an' see ther 'orses."

Then they would get up and walk slowly to Hyde Park, and watch the carriages, admiring the horses, and the beautifully dressed women, envying the dogs that sat beside their owners,

better fed and cared for than the little waifs who watched so eagerly.

It was an unusually hot summer that year, and little Jennie, missing the cool, pure, country air, began to droop; the walk to Hyde Park soon became too much, then St. James' seemed such a long way, until, by the end of August, she gave up her walks with Tommy, and sat by the window, and looked into the narrow, dirty street, at the seemingly endless rows of roofs and smoky chimneys. In the afternoon when, as Tommy put it, "business was orf," he would come and talk to her, making her laugh with his queer way of telling how he ran after carts, annoying the drivers and getting into everyone's way. His ideas of fun were rather rough, but it amused Jennie, and was the best either of them knew. Sometimes Jimmy would come with him, but being more bashful than Tommy, he rather feared Mrs. Barnes, who always did her best to make both boys feel comfortable, if only out of gratitude for the brightness they brought to Jennie.

"Wonder 'ow soon you'll be able ter go ter the park, Jennie?" said Tommy, one afternoon in September; "it's getting cooler now, and yer ought ter be getting stronger."

"I don't know, Tommy; soon, perhaps. Do you think Heaven's a pretty place?"

"I reckon it is; lots better than London. Wouldn't it be nice if we could both go?"

"Dunno. You wouldn't 'ave ter clean boots there."

"That would be jolly, but I wouldn't 'ave nothin' ter do! but we ain't going to Heaven; yer going ter get well ag'in."

"No, I wish I had some flowers; I won't ask mother for 'em, as I know she can't afford 'em; father don't do much work, an' it corsts a lot er money ter live."

"It's so dry, I don't do much either, but if I can I'll bring yer some."

And with this promise the two children parted. Tommy wandered along the streets, wondering how it would be possible to keep his promise. Money he had none, so he tried begging of every flower-girl, but as flowers are money to them, his appeals were unheeded. At last he gave up in despair, and turned to the Embankment, to curl up in the shadow of the Needle and dream of flowers that were to be had for the pleasure of plucking, and no one to say "let them alone."

The next afternoon, just as Tommy was turning into the street that led to Jennie's home, a gentleman called him, telling him to carry his bag. With a quick "Thank you, sir," he took the bag and started, but the gentleman was in no hurry, and sauntered along first one street and then another, looking at shops and buildings, until at the end of an hour he stopped at an hotel, took his bag from Tommy, and slipped some money into his hand. Eagerly Tommy looked round for a flower-girl; not one was to be seen. He hurried along, until at last he found what he sought, and with a small bunch of flowers in his hand, he started for Jennie's home.

"She'll think I ain't comin'," thought he, as he hastened on; "won't she be glad, though, when she sees ther flowers!"

When he reached the house he ran upstairs. How quiet everything was! Perhaps she was asleep. He tapped at the door; no one answered; he turned the handle and went in. Mrs. Barnes was not there. He looked round for Jennie. He saw her lying on the bed, her eyes closed, her hands folded, and on her face the holy calm of Death! Little Jennie had gone!—not to the Heaven she often talked of, but to the beautiful land of flowers Tommy had seen in his dream—gone without seeing the flowers Tommy so reverently laid on her folded hands, as he looked at her peaceful face, with eyes that were blinded with tears.

How dark everything seemed to Tommy, as he turned again to the street. The sun did not look half so bright as it had done before. This was his first experience of the "White Angel, Death," and it awed him.

"Ow white she was," he thought, "an' quiet, jest as if she wer asleep. Wonder where she's gone to; 'eaven, I suppose, an' it'll be so nice she won't remember nothing about me an' Jimmy."

Life went on in its usual way. Tommy worked harder than ever, but as Jimmy was unlucky, half the pennies he earned found their way into Jimmy's pocket. There were enough to keep both boys supplied with food, but not enough to pay for a bed; so many, many nights the steps of the "Needle" were the only pillows they knew. As winter came, with its snow and frost, life became harder, and, as Tommy said, "We'll 'ave ter find another 'otel," and at night they crept into any corner that was sheltered from the wet.

(To be continued).

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

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

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MARCH, 1927.

Christianity and Spiritualism.

WHAT IS THE LYCEUM POSITION?

Spiritualism has become a popular subject for discussion in the press, the pulpit, Bible classes, study groups, workshops and the home. The alleged facts of mediumship have been found to be based on evidence which cannot be disputed.

Like all valuable things, it has been counterfeited and faked, but the real experience of communion cannot be denied; in fact, it is espoused and loved by those who have had human experiences with the so-called dead—relations and friends who have crossed and recrossed the barrier between physical life and the conditions of the life beyond the transition of the spirit from the mortal body.

The separateness of nations by race and language has withheld the common people of all lands from the personal touch and inter-communication of ideals and practices. We, in English-speaking races, have found the advent of the movement known as Modern Spiritualism originated in the Rochester Rappings.

We are crossing the national barriers and finding Spiritualists all over the world in every race, with their evidential phenomena of a spiritual existence beyond death.

The date of the origin and who shall ante-date the other is of little moment. The Vikings discovered America before Christopher Columbus, but all were heroes and brought the countries of the world a little closer together.

What concerns us in Britain most of all, so far as Spiritualism is concerned, is that the pioneers of British Spiritualism proved their case and enlightened science, until to-day we talk of etheric forces and psychic laws and probe matter to the dynamic force within the electron. We have helped to bring a knowledge of order and law as the foundation of the created and evolved cosmic scheme of sentient life and transient being.

There is a great difference in the display of mediumship 60 years ago and the evidences of to-day. In the early days nearly all the phenomena was objective. Even when there was purely a case of control, more vigour and vitality was displayed than would now be considered discreet. It was necessary to have more vivid and transparent mediumship in the early days to rouse the people from their spiritual coma in which the doping churches of the country had benumbed humanity.

If a person refused to absorb intoxicating creeds and dogmas he was proclaimed an agnostic, and driven to atheism. The peculiar effect of driving the thinking people away from the Church, through their unbelief, was that a strong sense of morality governed the freethinkers and unbelievers, though science was divorced from religion.

Eventually, Christianity split itself into hundreds of sects, and with a divine discontent, most of the worshippers have fallen away from organised Christianity.

It was into such a mental atmosphere that Modern Spiritualism came to Britain.

There was a heterogeneous complexity of ideas and ideals that made life like an unsolvable crossword puzzle until Spiritualism—whoever coined the word spirit-ual-ism was a genius—came with its manifestation and remarried science and religion, to show life was continuous beyond the grave.

The spirit people themselves appointed three committees (non-

spiritualists) from all shades of life and thought. Scientists, doctors, lawyers, ministers, civic magnates and business men were all invited. The final meeting broke up in disorder.

Thus was Spiritualism offered to Christianity and every other form of organised thought and life.

All of the existing associations closed their doors to its illumination.

Christianity not only turned a deaf ear to evidences of phenomena which were similar to its own foundation, but also condemned mediumship as the work of the devil and evil spirits.

The people, who had had communication and conversation with their spiritual relatives, defied convention and ostracism, and built up a movement which has found the Christian Church to be its worst enemy.

Now we are finding human barnacles who would stay our progress and reintroduce, by "Christian" Spiritualism, all the things that split unified Christianity during the last few hundred years. Science and religion is resuming the old conflict.

What is there in Christianity we object to? We object to any Christian tenet which will not agree with revealed facts. We do not accept the virgin birth and the vicarious atonement. We do not accept the physical resurrection. We know that we have made for ourselves a spirit-body suited to the conditions of life in which the spirit will manifest itself after death.

Would we, then, oppose the ethics of Christianity as in the Sermon on the Mount? We accept with great appreciation the principles of the ethics of Jesus Christ, but we say definitely that ethics, or the moral code of conduct, is thousands of years older than Christianity.

We say to our "Christian" Spiritualist friends we are not willing to shut out the Shintoist, the Confucian, the Buddhist, the Mohammedan, the freethinker, agnostic or atheist who is anxious to examine our truths. But we are not prepared to give our blessing to any "adjective" to Spiritualism which will sully, smother or qualify the central keystone in the arch which is above all human conceptions of diverting creeds. That keystone, "Spiritualism," is the medium by which we feel the divine incarnation of God's power and love, without any mediator beyond the teacher.

WHAT IS THE LYCEUM POSITION? A Personal Note.

Forty-four years ago, before the B.S.L.U. came into being, I sat at the feet of an old Lyceumist—one who helped to start the Union—and his words sunk in my blood and veins. That is why I am able to write this editorial now. The revelation of my possible unfoldment led to a recital of experiences of the new gospel. "The Church will not listen to me," said the Lyceumist, "but the new generation will."

The child is father to the man, and early impressions often shape our destiny.

THE LYCEUM ATTITUDE.

What is the Lyceum? It is a school for physical, mental, moral and spiritual education, with a liberal and harmonious policy founded on revealed knowledge in accordance with Divine law, and expressed in harmony, wisdom and love.

What relation has the Lyceum to Spiritualism? The Lyceum system was witnessed by A. J. Davis when in a superior mental or spiritual condition (*he does not define which*) and was alleged to be the method of education adopted for children in spirit-life. Davis's allegation has since been confirmed by other people.

The idea of A. J. Davis was to suggest this method as the universal scheme for child education all over the world for the reformation of mankind. The Spiritualists have been the only ones to adopt it with any degree of continuity.

Robert Dale Owen did start a somewhat similar system, but his experiment gradually ceased after his personal supervision was withdrawn.

The English Lyceum experiment was started in connection with the Spiritualist societies, and that, too, would probably have gone into oblivion but for the perseverance of pioneers whose names and labours will be recorded when our archives are explored.

The teachings in the Lyceum were founded on a compilation from the sacred, moral and philosophic books of the world and published as the *Lyceum Manual*. In that book are found extracts from Buddhism, the Bible, agnostics, standard poets and reformers who lived in different parts of the world.

What, then, is the Lyceum position in relation to Christianity and Spiritualism?

We revere what is good and true in Christianity and every other "ity" and "ism," but we exalt none over the others and we teach "no good word is profane because a heathen spoke it."

We met in the rooms of the Spiritualists' Churches, but until two years ago Lyceums were not actually and definitely an organised part of the Spiritualist movement, though the great majority of adult Lyceums were Spiritualists, and the inference was that the Lyceums would provide the Spiritualists of the future.

Now, through the inter-relations, the Lyceums are an integral part of the movement, especially when Lyceums are held in the rooms of Churches in affiliation with the Spiritualist National Union.

So now we have one movement of Spiritualists and Lyceumists welded together in an insoluble bond and controlled by common principles. We regard every young Lyceumist as a budding Spiritualist.

A Lyceumist cannot say the bond exists between a Christian and a Lyceumist on the same basis as he links himself with a Spiritualist. There will always be the doctrinal concepts surround a Christian. We are prepared to accept the Christian in the Unitarian concept, and that is as far as our principles will allow us to meet him on common ground.

If the Christian still holds orthodox views, his place is in membership with such Churches, and not in the Spiritualist movement. Whilst we respect his views as applied to himself, we have a duty to prevent schism in our movement. It has disrupted Christianity and we must be prepared to prevent a similar division in our ranks.

A further duty we owe to Spiritualism—and we are trying to fulfil it—is to fill the platforms with constructive speakers and convincing demonstrators. We have had to be satisfied with anti-Christians, anti-materialists, etc., but now we hope for a growing band of certificated Lyceumists and Spiritualists to propagate our truths, under the inspiration of the spirit people who have guided our movement to its present state. It is the natural life of a growing and progressive movement.

G. F. KNOTT.

The £2,000 Effort.

Dear Lyceumists,

This month so far I have to record a few more donations to our effort, but I haven't got any response so far with regard to the shilling idea which I threw out in last month's BANNER.

The donations so far are as follows:—Miss Elliott (our President), by collecting cards, and which I am so pleased to say she is pushing very well, £1 2s.; Colne, Cloth Hall, 5/-; Leicester, Rupert Street, 8/-; Moston Lyceum, 12/-; Burnley, Hammerton Street, 5/3. Rupert Street, I am pleased to say, have increased their donation, Moston is the same as last year, and I welcome Burnley, Hammerton Street, as a new beginner.

I thank all these Lyceumists very sincerely on behalf of the Union for their continued assistance and hope that all other Lyceums will quickly follow suit. There is great room for improvement and a great leeway to make up if we are to bring our total to Conference as great as last year. I would be pleased to forward to any Lyceumist Collecting Cards for the Effort. I think they are an easy way of trying to raise our Effort. I do want you all to realize that it is YOUR effort. Every Lyceumist, whether young or old, bears a responsibility in this matter, and it depends on each of us whether we shoulder that responsibility or not.

Yours faithfully,

W. BURROWS,

Hon. Sec.,

£2,000 Effort.

29, Kliffen Place,

Coronation Road,

Halifax.

The First Lyceum.

When was the date of the first Lyceum Session?

The date of the first Lyceum Session at Dodsworth Hall, etc., when the system was introduced by Mr. A. D. Davis, has inadvertently been printed as Jan. 25th and Jan. 26th.

The exact date is Sunday, January 25th, 1863.

Students of the B.S.L.U. Examination Scheme are requested to note the foregoing date (Jan. 25th) as the correct date to use when replying to queries on the Examination papers.

An Internal Education Scheme.

By J. E. HART, M.I.P.S.

(Continued).

H. POINTS WORTH REMEMBERING.

How often it is said that the little things count in life and how sure it is also that at times it is the little points not remembered that mar the harmony of a session.

We acquire habits very easily if they are not good, because as a rule good habits are very hard to acquire and bad habits, when acquired, are very hard to get without. On taking a survey of a Lyceum Session one is surprised to notice, in concentrating seriously through the whole of the session, that the majority of errors are merely through want of forethought or through becoming automats, as, for instance, in the striking of the bell. One stroke means attention and silence. Two calls for Officers to rise, and three for the rest of the people in the Lyceum to rise. Four for all to be seated, but after the singing of a hymn, etc., one naturally expects four sounds, and immediately on the first stroke the tendency is to be seated, and invariably a good many are seated by the time the third stroke is heard. How much nicer it would be if all waited for the fourth stroke and all sat down together. Supposing, as a test, the Conductor struck three instead of four, the result would be surprising, and I have in some cases seen the whole seated at three bells. Therefore watch and listen, take an interest in all that goes on. Be just in small things and you will be just in great ones.

READING AND SINGING. These are a source of trouble regularly, through either acquired habit or lack of concentration. Words are not pronounced correctly and sometimes an erroneous idea is conveyed by not reading correctly, both by missing out stops or by putting them in where there are none. Word endings are also troublesome. Gs, Ds, Ts, etc., as also are consecutive Ds, etc. Let us take for example the line, "Hand in hand with Angels." This becomes sometimes "Han din an dwit hangels," the tendency being to link up the ending consonant with the commencing vowel of the next word. Try when reading, either at home or elsewhere, to stop at punctuation marks as follows: Count silently, one at a comma, two at a semicolon, three at a colon and four at a full stop. Another common error occurs in the sentence, "Doubt not joy shall come at last." Many readers infer that it is doubt and not joy that is to come. READ SLOWLY AND DISTINCTLY.

Expression is needed in reading and singing, and a good method is to picture or let the eye go in advance of the tongue and imagine actually what you are reading.

There has been in the past a big effort to establish grammar in the Education Scheme, and if points in grammar when singing or reading are taken into consideration each session and at times tactfully explained by Officers or members present who understand, we should be better fitted then to take grammar into consideration at examination times.

The whole of the mistakes made are easily rectified, and yet at the same time I realise how easy it is to say these things, but how hard it seems to find the material with which to operate. One must realise that the whole trouble lies in the Election of Officers. If we want efficient Lyceums we must have efficient Officers, and here we tread on very thin ice, because we have plenty of real good workers, but perhaps without the necessary knowledge to be imparted to the minds under their care. We must have these good souls who want to work, but the thing is to place them in the right place, and we should, where at all possible, endeavour to put in the Conductor's chair those with the varied experience and ability which is so essential. There are a few points we should study when electing people to office. Have they the time to fulfil their duties? Are they willing to do it? Many times people are elected contrary to their wish, the result being that after a month or so they relinquish their post and someone is saddled with two and even more offices. Let us then try to consider this serious question tactfully and with absolute tolerance and act accordingly.

CONDUCTORS should have a Dictionary handy during the Session because it is better to look up a word than evade an answer or give a wrong one. There is no disgrace in not knowing everything, but there is a drawback in not being willing to learn, and we come to the Lyceum to learn, or should do.

Still another point in reference to the Conductor in choosing the readings, etc., for the Session. It would be advisable to

choose early and look through them for words and phrases that are likely to prove difficult to the young minds; then look them up so as to be able to answer any question arising therefrom.

GROUPS. There are a few points worth remembering here, such as hesitancy in getting up, tendency to wander from the subject, long autobiography instead of interesting discussion. Personalities sometimes crop up, which, besides making the group uninteresting and restless, loses the thread of the subject.

In Callisthenics it is as well for leaders to be able to lead with either hand, and so, either face the Lyceumists or stand with their back to them. It is also better to do the first series perfectly, than two or three series done in a slipshod fashion and imperfectly performed.

Lyceums not holding a Social Class or Guild Class during the week for their members should endeavour to do so, as this tends to keep the members together and creates a good feeling between them.

There are plenty of things which could be made a help in instructing the children and bringing out their various faculties such as essays, etc., encouragement in solving the various puzzles in the *Banner*, or elsewhere. The Children's Newspaper contains quite a host of good things for all. Compositions could be made from titles from the *Manual*, and as an example of this, and also as a conclusion to the first section of the "Internal Education Scheme," I give you a composition on "What the Lyceum Teaches," containing titles from the *Manual*.

"WHAT THE LYCEUM TEACHES."

"The Lyceum" is "The Hall of Progress," a place of "Natural Worship" and "A Ladder of Light." It teaches true "Brotherhood," that is to "Be kind to Others."

We are taught "Our Rights," "Our Duties," "The Spiritual Litany," and "The Religion of Use," all of these being essentials in "The Conduct of Life." "Esteem Thyself" is "Heavenly Wisdom" which we shall be glad of in "The Hereafter."

"Self Abnegation," "The Ten Laws of Right," and the "Spiritual Commandments" should be "The Religion of Humanity."

"Life and Death" has no fear for the true Lyceumist, because they know that if they use their "Spiritual Gifts" aright and have "Back-Bone" they will daily walk "Hand in Hand with Angels."

There are "Two Sides of Life" and the Lyceumist on account of the "Wisdom" and continual use of "Precepts" seeks a "Reform" by "Steps of Progress" for "The Family of Nations."

"The attainment of Truth" has been inculcated ever since "The Origin of the Lyceum," and "When this Old Earth is Righted" and "The Coming of Angels" realised more than it is, and "Children" taught by "Deeds not Words," "The Roses of Life" are within our grasp, but when we see so many who do not "Scatter Seeds of Kindness" or try to "Catch the Sunshine," "There must be something wrong." "Are we not Brothers" and should "Have Faith in One Another" and "Cherish Kindly Feelings"? "Life is what we make it," therefore all Lyceumists should "Do Good" where they can and so "Joy will come at last."

"Parents and Children" alike are made at home and taught the "Philosophy of Life" and that the "Voice of Progress" is ever calling.

"The Religion of Health" is made fully understood by Marching and Callisthenics, so that we may long enjoy "Life and Happiness." "The Physical, Moral and Spiritual Order" making us fully conversant with "The Three Rules."

"The Lyceum" is the Spiritualist Sunday School, and "The Aim of Spiritualism" should be to keep "The Senses" well balanced, and so have agreed and true "Mediumship," ever remembering "The Pioneers of Freedom" and "Our Calendar of Saints" enabling us thereby to aim for "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" and "The Unity and Eternity of Labour."

"Live to Learn and Learn to Live," beware of "Pride, Anger and Ignorance," "Love" thy neighbour as thyself, know the difference between "The True and the False," at all times remember "The Teachings of Spiritualism," and above all, "Never give up the right way."

"The Lyceum" teaches us that "Children in Spirit Life" help us in play time and "Working Time," their "Spiritual

Harps" and "Voices from the Spirit Land" giving us "Sunny Days" and helping us to live according to "The Word of God."

We are also taught "The Kingdoms of Nature" and "The Nature of Man," as well as "Knowledge" appertaining to "Spirit."

On "The Voyage of Life" may Lyceumists always "Stand for the Right" and "Go Forward" "Shoulder to Shoulder" giving praise for "The School of Progress."

Correspondence.

HAS LIFE AFTER DEATH BEEN PROVED?

Question.—Admitting all phenomena of Spiritualism to be true, I decline to believe that Spiritualism proves the continuity of life after death. The experiences of Spiritualists are due to the sub-conscious mind and self-hypnotism.

Can you inform us, if possible, the best argument one could forward against the foregoing statement and show there is a life after death.

Answer.—The first answer a Lyceumist could give will be found in the *Lyceum Manual*. G.C.R. 141, "Spiritual Gifts," explains the kinds of phenomena. G.C.R. 140 explains "Mediumship." The evidences of Spiritualism are invariably produced through Mediums.

The psychic phases of personality are now established and cannot be refuted.

Through psychic research we have learned of the evidence of unseen forces in human beings. The five normal senses are generally used in ordinary life. We see, hear, feel, taste and smell. We weigh substance and our senses give the exact weight or measurement which is registered by the instrument.

The descriptions of the common standard of weights and measurements is subject to our understanding of agreed definitions to describe weight, length, depth, breadth, etc.

The scientific methods of understanding life and its manifestations are observation, experiment and deduction.

Our conduct, education and knowledge is governed by this process.

Now for a supplement of the answer given by the *LYCEUM MANUAL*, as already quoted. We believe no argument can be offered to a person who has already conceived that all phenomena in life is due to the subconscious mind and self-hypnotism.

But we definitely state that any person who wishes to be convinced of the true or false conceptions of Spiritualism must investigate the phenomena and give personal time, attention and study to the evidential objective powers of the alleged mediumship which produces materialised forms and objects.

There are instruments which have registered, on a double scale, the weight of the medium and the weight of a materialised form or spirit. This form has been the counterpart of a man and has displayed intelligence. The form has possessed shape, length, breadth and width.

As the form, or spirit, is visible and displays intelligence, and mobility, we use our normal senses and say "We have seen a spirit and know it to exist."

The Spiritualists claim such evidence to be fundamental in proving the existence of life after death. There are many other methods of proving our case, but the explanations need an understanding of mental processes in conjunction with material phenomena. It is not possible, in question and answer, to embrace a reply from this standpoint.

To sum up, we repeat, No argument or discussion can prove or disprove the evidence of Spiritualism.

Preconceived ideas must not outweigh new thought, or progress is deferred.

Evidence is necessary to new knowledge.

All the phenomena of life after death are not objective. It is absurd to use our mind for an earthly life and refuse it for a possible solution of the after-death condition.

The unfolding process of human and spiritual experience has made known to thousands that spirit communion is true. These experiences could not occur unless people continued their identity after death and renewed their conscious presence amongst humanity. They have knocked at the door of our consciousness. Spiritualists have opened the door and the proof of life after death has been obtained.

To deny these truths is shutting our eyes to the light. Spiritualists refuse to walk in darkness.

G. F. KNOTT.

TO GUILDITES

The publishing of the *Examination Questions* trespasses on the space of the *Banner*, so the *Guild Page* is being cut down this month, and only the *Kiddies' Corner* and our serial are being given.

The *Guild Page* will be resumed next month.

M. E. KITSON, Guild Leader



My dear Kiddies,

We are going to have a real jolly time together this month. A young Guildite from across the seas has forwarded some interesting information about the Maoris in New Zealand. I am quite sure, kiddies, that you will be delighted to read this interesting series.

Owing to lack of space in this issue, the story will be continued in the next issue (April).

Now read on, and when you have finished it, write to tell me how you like it.

PICTURE STORIES.—III.

The Maoris of the present day are not to be regarded as savages, not by any means. Many of the children are sent to public schools in the large cities, become well educated, and hold very responsible positions in various classes of business. Of course, some of them never leave their native villages. They prefer the rough and ready life, living in their small huts, which are made of marsh wood.

Some years ago, nearly all Maori women were tattooed on their lips and chins when they were married, but this custom is rapidly dying out. Also the Maori chiefs were tattooed to such extent that they looked very hideous. (How frightened we should be, kiddies, if we met one of these chiefs!) They used to wear big long cloaks of feathers, just like the Indians we see at the pictures.



COOKING FOOD

Now, just take a peep at the illustration, kiddies, and you will notice the funny way the Maori lady does her cooking. First, a small pit is dug in the ground, and inside this a fire is lit, a stick placed across the top of the hole, and the meat is suspended from the end of the stick and left there until it is cooked. In some cases a pan, similar to mother's frying pan, is used.

Now, isn't this a queer way of cooking breakfast, kiddies? It wouldn't suit most of us, I'm sure.

And the children make splendid playmates. They play all kinds of games: cat's cradle; hide and seek; and, like all

English children, simply love singing, and gather together in a group and sing away to their hearts' content.

(To be continued).

JANUARY COMPETITION RESULT.

The judges, having taken into consideration colour-scheme, designs, accurate and careful work, etc., awarded the 1st Prize of five shillings (5/-) to Elsie Burrows, Halifax, and the three other prizes to: T. W. Harrison, Middlesbrough; Doris Lovatt, Burslem, and Winifred Henshaw, Macclesfield. "Toby" books have been sent to: Alf. Wm. Richards, Salford; Irene Ferrill, Nottingham; Ingham Whitehead, Newton Heath; Edith M. Roberts, Walsall.

KIDDIES!

Look out for our Competition in May *Banner*, when several mystery prizes will be given. Now, doesn't this sound exciting! Be prepared.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Send along your letters, kiddies. I am anxious to hear of your Guild plans for the summer months. Will those who have sent such nice letters, please accept my thanks? I shall endeavour to reply to each in turn.

NOVELTIES TO MAKE.

I am grateful to one of our young Guildites for the following suggestion for a book cover:—

A piece of washing material is required. Cut out according to size of book, allowing a little for turning in at the edges. The cut material will then be oblong in shape. Make a hem all round to neaten the edges; or scallop them. To make the scallops strong, run a cotton thread round the tracing and then buttonhole the scallops. In one corner embroider a spray of flowers in silk, or a butterfly. To finish off the cover make two handles, attaching these to the ends of the cover. These covers look much nicer than a paper cover, and the handles are very useful if the book has to be carried any distance. Now, kiddies, just try this idea, and have one of these covers for your Manual or your school-books. I shall be pleased to receive any other Novelty suggestions from other Guildites. Now, kiddies, send them along.

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW UNCLE.

I have received an interesting letter from Uncle Joseph, who sends his greetings to all Guildites and wishes us well. He is going to assist in furthering our objects and aims and strengthen our ranks; besides forming a stronger chain of Brotherhood and Friendship between Lyceumists at home and those overseas. There may be Guildites who would welcome correspondence from Lyceumists in Canada or Australasia. If so, I am sure Uncle Joseph will be glad to put Guildites in touch with Lyceumists in those far-off lands.

GUILDITES' PEARL.

There is a star that beams on earth,
With tender, loving ray;
That lights the path of generous worth,
And speaks a brighter day.

(Friendship).

Yours fraternally,

THE GUILD IMP.
26, Albert Rd.,
St. Annes-on-Sea.

THE LYCEUM FOUNDATION SUNDAY.

A YEARLY DATE IS FIXED.

To obtain uniformity in the celebration of Founder's Day in the Lyceum movement, the last Sunday in January has been adopted as the day for this event.

Lyceum secretaries are requested to reserve the last Sunday in January of each year when yearly bookings are being considered, with a view to paying yearly tribute to the Pioneers of Lyceum principles.

The M.C. of the B.S.L.U. will hold an Open Session and Propaganda Meeting in the Temperance Hall, Bury, at 2-30 and 6-30 on Sunday, April 10th, 1927.

TRANSITION OF MR. FRANK F. BALL.

AUDITOR TO THE B.S.L.U.

We regret to record the passing of Mr. Frank F. Ball, of Lancaster, to the higher life, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, in Lancaster Infirmary, after a very painful illness.

Mr. Ball has served the Lyceum and Church in Lancaster for a long number of years and was the President of the Church at the time of his passing. He formerly served on the B.S.L.U. Management Committee, representing the Area now covered by the North-East Lancashire and Bolton Districts. The pressure of business caused his retirement, but Mr. Ball's services were too much appreciated to be lost and he was elected as Auditor when he succeeded Mr. Will Edwards in that position.

The interment of his mortal remains was conducted in a felicitous manner by Mr. Squire Spencer, of Blackpool. The Management Committee was represented by Mrs. Nurse, who spoke at the graveside of the good work Mr. Ball had accomplished. There were about 300 people present and the service was very impressive.

We hope next month to be able to give a sketch and photo of Mr. Ball, and in the meantime offer our sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Ball and the relatives who have suffered such a shock in the passing of an affectionate husband and, to us, a loving friend. His interest cannot die. We hope our common knowledge may be some solace and comfort to Mrs. Ball.

G. F. KNOTT.

B.S.L.U. ANNUAL FEES.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS, AREA REPRESENTATIVES, MOTIONS FOR CONFERENCE, ETC.

To retain membership with the B.S.L.U. all Lyceums must pay their fees not later than March 1st.

The forms for nominating Officers, Area Representatives and Delegates, are circulated during the first week in March.

A Lyceum Secretary's Guide has been circulated to each Lyceum and Secretaries are particularly requested to read the Guide and its references.

The next Annual Conference is the Revision Conference for the Constitution.

Motions for the amendment of any Article, section or clause, must be sent to the General Secretary not later than March 23rd to be eligible for the Conference Agenda.

March 23rd is also the last day for receiving general motions for Conference.

The names of Conference Delegates must be sent to the General Secretary not later than April 30th.

The B.S.L.U. Annual Conference will be held at Nottingham on June 4th and 5th, 1927. Miss Rayner, 112, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, is the local Secretary for Billets, etc.

G. F. KNOTT, B.S.L.U. Office, 20, Toad Lane, Rochdale, Lancs.

Spiritualists' Summer School, 1927.

Colet House School, The Promenade, Rhyl, North Wales.

Three weeks, August 6th to August 27th, inclusive.

Weekly bookings can be arranged.

PROGRAMME OF STUDIES, SOCIALS, CIRCLES, PRIVATE SITTINGS, etc.

Mornings. 10-0 to noon. Lectures and discussion. Afternoons devoted to excursions or town attractions.

Evenings. Informal discussions, Socials, Circles or Private sittings.

Wednesdays devoted to all-day excursions in one party or in groups. Saturday mornings free.

Terms: The School is open to all members of S.N.U. Churches, Subscribing Members, Lyceums and B.M.U. Non-members 20% extra.

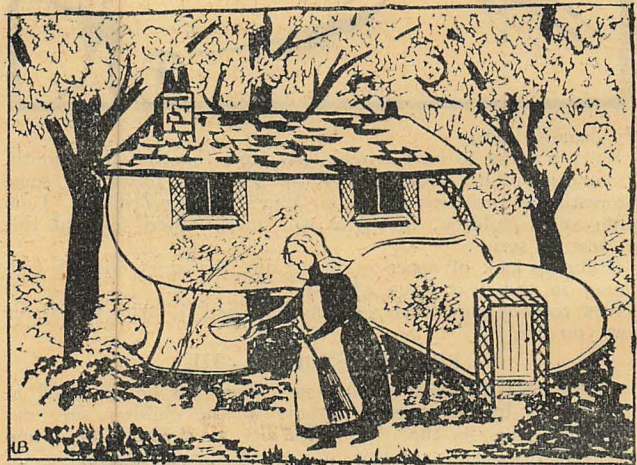
Double bedded rooms suitable for 2 persons, £3 3s. 0d. per person per week.

Dormitories (separate for ladies and gentlemen) Single beds: £2 17s. 6d. per person, per week, additional days at pro rata rates. All excursions are extra, and are optional.

Watch this space for announcements of Lecturers and Demonstrators.

For Booking Forms and other information write the General Secretary, Registered Office, 162, London Road, Manchester.

THE CHILDREN'S PUZZLE.



There was an Old Woman who lived in a shoe. She had so many children she didn't know what to do. She used to whip them all soundly and put them to bed, so the twelve children have run away. Can you find them?

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.

BIRTH.

NAYLOR.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Naylor, of Middlesbrough, on January 16th, a son, John; Spirit name, Herald of Peace.

MARRIAGES.

WELLINGTON, Kent Terrace, New Zealand.—The marriage of Mr. William Hughes to Miss Florence May Barton (elder daughter of our Musical Conductor, Mr. Hy. Barton) was solemnised on Wednesday, December 15th. Mr. R. A. Webb was the officiating minister.

FIRTH—MAY.—On the 6th November, 1926, at St. Andrew's Church, Subiaco, Australia, Mr. John Firth, of Nyabing, W.A., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Firth, of Fleetwood, late of Rochdale, to Elsie, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. May, of Subiaco, late of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

IN MEMORIAM.

FLEETWOOD.—Passed to the higher life, one of our Lyceumists, Feb. 6th, Ernest Thurston (Laddie), aged 12 years. "Hand in Hand with Angels."—Mrs. E. K. Firth, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Blandford Street.—We regret to report the passing of Miss Ellenor Hayles, on Dec. 19th, 1926. "Much respected."

A LYCEUMISTS' MEET IN SCOTLAND.

Lyceumists "At Home".

On February 5th an "At Home and Dance" organized by Miss Cleland, Area Representative, and Mr. C. Rankin, Western D.V., was held in the Masonic Hall, West Regent Street, Glasgow. All Lyceums in the West of Scotland were represented. The East was represented by Miss Blaik, Eastern D.V. England also was represented in the presence of the Rev. Wm. Heald, of Bolton. Letters of regret and best wishes were read from Miss Elliott, also from the President and the Secretary of the S.L.D.C.

The first part of the programme was devoted to concert items and games. Solos were given by Mrs. Rankin, Miss M. Livingstone, Mr. McNee and Mr. Barron: a duet by Misses Livingstone and Hatrick; recitations by Miss E. Gow, Master McMeekin and Mr. Robertson; violin solos by Mr. Wm. Shaw, accompanied by Miss M. Brown; and a dance, "A Spring Poem," by members of the Glasgow Association Lyceum. We also had the pleasure of two readings by the Rev. Wm. Heald, one of them in the Lancashire dialect, as a set-off to the fact that he could not understand all we were saying.

Before tea, a presentation from members of the Scottish Mediums' Union was made to Miss McLean, their Musical Conductor, who was shortly to be married.

The second part of the programme was given over to dancing, the younger ones being catered for in another small hall.

Thanks are due to all the artistes, stewards, conveners, and all who assisted in making the evening the success it was, not forgetting Mr. Moss, who so kindly played during the first part of the programme. This was Scotland's first joint "At Home," but we are looking forward to many more gatherings of the same kind.

"Esquire to Wallace."

District Visitors' Reports.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

The Lyceum movement stands for enlightenment, development and the scientific and philosophic interpretation of Spiritualism. I present this—my last report—in the hope that success will attend the efforts of the Educational students and that increasing numbers will take these all-important studies.

During the past three months I have visited Ramsden Street, Marsden, Commercial Street and West Vale Lyceums.

The Ramsden Street Lyceum has been passing through a state of crisis and the Church has been asked to take on the responsibility of a more active part in the Lyceum. I am hoping that in the coming Spring there will be a recovery which will lead to success.

On Jan. 16th I visited Marsden Lyceum and found it in a very healthy state. There were 34 present, and they were well and effectively led. The session was a good success.

On Feb. 6th I visited Commercial Street. There were 45 present. The marching and callisthenics were rendered in an effective manner. A very good session with group lessons.

At West Vale my impression was that there was a pressing need for the concentrated attention of the District Council to help this Lyceum. I regret to report that Martin Street Lyceum has ceased. A Church without a Lyceum has little probability if a successful future.—Seth Ackroyd, D.V.

A DISTRICT VISITOR RETIRES.

Mr. Seth Ackroyd, the Halifax and Huddersfield District Visitor for a long period, has retired from his labours in that position owing to advancing years. We record our grateful appreciation of his long and earnest service to the Lyceum movement.

Mr. Ackroyd has the goodwill of our Movement, and we thank him heartily for all the good work, especially in encouraging education and child welfare in the Lyceums. We hope he will retain our appreciation as a pleasant memory of good work well done.—G. F. Knott, Gen. Sec.

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

I have paid the following visits:—

Dec. 5th. Todmorden, Eagle St. 12 present. There was a discussion on the G.C.R. Marching and callisthenics fair. I hope to see a stronger Lyceum next time I visit them in their beautiful Church.

In the afternoon I visited Todmorden, Roomfield Buildings. 30 present. Prayer repeated by all. Marching and callisthenics and Sandow's exercises were done in a splendid manner. No reading or classes. Singing good. This is an active Lyceum.

Dec. 12th. Oldham, Elliott St.—10 present. Reading good and plenty of discussion. Most questions were asked by young Lyceumists. No marching or callisthenics. The afternoon session is better attended than the morning session.

Jan. 23rd. Oldham Central, Bow St.—12 present. Singing fair. Recitations good. 2 solos and a few pearls. Good music. Marching and callisthenics very good. The Lyceum is better attended in the afternoon.

Jan. 30th. Bacup. 57 present. Singing, reading and music good. Marching and callisthenics very good. I was very pleased to see that they have classes. We had a pleasant discussion in the Liberty Group. This Lyceum is a good, strong, active Lyceum.

Jan. 30th. Rochdale, Regent Hall.—We held a Propaganda Meeting, conducted by members of the Council. In the afternoon we had a successful Open Session. In the evening a service was held. Short addresses were given by Mr. Nurse, Mr. Dixon and Mr. Lord. Mr. Buckley officiated at the piano. Visitors were present from Rochdale (Penn Street), Middleton (Mill Street), Bury, Royton, Rochdale (Baillie Street), Dearnley, and Heywood. We had a pleasant day together.

H. BUCKLEY, D.V.

District Council Reports.

UNITED LYCEUM DISTRICTS.

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING.

The above Council will hold the Half-yearly Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, March 19th and 20th, at Halifax. Will all delegates please write to Mr. W. Burrows (Billet Secretary), 29, Kliffen Place, Coronation Road, Halifax, informing him of their individual requirements.

This year the Council attains its majority, having been established in November, 1906, so will all Councils see to it that this is a record year for all things concerning our movement?

Please note fees are now due for 1927. Will Councils in arrears see to these being made good?

Agendas, etc., will be forwarded to all D.Cs.

Hoping for a mutually benefitting time together.—J.S., Sec.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, February 12th, 1927, at Warrington Spiritualist Church.

Mr. Watson presided over delegates from Boaler Street, Daulby Hall, Southport, Runcorn, Wigan and Warrington, 3 associates and 3 visitors from Crewe Lyceum.

Mr. E. A. Keeling delivered the invocation.

The Minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted.

The Correspondence was read and accepted.

The President, in his address, congratulated the Council on the way it had maintained its new lease of life.

The Secretary reported the work done during the year.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance in hand, up-to-date, of £2 12s. 11d.

The Auditors reported the accounts were correct.

The District Visitor had been to Southport and Chester.

Mr. Watson gave a report of S.W.L. Group Meeting held at Warrington, and all the reports were accepted.

Election of Officers:—President, Mr. Watson; Secretary, Mrs. E. Clitheroe; Treasurer, Miss E. D. Eachus; District Visitor, Mrs. L. George; S.W.L. Group Representative, Mr. Watson; B.S.L.U. Delegates, Mrs. Clitheroe and Miss Owen; Session Competitions Rules are the same as last year, with one addition.

Open-Air Demonstration to be held at Southport on Saturday, June 25th. Messrs. Newsham, Loney, Watkins, Foster, Bellamy, Hirst and Jones were appointed Marshals; Mr. Watson, Marching Conductor; Mr. Knott to be approached to be the Speaker.

A Massed Session will be held at Warrington on Sunday, October 23rd. Conductor, Mr. Keeling; Musical Conductor, Mr. H. Foster.

B.S.L.U. Nominations:—President, Mr. Keeling; Vice-President, Mr. Mack; Treasurer, Mr. Williams; Area Representative, Mr. Hart; Auditor, Mr. Keeling.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to local friends for their hospitality.—E. Clitheroe, Sec.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The above Council held its Annual Meeting at Shipley Lyceum on Sunday, Feb. 13th, and was well attended.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Tellers were Mr. Babbs and Mr. Illingworth.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Correspondence adopted. It was decided to send a letter of sympathy to our Treasurer, who was absent through illness.

Two invitations from Lyceums, inviting the B.S.L.U. M.C. in July. We decided to accept the invitation from Saltaire.

The President's address was accepted. E.C. Report accepted and thanks given to the E.C. for their work done during the year.

The Balance Sheet was accepted. It showed a balance of £10 5s. 11d. Auditors' Report accepted.

Officers were elected for the year:—President, Mr. W. Thistlethwaite; Vice-President, Mr. W. Hudson; Treasurer, Mr. T. O'Neil; Secretary, Mr. E. Aked; D.V., Miss S. Hudson; Auditors, Mr. E. H. Coles and Mr. Illingworth; B.S.L.U. Conference Delegates, Mr. Aked and Mr. O'Neil.

It was decided to adopt the alphabetical rotary principle for Council meetings; to start in 1928.

We decided to have a neutral judge for the Shield and Bell Competition, and the matter be left in the hands of E.C.

A Whist Drive and Dance will be held at Idle for Council Funds.

In future the Balance Sheet and Agenda will be printed.

A subscription list is being opened for all Lyceums to contribute to make a present to our Secretary, Mr. Aked, for long years of service rendered to the Council.

A vote of thanks was given to all officers for services rendered for the last year.

A Standing Orders Committee was elected:—Miss Teal, Mr. W. Simpson, Mr. Bottomley, Miss Craig and Mrs. Craig.

An Open Session was held in the afternoon, conducted by Mr. Thistlethwaite. Evening service addressed by Miss Hudson, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Aked and Mr. Thistlethwaite. A vote of thanks to our Shipley friends brought a good day to a close.—E. Aked, Sec.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

In the absence of Mr. W. Burrows, our President, through illness, Miss G. Halliday presided over our Annual Meeting, on Sunday, Feb. 13th, at West Vale. Mr. Burrows, T. Ellis and Miss N. Hirst were re-elected to their respective positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. Miss G. Halliday has taken the office of Vice-President, in succession to Mr. Tom Coldwell, late of Slaithwaite Lyceum, who has taken up residence, after his marriage, at Goldthorpe. We wish him well. Goldthorpe friends please note you have got an efficient leader and worker; look him up! Mr. Baldwin, of Queen's Road Lyceum, has been elected District Visitor. Though younger in years, yet full of experience, Mr. Baldwin will make a good successor to Mr. Seth Ackroyd, who, through ill health and advancing years, has been compelled to retire from active service. As a token of love and esteem the Lyceumists of our District have contributed to and subscribed a purse of £9 2s. 6d.

The usual reports were given and adopted.

A very enjoyable session was held in the afternoon.

Miss Halliday very ably presided over a good service in the evening. Various delegates contributed to the successful meeting.

A special endeavour of the Council will be made to assist the West Vale Lyceum.—Tom Ellis, Sec.

LONDON DISTRICT.

The above Council held its A.G. Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 19th, at Bennerley Hall, Battersea, kindly lent for the occasion by the Battersea Church.

Tea was provided by the Battersea Lyceum and Church workers, who attended very thoroughly to the upkeep of the physical body, and thanks are due to them for helping to create such an atmosphere of harmony.

The business commenced at 5-30 p.m. by the singing of a hymn, followed by two minutes' silence for our arisen workers. The Invocation was given by our old and tried worker, Mr. M. Clegg.

Credential Report:—Officers 4, Assistant Officers 4, Councillors 4, Delegates 26, Hon. Associates 1, Associates 24, Visitors 12.

The President (Uncle Bert) gave a hearty welcome to all, and his address took "Go Forward" as the keynote.

The Reports all showed progress in the London Area.

A motion that no one under the age of 21 be elected as an Officer of the Council, was carried unanimously.

Decided that the Area Representative have a seat on the Council.

Decided to bring the "Interchange of Conductors" Scheme into operation on and from the first Sunday in April.

Thanks were given to the retiring Officers and Councillors.

The nominations and election of officers and councillors followed. Mr. Williams, Battersea, acted as Chairman, and Messrs. Sleman, Walthamstow; Brooking, Fulham; Gee, Battersea, acted as tellers.

The following compose the new Council:—President, Mr. A. E. Fruin; Secretary, Mr. E. E. Young; Treasurer, Mrs. K. M. Barnard; District Visitor, Mr. F. J. Miles; Vice-President, Mr. E. W. Drury; Assist. Dist. Visitors, Mrs. Fruin and Mrs. Petz. Assist. Secretary, Mr. A. A. E. Young; Councillors, Miss Abbott, Mrs. Tiffin, Mrs. Tyler, Messrs. Cox and Stewart.

Conference Delegates: Mr. and Mrs. Fruin.

U.D.C. Delegate: Mr. Cox.

L.D.C. of S.N.U. Delegate: Mr. Fruin.

After discussing various other items the meeting was brought to a very harmonious close by the passing of a hearty vote of thanks to Battersea Church and Lyceum for their hospitality and work.—Ernest E. Young, Sec.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In presenting my address to you, I would first ask you to let your thoughts go out to all past workers, embodied or disembodied, who are responsible for the foundations and building of this Council.

It has been my lot, together with my fellow colleagues whom you elected last year, to add to the work they did. To what measure of success we have fulfilled our obligations I will leave you to judge from the standpoint of each individual Lyceum.

Viewing the past year from a personal point of view, it has been a year of happy service for God and the angel world, the spirit of unity and co-operation being strongly marked on all hands.

I thank all fellow officers, members of the Council and Lyceumists for their support in the work; not least in this respect has been the close co-operation of my wife, who has made every effort to assist me in carrying out my duties. Further to this I would also like to express the Council's appreciation to all individual Lyceumists and Churches who have loaned us rooms or halls in which to carry on our work, and to all who have supported us financially, whether by membership or donations.

If there have been any unpleasant features during the year, I think we can well afford to lose sight of these, in view of the immensity of the work which lies before this Council.

Amongst the outstanding features of the years' work we see progress in the following items:—

Increased number of visits to Lyceums; joining the League of Nations Union; success of the Annual Demonstration; the opening of a new Lyceum at Harrow; proposed Lyceums in several new centres; the first of a series of United Rallies; the increased interest of Lyceums in the Eastern area, mainly due to the energetic labours of Brother Clegg; the Education figures for the year, 282 entered in 1927 Exams., and 274 entered for 1926.

I feel it is my duty in view of the increased interests in the Lyceum Movement on all hands to remind all who may be called upon to accept office to-night to be prepared to give full interests to the position to which they are called. Each office has its own qualifications, while it must be remembered that all the Council as a whole must always be prepared to carry out propaganda work.

I am convinced that there is a field of service for this Council in the future, which we to-night cannot measure the magnitude of.

I would have us all remember that there are a host of spirit friends who are ever waiting to give us their full co-operation in every forward step we undertake on their behalf. Therefore, let us go forward from to-night with a greater desire to serve God and our fellow men, than ever we have done before.

My suggested motto for the new Council is:—

Lyceum Education for LONDON; LONDON for the Lyceum.

Albert E. Fruin, President.

LYCEUM RALLY IN LONDON.

The second of a series of United Rallies will be held at Peckham, on March 12th, when it is hoped that the local M.P. will be present.

NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council took place on Saturday, Feb. 5th, at Market Street, Denton.

The President, Mrs. Ennion, was in the chair. Thirty-five delegates and members were present from Hyde, Denton, Macclesfield, Heaton Norris, Ashton, Hillgate and Lord Street.

Miss E. Minn and Mr. Minn were accepted as new members from Ashton Lyceum.

Correspondence was accepted. The Secretary gave the Financial Statement, which was considered a very good one. The Auditors' and D.V.'s reports were accepted with thanks.

The result of the Silver Bell Competition was announced, Denton Lyceum being the winner. They were highly congratulated on their success.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Dixon, of Manchester, who had acted as adjudicator for this Competition.

The best thanks were given to Denton friends for their hospitality.—E. Joules, Sec.

SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting of the above Council was held on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at Regent Hall, Rochdale. In the absence of the President, Mr. J. Nurse, through illness, Mr. A. Wright, of Rochdale, was voted to the Chair. Sympathy was expressed to our retiring President, Mr. Nurse, during his illness. Mr. Dewhurst was elected Credential Officer.

The Minutes of last meeting were adopted. Miss Isherwood, of Regent Hall, was admitted an Associate. The correspondence was accepted. It was resolved that we try to arrange propaganda meetings in the Oldham district. The D.V.'s report accepted with thanks.

All retiring Officers were thanked for their past services.

Election of Officers:—President, Mr. T. Dixon; Vice-President, Mr. S. Carter; Secretary, Mr. H. Greaves; Treasurer, Mr. Dewhurst; District Visitor, Mr. Buckley; Auditors, Mrs. S. Carter and Mr. Holt.

Credential Report: 11 Delegates, 1 D.V., 2 Associates.

The Council will conduct a Propaganda Meeting at Hartley Street, Littleborough, on Sunday evening, March 6th, 1927.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 14th, at Hartley Street, Littleborough. Important business.

Please note the new Secretary's address:—Mr. H. Greaves, 78, Newchurch Road, Bacup, Manchester.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD COUNCIL.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Pendleton Lyceum on February 12th, the President, Mr. J. E. Hart in the chair, and the following present, according to Roll Book:—Officers, 3; Associates, 4; Visitors, 2; Delegates, 31—representing 18 Lyceums. The Minutes of last A.G.M. were adopted.

Correspondence. The sickness of our Secretary, Mr. Dixon, was greatly regretted. Statistical form B.S.L.U. and applications. Correspondence adopted.

The President gave his address and remarked *re* Education Scheme, Marching, Statistics and Sessions in general. His address was adopted with thanks.

The reports were given. The D.V. stated that he had visited all Lyceums during the year and that there was a general improvement all round. Assist. D.V.s had done good work during their term.

The Treasurers' report showed a balance of £2 15s 8d. in hand, which was good considering the expenses during the year, and considering also that two years ago there was an adverse balance. Good work has been done all round.

The Auditors reported that the Treasurer had done his work well and there was no ground for complaint.

The Constitution Committee's report pointed to the suggested deletion of part of the Constitution.

The Adjudicators' report *re* shield was given and all reports were adopted.

The result of the Shield Competition was as follows:—1—Newton Heath; 2—Stretford; 3—Cheetham Hill; 4—Eccles; 5—Salford; 6—Maskell Street; 7—South Manchester; 8—Collyhurst; 9—Gorton; 10—Local Bd.; 11—Swinton; 12—Hollinwood; 13—Longsight; 14—Hr. Openshaw; 15—Broughton.

The Council rose for two minutes in respect to our arisen worker, R. Hope, and also to send out thoughts of health to Mr. Lee and Mr. Dixon, and for a continued recovery of Mr. Shaw.

The Election of Officers then ensued. Messrs. Taylor and Bennett were appointed as Tellers, and Mr. Neden as Chairman. The following were elected to office:—President, Mr. Hart; Vice-President, Mr. Hood; Secretary, Mr. Dixon; Treasurer, Mr. Lloyd; District Visitor, Miss Ashton; Assist. D.V.s, Messrs. Higginson, Parker and Williams; Auditors, Messrs. Betts and Bradley; Adjudicator, Mr. Bennett; Delegate to Conference, Mr. Betts; Trustees, Messrs. Betts and Bradley.

It was decided unanimously to support the following for nomination to B.S.L.U. offices at the next election:—President and Vice-President, Miss Elliott; Area Representative, Area F., Mr. Hart; Treasurer, Mr. Williams; Auditor, Mr. C. A. Lloyd. Mr. Neden then vacated the chair and Mr. Hart resumed.

A notice of motion was then referred to, which had been previously moved by Mr. Jones; it was decided to instruct the Secretary to send this along with any other arising out of the Revision of Constitution.

The meeting decided unanimously to withdraw from the U.D.C. on the grounds that it had done the work which it was set up for.

The quarterly meetings for the year will be May, Salford Central; August 20th, awaiting confirmation; November 19th, Hollinwood; A.G.M., Feb. 11th, 1928, awaiting confirmation.

Votes of thanks to retiring Officers and local friends were then tendered.

Mrs. Gershon spoke on the general work of a D.V. and the amount of tact needed, which was afterwards supported by Mr. Parker; the Internal Education Scheme section for the D.C. was also read by Mr. Hart, who stressed the same point.

We were pleased to have with us our esteemed President, Miss Elliott, who is an Associate and Past President of the Council. Miss Elliott spoke a few words of encouragement and a harmonious and happy meeting was brought to a close.

The Manchester and Salford District Council sends its best wishes to all other Councils, and hopes that a bond of fraternity will be felt by them, and that by such fraternity shall we establish the true aims of the Children's movement.

ADJUDICATION REPORT.

The possible points were 150. Newton Heath, 126; Stretford, 120; Cheetham Hill, 119; Eccles, 116; Salford, Central, 114; Maskell Street, 113; South Manchester, 112; Collyhurst, 110; Gorton, 109; Openshaw, 106; Swinton, 104; Hollinwood, 98; Longsight, 96; Hr. Openshaw, 91; Lr. Broughton, 89.

Special Reports.

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

BARROW, Dalkeith Street.—On Jan. 30th the Lyceum celebrated "Founder's Day," and was visited by Mr. Shuttleworth, of Darwen. During the Open Session several Lyceumists gave solos and recitations, and the reading provoked interesting discussions. At the evening service Mr. Shuttleworth gave an inspiring address on the subject "Through Jewelled Windows." Solos were rendered by Miss Sharples and our speaker. There was a good attendance at each service.—I. Walker, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—The Open Session on Feb. 6th proved a great success. The Lyceumists responded well and rendered their items splendidly, under the leadership of Mrs. Babbs and Mr. Wilman. Thanks are due to Mr. Hesling, of Huddersfield, for the encouraging remarks given to us. Miss M. Cook was the pianist. We cannot appreciate too highly the able manner in which all came forward to make it such a great success.—J. Babbs, Sec.

CALGARY.—With a good attendance we held our Andrew Jackson Davis' Day on Jan. 30th. After the opening hymn Mrs. Garrad gave the prayer and Mrs. Rushton took the Silver Chain Recitation. The life of Andrew Jackson Davis was read by Vernona Potts. Pearls by Dorothy Browning, Lorna Yoxall, Olive Alcock, Doris Warburton, Ronald Brookman, Mervin Eshlby, Jack Eshlby, Frank Jeffery, Mrs. Parkyn, and

William Garrad. Adding to our long programme we had recitations from Gladys and Doris Warburton, Dorothy Browning, Lorna Yoxall, Ethel Rushton, Dorothy Trumbley, Frank Jeffery and Ronald Brookman. Pianoforte solos by Vernona Potts, Mervin Eshlby and William Garrad; and a violin solo by Jack Eshlby. All the selections were given in an excellent manner, showing a lot of time in preparation for this day, which was enjoyed by all. Good Luck to all Lyceums from Calgary.

Best of luck to the Lyceum Banner during the coming years.—William A. Garrad, Sec.

DUNEDIN, New Zealand.—The Lyceum held a Session prior to being closed on Dec. 19th for the annual holiday. A number being closed on Dec. 19th for the annual holiday. A number of parents and friends were present. Pearls were given by all the children, and some fine quotations on "Success" by most of them. A "Welcome" was given by 7 Lyceumists, each representing a letter; followed by singing of "Heart Flowers," when button-holes were given to all present by big girls, and a beautiful bouquet of roses presented to Miss Burgess by Mrs. McConnell; also three smaller bunches of flowers by three tots, Joan Hargreaves, Frances Anthony and Hilda Paul.

Recitations were given by Jean McConnell, Frances Anthony, Hilda Paul, Roland Paul, Charley Bayliss, and a song by Joan Hargreaves.

Our good friend, Mrs. Dickel, had offered three prizes for elocution in three groups, 12 to 15, "Curfew must not ring to-night." Competitors: Freda Asher, Margaret Asher, Lilian Bayliss, Maureen Mumford (winner). 10 and 11 "The Daffodil." Edith Asher, Jean Sharp, Hazel Pratley, Daisy Brown (winner). 8 years, "Information Required": Dulcie Pratley, Kitty Dobbin, Mavis Dobbin (winner). Large text cards were given to all having sufficient attendance marks, and a small gift from Mrs. Burgess, who was also the recipient of many gifts.

Mrs. Dickel presented the three prizes, and Mavis Dobbin presented her with a lovely basket of flowers in violet and gold on behalf of the Lyceum, and Daisy Brown gave one in pink and mauve to Mrs. Ridd for her daughter Alice, an ex-teacher, who has been ill for so long, but is now happily recovering. During collection, which was a record, and one on behalf of the piano fund, Mr. Hargreaves gave a pianoforte solo. He also handed in £2 for this fund, as a result of the sale of a Christmas cake, kindly made and given by Mrs. Hargreaves.

A large box of sweets made by Mrs. Ridd, and won some time previously by Mrs. Geeson, was divided by her among the children present.

As all heartily sang the closing hymn, "Our Lyceum 'tis of thee," it was a pleasure to watch the happy faces. With mutual expressions of goodwill the afternoon closed. New Year greetings to all Lyceums and best wishes for continued success of the BANNER.—(Mrs.) R. Burgess, Conductor-Secretary.

HIRST.—On Feb. 14th we gave our Song Service, "Sunbeams," which was a great success. The recitations by the children were well rendered. The soloists, Misses M. Gordon, G. Wear, E. Tait, J. Tait, B. Scantlebury, and Master F. Wear (age 8), acquitted themselves well. Much of the praise is due to our organist, Miss Shears, who skilfully played her part; also the untiring efforts of Mr. Arrowsmith and Mr. Young, who devotedly help to instruct the children. Mrs. Davies gave a splendid cake, which drew a good sum. Good wishes to all.—J. Stafford, Sec.

LONDON, Battersea.—Our anniversary was held on Feb. 13th, and proved another success. 74 attended the afternoon session, and owing to fog, about the same number in the evening. The chair was taken by Uncle Bert. Our lady Conductor was presented with a beautiful fruit bowl from the Lyceum.—W. F. Holt, Sec.

LONDON, Clapham.—We held our Annual General Meeting on Jan. 30th. Officers were elected: Conductor, Mr. G. Searle; Asst. Conductor, Mrs. Tiffin; Guardian, Miss Luxton; Secretary, Miss P. Lewis; Treasurer, Miss Pennington; Librarian, K. Green; Musical Conductors, Miss H. Tiffin and Mr. Hargreaves; Drill Instructor, H. R. Barnard; Capt. of Guards, Mrs. Tiffin; Delegates to L.L.D.C., Miss H. Tiffin and Miss E. Lewis.

The reports showed that good progress had been made during the past year, having won the Silver Bell for the third time in five years and the second time in succession, also the highest in London for the Examination results. Although our membership has not increased to any extent we have made

up for that by working hard. Quality, not quantity, should be the motto of all Lyceums. We are out to do better than ever, under the new Conductorship of Mr. Searle. We all trust that this change in Conductors and other officers will be the means of making Clapham the best Lyceum in London, far above the present level.—Arthur A. E. Young.

LONDON, Lewisham.—On Jan. 23rd we had two most impressive naming ceremonies, of Alice Joyce Grieg, spirit name "Hope," and Joan Glozier, spirit name "Faith." Mr. Coleman officiated. Coming from the rostrum, two children gave beautiful flowers to each child.

Portions of the wedding cake of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton were distributed to the children by Mrs. Coleman.—E. Last, Sec.

A JOINT SESSION AT RISHTON.

RISHTON.—Massed Sessions held January 2nd, 1927, at the above Lyceum. The Sessions were conducted by Mr. W. Taylor, ably supported by Miss Coleclough, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Fazackerly, Mrs. Braithwaite and Miss Tayforth. Recitations given by Mrs. Braithwaite, Winnie Chambers, Maggie Nelson, Nellie Lycock, Ena Rimmer, Miss A. Doyne, Francis Laycock. Duet given by Nellie and Francis Laycock. Quartette given by A. Anderson, N. Daris, and Misses Swift. Over 50 Lyceumists took part in marching and callisthenics, which were done exceedingly well, and proved to be two most enjoyable Sessions.—N. Daris, Sec., Joint Committee.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 9th, 1927, opened by Hymn 322 out of Manual. Invocation by Mr. W. Taylor. Election of Officers are as follows: Conductor, Mr. H. Doswell; Asst. Conductor, Mrs. Whittle; Marching Conductor, Mr. W. Taylor; Treasurer, Mr. Crooks; Guardian, Miss Norris. We also thank our retiring Conductor very sincerely for his good work, and the interest he has created in our Lyceum.—Miss N. Daris, Sec.

TORONTO Progressive Lyceum.—On Feb. 6th we held our Open Session. Mrs. Byrd, our Conductor, was in the Chair. Recitations by Marjory Cleark, Lilian Ramsden, Dorothy Ramsden, Edith Pain, Ivy May Poynton, Thina Poynton, Edith Craddock, Dorothy Pain, Mary Solosky, James Poynton, etc. Reading by Mrs. Earl, Mrs. Baldwin and Emily Ware, solo by Mrs. Mandbridge.—E. Richardson, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Polson Ave., Canada.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 6th. We had a very good attendance and a very beautiful Session. Pearls, songs and recitations were given by Olive Forrest, Millie Crawley, Hazel Dale, Verna McLeod, Viola Dale, Mr. Brown, Sylvia Parkinson, Irene Turner, Harry Towns, Willie Towns. Pianoforte solo by Harry Forrest. Song by Mr. Pearson. Duets by Winnie Brown and Verna McLeod, Mr. Forrest and Mr. Chadwick. A very unusual and interesting part was given by one of our esteemed members who has the gift of Mediumship. It was a message from the spirit world describing the golden group of little children on the other side, and how they were taken care of. I am sure we all enjoyed that most wonderful and beautiful message.—J. Knox, 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 February 23rd.

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

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

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than March 23rd, to ensure insertion in the April issue.

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

ACCRINGTON, Pearl Street.—Open Session, Feb. 6th. Solos and recitations by Misses R. Swift, H. Swift, F. Laycock, M. Laycock, I. Sharples, G. Jenkins, M. Rose, E.

Rimmer and E. Scott, Miss Coleclough, Miss Holgate and Mrs. Chambers; Messrs. A. Anderson, H. Rimmer and W. E. Swift. God is our upliftment and our success.—A. Anderson, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On Feb. 6th our Open Session was enjoyed by all. Recitations by Edith Winters, Peggy May, Annie Watson, Doris Leighton, George Cameron, Nellie Connor, Elsie Makin, Mildred Hirst, Eileen Edwards, James Woodley, Edna Woodley, Beatie Callagan. Solos by May Stretton, Percy Woodley, Albert Thompson, Sydney Muir. Pianoforte solo by Edna Moore. Pearls were given and well explained. A hearty welcome to all who care to pay us a visit.—John Hirst, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM, Stirchley.—On Feb. 6th an Open Session was held. One of the Lyceumists conducted the service. Pearls and recitations were given by Lyceumists. Mr. Robb, of Birkenhead Lyceum, who is studying at Fircroft College, was present.—H. Fletcher, Lit. Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On Jan. 30th we held our Lyceum Day. About 120 Lyceumists and friends took part in the marching and callisthenics. Recitations were given by M. Turner, I. Naylor, I. Lightbown, M. Railton and C. Railton. Solo by A. Railton. Duet by M. and J. Robinson, Mr. H. Hargreaves, of Nelson, was our speaker for the day, and he gave a short address which was enjoyed by all. A good Session.—T. Wood, Sec.

BRADFORD, Ripley Street.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 6th, when the following took part: Misses Bairstow, L. Plumb, Kitty Ramsden, Miss Scarborough and Mr. Schofield.—E. Pickles, Sec.

BRIGHOUSE, Commercial Street.—On Jan. 29th and 30th we held our Lyceum Anniversary Services. On the Saturday, the Annual Tea, Concert and Prize Distribution took place. The concert, given by the Matrons, was excellent. The prizes were distributed by Mrs. F. Oade, of Brighouse, who is one of our Lyceumists. On the Sunday afternoon an Open Session was held. Solos and recitations were given by the Lyceumists. In the evening the choir rendered the anthem "Send out Thy Light," and Mrs. F. Oade was the speaker for the day. She gave a very inspiring address. The week-end was a great success.—F. Brook, Sec.

BURY, King Street.—On Feb. 6th, Mrs. Carr, one of our old members, distributed the Prizes for good attendance during 1926, to the scholars. She spoke some very encouraging words to all present.—Mrs. T. M. Lever, Sec.

DENTON, Central.—On Feb. 13th we held a Special Session, for the Presentation of the Silver Bell. It is a great honour for Denton to win it, as we are the youngest Lyceum in the Area. Mrs. Ennion, President of the Council, presented it. We spent a pleasant afternoon.—Miss Moss, Sec.

DONCASTER, King's Arcade.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 6th, conducted by Miss B. Moseley. Recitations, pearls and duets by the Lyceumists. Marching and Callisthenics were good. All spent an enjoyable Session.—A. A. Towle, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—Open Session held on Feb. 6th. Marching ably led by the Conductor, Mr. Batley. Callisthenics: the three series done smartly. The mental part of the Session was taken up with much interest by all. Recitations by George Consadine, Robert Rae, Harry Horne and Susie Brewer. Solo by Mrs. E. K. Firth. Duet by Mrs. Parkinson and Mr. Jordan, Kitty Thurston and Agnes Christopherson. Pianoforte solo by Nora Harris. Several Pearls were good and pleasingly received.—E. K. Firth, Sec.

GT. HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 6th, the following taking part:—S.C., W. Taylor; M.R., Miss Norris, H. Crooks and Mr. Doswell; G.C.R., Mrs. Hopper. Recitations and solos were rendered by various Lyceumists. We held our Annual Tea Party and Concert and Prize Distribution on Saturday, Feb. 12th, Lyceumists from Accrington, Pearl Street, entertained us with an operetta, which made an enjoyable evening. Our Conductor presented the prizes. The President of the Church occupied the Chair.—Miss Davis, Sec.

HOLLINWOOD, Byron Street.—On 5th Feb. we held our Annual Party when about 100 people sat down to an enjoyable tea, after which a most pleasant social evening was spent, the Hall being crowded with smiling faces. During the evening Mr. Hart, President M. and S.L.D.C., distributed the prizes awarded to Lyceumists for regular and punctual attendance

during the past year. Church workers assisted the Lyceumists and helped to make the event a huge success.—(Mrs.) V. Mycock, Sec.

HUDDERSFIELD, St. Peter's Street.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 6th, conducted by Mr. Garside. We had a Spiritual Naming by Mr. Garside, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dodsley, who was named Margaret Dodsley, Spiritual Name, Lillie. It was also our Prize-giving. We had a pianoforte solo by Edith Hollinworth; solo by Ivy Farnhill and Recitations by Herbert Buttle, Leslie Midgley and Peggy Turbin.—Elizabeth Farnhill, Sec.

IDLE, Co-operative Hall.—On Feb. 13th we held our Open Session, conducted by Mr. Bateson and Leslie Stone. Recitations, songs and a reading were given by Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Allen, Mr. Brewerton, Miss Allen, Mrs. Bateson, Ethelyn Bateson, Joyce Murgatroyd, Tom Murgatroyd, Harold Bateson, May Dawson, Leslie Stone and Miss Stone. Mr. Brooke was the accompanist. In the evening we gave a Service of Song, assisted by a few friends from Saltaire, Mrs. Bateson officiating for the connective readings.—A. W. Jacques, Sec.

LANCASTER.—On Feb. 6th we held our Open Session. The following recited:—J. Baines, 5; B. Kelly, 4; W. Baines, 3; M. Kendall, A. Bond, 1 each. Pearls: Mrs. Townsley, Mrs. Nurse and M. Kendall. A solo was rendered by Miss Bows-hill. In the afternoon we held our Prize Distribution. Mrs. Nurse of Blackpool, presided.—Mr. Hudson, Sec.

LEEDS, Alpha Street.—We held our Second Christmas Tea and gave a Ham Tea to about thirty Lyceumists and a present to each from Father Christmas. We had a tableau entitled "Snow Fairies and Father Christmas," by Lyceum scholars; there were 3 fairies, 3 princes and 3 mortals, with Mr. Mower as Father Christmas. We were also entertained by the Lyceum Morris Troupe, and spent an enjoyable evening.

On Jan. 29th we had a naming of one of our Lyceumist's baby, grandson of our Musical Conductor, Mr. Duxbury. Mrs. Schofield, Conductor, gave the name of Derek, spirit name "Fearless." The baby was carried under a bower of flowers.—F. Fawcett, Sec.

LEEDS, Armley.—We held our Anniversary Services on Feb. 5th, 6th and 7th. About eighty sat down to tea on the 5th, followed by a Concert in the evening. Sketches, entitled "Transformation" and "The Scout Barbers," were given by the young ladies and young men respectively, with songs, recitations and other items.

On Sunday, a double Naming Ceremony was conducted by Mrs. Firth, assisted by our Speaker for the week-end, Mrs. Hurley, of Morley. Monday concluded a most enjoyable and successful Anniversary. The new Lyceumists were Violet Horner, Spiritual Name "Hope," and Norman Ackroyd, Spiritual Name "Raymond."—G. Lee, Sec.

LEEDS, Psycho.—On Jan. 30th we held a Service of Song entitled "Summerland." Mr. A. Clay, an earnest worker of Batley Carr Lyceum in its infancy, coached our Lyceumists and was gratified by the large congregation that listened to it and by the favourable comments passed afterwards. The proceeds were in aid of Church Funds.—Arthur Daisley, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—On Jan. 30th we held a Naming Ceremony by our Conductor, Mrs. F. M. Thwaites. The son of Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Ada Townsend was duly named Kenneth Charles, Spirit Name "Stephen." On Feb. 6th we had our Annual Election of Officers. Conductor, Mrs. F. M. Thwaites; Assistant Conductor, Mr. W. Beck; Treasurer, Mr. T. Kenney; Secretary, Mr. S. J. C. Wheatley; Guardian, Mrs. Noon; Guards, Kitty Townsend and Herbert Clements.—S. J. C. Wheatley, Sec.

LEICESTER, Rupert Street.—On Feb. 6th we had our Open Session. The following Lyceumists took part:—Misses M. Coysh, A. Hughes, D. Jayes, Mrs. Dehoue, Mr. W. Beck, Master W. Coysh and H. Jayes. On Feb. 20th Mrs. Copley distributed the prizes and gave a short address which was enjoyed by everyone present. There was a large attendance of friends and scholars. Miss E. Wicks conducted.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LEICESTER, Silver Street.—On Jan. 30th we held a special Open Session. The S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. Officers visited the Lyceum. Callisthenics and Marching were well rendered by the scholars. Prizes were distributed by Miss Elliott and Mr. G. F. Knott. We thank all friends for their kind support.—L. Underwood, Sec.

LEIGH, Market Buildings.—Election of Officers: Conductor, Miss Turner; Assistant, Mr. Woodard; Treasurer, Master Whalley; Guardian, Master J. Moulding; Leaders, Boys; J. Bailey; Girls: L. Bailey.—A. Moulding, Sec.

LINCOLN, Coultham Street.—Open Session Feb. 6th. Conductor Mr. Raspin. Good attendance of members and friends. Several musical items, recitations and pearls were given by our young members. We have held two Socials, in addition to improvement classes. Much interest has been created and new members have joined us.—N. Willey, Sec.

LONDON, Brixton.—We are progressing favourably, especially with the young men's group, which now consists of about twenty members. We also have several new Lyceumists, including Church members, thus making a closer link between Church and Lyceum. Another of our members, Mrs. Melloy, gave an evening of Psychometry, which realised a good collection. The proceeds went towards paying the expenses of the Christmas Party.—F. B. Cross, Sec.

LONDON, Forest Hill.—On Jan. 1st we held our Annual Tea Party and Christmas Tree. The tree was decorated with toys and presents for all Lyceumists. Prizes were distributed by Uncle Bert. Over 100 children and adults were present and spent a very enjoyable time together.—Alice E. Payne, Sec.

LONDON, Manor Park.—On Jan. 29th we held our Annual Festival and Prize-giving. About 60 sat down to tea, including Uncle Bert of the L.L.D.C. The tables were gaily decorated and looked very effective. There were a goodly number of visitors after tea to hear the Lyceumists' special efforts and witness the distribution of prizes. Mr. Sarfas, President, kindly officiated and handed out 36 prizes for attendance and eight *Manuals* for good conduct, including two for special efforts during the year, won by Eileen Trumble and Charlie Lion, and one to Margaret Mephram for the best essay on Soul and Spirit. The remainder, who did not gain prizes, received a small gift. The workers each received gifts provided by two Officers of the Lyceum. Finally, a bouquet was presented to Mrs. Goater for her generous spirit in giving and doing for the Lyceum whenever needed. The evening closed happily and successfully, all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.—(Mrs.) E. M. Marmoy, Sec.

LONDON, North.—Jan. 23rd. We conducted the Evening Service. Their meetings are always a pleasure to us. Two little children gave papers. Miss Allison beautifully rendered a solo and complimented the Lyceumists upon the Love and Harmony which prevailed, making the meeting a great success.—Nellie C. Whorlow, Sec.

LONDON, Stratford.—On Jan. 20th we held our Annual Tea and Prize-giving. Uncle Bert distributed the prizes and reminded us in song, "The more we are together the merrier we will be."—Reg. A. Manning, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham.—We are still trying to live up to our name, Progressive Lyceum. On Feb. 20th twenty-eight of our Lyceumists sat for the various grades in the Education Scheme. This encourages us to go forward. We wish success to all Lyceumists who sat for the Exam, and also to the Education Scheme generally.—Gerald Markham, Session Sec.

MANCHESTER, Lr. Broughton. We held our Open Session on Feb. 13th and all enjoyed themselves. Our young Leader was complimented on the marching. We thank Uncle Joseph for his presence.—C. Day.

MIDDLESBROUGH, Grange Road.—Feb. 6th, Open Session, conducted by Mr. Nellist. A naming ceremony was beautifully performed by Mr. Ben Carter. A pianoforte solo was ably rendered by Mr. Shipman; a recitation by Mr. Howard, and solos by Vera Wells, Miss E. Bonsor and Mr. Roeder.—M. Harrison, Sec.

NELSON.—Our Open Session on Feb. 6th was one of much encouragement, items being splendidly given, and credit is due to all who helped to make the Session bright. One of our old Lyceumists, Mrs. Freeman (née Whalley), had their little daughter named on Sunday, Feb. 13th; earthly name, Audrey Christene; spirit name, "Gloria." Our Conductor performed the ceremony. Hammerton Street Choir, Burnley, gave us a fine performance of a humorous sketch, "Mischievous Timothy," on Feb. 5th, to a very large audience. The event was successful and delighted the audience.—James Parkinson, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—On Jan. 15th we held the Children's Tea and Prize Day. It was a great success. On Jan. 16th we

held an Open Session. A great number of recitations, solos and pearls were rendered and made the day a success. A welcome to all.—J. E. Chappell, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—Prize Distribution by Mrs. Howell on Jan. 23rd. 80 per cent. received awards. Election of Officers. Conductor, Mrs. Hayward; Treasurer, Mr. Grace; Guardian, Mr. Wheeler; Musical Conductor, Winnie Paget; Librarian, Clara Jones; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Rose.—L. Paget, Sec.

RAWTENSTALL.—On Feb. 6th we held our Open Session. Pearls were given by Mr. Stansfield, Mr. Walmsley and Miss Smith; recitations by L. Tann, P. Greenwood and H. Howarth; duets by P. Greenwood and May Smith, Miss Entwistle and Mrs. Greenwood. On Saturday, Feb. 12th, we held our Annual Distribution of Prizes and Concert given by the Lyceum scholars under the tuition of Mrs. Tann and Mrs. Greenwood, entitled "Princess Janquilla's Necklace." Mr. Tann was at the piano. Our Lyceum Conductor, Mr. Tann, gave forty-five prizes. Altogether we had two enjoyable services.—Mrs. Greenwood, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 6th, conducted by Mr. G. Armitage, and assisted by Master A. Thwaites and Master J. Le Nourey. Muriel Brooks, Alice Thorpe, Kathleen Jonen gave recitations; Mr. S. Smith and Master J. Le Nourey gave pearls. The marching and calisthenics were good, conducted by Miss H. Jones.—E. Johnson, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley, Gifford Road.—On Feb. 6th we held our Lyceum Day in aid of the Church. The afternoon Session was well attended, a sad note being imparted to the Session when memorial hymns were sung by Lyceumists for one of our youngest members, Harry Cooke, who passed to the higher life on Feb. 1st, 1927, after a very short illness. Both the evening services were taken by Lyceumists and were much appreciated. Allan Truelove, Sec.

SMETHWICK.—Feb. 12th was a red letter day. We gave a Concert for the Building Fund. With the abilities displayed there is progress and success being attained. Pianists were Miss Dora Lewis (Musical Conductor), Beth Upton, Miriam Parkes; recitations were given by Miss E. Peters (Elocutionist), and Bernard King; songs by Miss Lewis, Nellie Maybury; Violin, Tom Dealey. The following Lyceumists rendered the sketches "The Birthday Party," "The Teashop," and "Rendez-vous." Marion Dyke, Beth Upton, Brydie Powell, Rosie Haywood, Miriam Parkes, Irene Dorris, Ida Adkins, James Pibworth, Alfred Powell, Joseph Dyke, Tom Dealey. A presentation for the fund was made by the Lyceum and handed over in rhyme to the Church President by Brydie Powell, Alfred Powell, Bernard King. Mrs. Dealey responded to the President on behalf of the Lyceum. Our Conductor, Mr. Upton, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Leaders, and also to Mrs. Langford and friends, who had taken such keen interest in the children. This was supported by Mrs. Maybury.—J. Cotton, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On Feb. 6th we held our usual Open Session. Recitations were given by K. Rushworth, C. Smith, L. Burrows M. Higginbottom, J. Rushton and A. Smith. A duet was rendered by Miss F. Rushworth and Miss M. Whitaker. We had a very pleasant time.—A. Sutcliffe, Assist. Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Brunswick Street.—On Feb. 6th we held our usual Open Session. Invocation by Conductor; S.C. and G.C.R. fairly well responded to. The marching and callisthenics were fair. Recitations by each of the Shore Group members. Duet by Guardian and Conductor. Songs by Liberty, Excelsior and Shore Groups. It was an enjoyable session.—S. Williams, Sec.

WALSALL.—Our esteemed friend and President, Mr. J. Venables, J.P., one of the first founders of our Walsall Lyceum over forty years ago, attended the Session on Sunday, Feb. 20th, and distributed over eighty prizes won by Lyceumists and Leaders during 1926. Mr. V. H. Lawton, Superintendent, conducted the Session. A very enjoyable time was spent by all Lyceumists and visitors who were present.—Lilian L. Wadsworth, Sec.

WHITLEY BAY.—On Feb. 6th our Third Anniversary was held. A large number of prizes were presented by Mrs. S. Stratford. Pearls and recitations were given. An enjoyable afternoon was spent.—Mrs. M. Hall, Sec.