

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 443. Vol. XXXVIII.

JANUARY, 1928.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

UNFOLDING LIGHT.

Hail! glad new thought, unfolding light,
Dispelling woe on earth's fair morn;
The gift of esoteric sight,
Within the human frame is born.

The realm of mind is clearer now;
Tympanic sounds mysterious play
Thrills those who now to wisdom bow
To herald in the brighter day.

A year, a decade, and an age
Are found within records of time;
But we inherit, through the sage,
The wisdom from the great sublime.

We progress woo, and find its merge
In books, in men, and growing thought,
In fusing with the divine urge,
Strong in the deeper vision brought.

A New Year's Message from the President.

Greetings to Lyceumists everywhere!
Once again we are nearing the end of the dark December days and looking forward with some amount of optimism to the incoming of 1928.

As we take a retrospect of 1927 we feel somewhat pleased to say farewell to the many *very* difficult periods that have overtaken many of our Lyceumists. Yet those experiences are often the testing point in our lives, that brings out the real man or woman in us, and enables us to rise to higher altitudes of life.

We are reminded of the message of the Angels "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men," and we realise this is not an impractical thing, but the vital oasis of life. "Love" is the greatest security of life, and although it is greatly and chiefly manifested during this festive season, I want to appeal to all Lyceumists to manifest love and kindness every day of the year, to ensure the perfect and lasting peace.

Whatever deserves our true loving, is stronger than death or decay. Memory links us up with the past and our thoughts extend to those who have gravitated to other lands. The bonds of love and fellowship are re-united by thought, yea, we too are reminded of that fellowship of the spirit people, whose loving influence sheds its bright rays into our lives and oftentimes illumines our pathway and gives us a thousand and one ways that our lives might be the better thereby. It is in this spirit of "Fellowship" I want us to face the New Year, to create a better feeling amongst Nations, and whatever our position in life is, the result will be a greater feeling of confidence and friendship in each other.

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints in the sands of time."

In accordance with tradition, we shall all be making new resolutions with every intention of fulfilling the same. Can I then put the following questions before you? What are you doing towards maintaining and upholding the dignity of the Lyceum Movement?

Is your Lyceum proficient? If not, why not? Are you supporting the Education and College Scheme? Are you helping to achieve the £2,000 appeal which you will find in this issue of the Banner? Do you read and take interest in the Lyceum Banner, and other literature that is issued by the Lyceum Union?

To show your appreciation of the many blessings that have come to you through this glorious cause of the Lyceum, and

for the Educational advantage obtained, the most studious, the most successful, must recognise that there yet remains

"So much to do that is not e'en begun;
So much to hope for that we cannot see;
So much to win, so many things to be."

Yet, to merely answer "Yes" to the foregoing questions is but begging the questions. I want you when making your New Year's Resolutions, that you will give your moral support in the furtherance of the many Ideals of our Movement as whole-heartedly as is humanly possible.

"Build on resolve, and not upon regret,
The structure of the future. Do not grope
Among the shadows of old sins, but let
Thine own soul's light shine on the path of hope,
And dissipate the darkness."

My loving thoughts are extended to those Lyceumists overseas who are bravely endeavouring to carry on our Lyceums abroad; though distance divides, thought and memories link us together.

"The mind can pierce where the eye cannot see,
Therein lies the secret of the soul,
To feel is to understand.

Language cannot express the absolute."—G.F.K.

To Lyceumists the world over, I extend my warmest and sincere greetings for "A Bright and Happy New Year," and may it bring to each that happiness we deserve.

Yours fraternally,
EDITH ELLIOTT, A.N.S.C.,
President, B.S.L.U.

MR. AND MRS. KITSON. GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kitson celebrated their Golden Wedding on December 22nd, 1927.

We send our heartiest greetings to our Adviser and his good lady and hope they will enjoy many years of continued joy in the evening of their earthly companionship. We are sure all BANNER readers will join us in our good wishes.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL RETURNS.

The Annual Statistical Form has been sent to all Secretaries. Any Lyceum which has not received a Form should write the General Secretary and another Form will be sent.

Secretaries are requested to note that the Lyceum Annual Fees to the B.S.L.U. should be paid before March 1st to ensure the continuous privileges of membership of the B.S.L.U.
G. F. KNOTT, General Secretary.

£2,000 Effort Report.

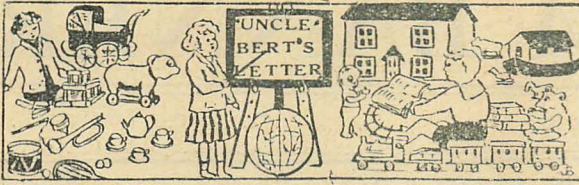
Dear Lyceumists,

I am very sorry to have to record that this month I have received no donations whatsoever. It must be that you have all been saving up for Christmas. If so let me have your donations as early as possible. One thing I would like to bring to your notice, *WE HAVE PASSED THE QUARTER MARK*. Just think, it has taken us from 1921 to 1927 end to raise one quarter of our £2,000 we promised. I hope it won't take so long to raise the remainder.

Don't forget A. J. Davis' Day, and let me have your collections as early as possible. Best wishes to all for a prosperous New Year.

Yours fraternally,

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



My Dear Boys and Girls,

Here we are leaping into 1928, all merry and bright after the gay events of the past week.

Is it correct, or is it only my imagination, that quite a lot of you did so much feasting that you boys have had to get your mothers to put a V in your waistcoats and girls have had to let a tuck out?

If this is the case, perhaps it is just as well that we do not have a Christmas every week, or what a size some of you would be.

Why, surely we should not be very long before we came to an age of Giants like we read of in our Fairy Tales.

Although Christmas is over, it seems to me that the real good times are still ahead.

New Year parties are now the event of the month; what a great time we are going to have. Auntie Ruth, Doris and I have already quite a lot of invitations.

I am afraid I shall not be able to accept them all, as so many come on the same date, but we shall do our best to get to as many as time will permit, as we all love a good romping time.

We are experts at playing Postman's Knock, Nuts and May, Kiss in the Ring, Sally go round the Moon, I sent a letter to my love, etc., etc.

Oh, it's so s'nice to be an Uncle, especially at this time of the year, for you never have time to feel blue when there's so much to do.

It reminds me of the notice you see outside petrol stations which reads "Fill up here," for you go in and have the spirit of cheer pumped into your engine, wherever that part of you is, and then you speed along, past many milestones on the journey of life, with the sunshine of happiness shining on your pathway.

It is in this spirit we should all endeavour to leap into 1928.

They say it is the ladies' privilege to make proposals this year. Let that be as it may, I am no lady, but all the same I am going to propose to you all that we should enter this year with **Courage**, being brave to stand for the right. That we should ever strive to be **Humble**, for there is no room for highbrowed people in our Movement, we are all linked together by the bonds of fraternal Brotherhood.

We must be **Energetic** and **Enterprising**, for there is so much to do that we cannot afford to be lazy. We must look out for new ideas which are going to make for Progress.

In doing this we must show every **Respect** towards our Parents, Conductors, Teachers and Friends, for they give up so much of their time to help us that it behoves us to be **Faithful** to them—showing them our trust in them by our actions.

We must also be **United**, for unity is strength. The strongest link we can weld is that of **Love**, for love is the highest ideal in life, for God is love, and we are His children.

Above all things, let us be **Natural**, swank and cockiness are amongst the worst faults in life, because selfishness plays such a large part in both.

Earnestness in all we undertake for the Lyceum or anything else will be found a useful asset to each of us and will be a sure method to adopt if we desire **Success** in our efforts.

Service is open to every boy and girl, man or woman, who wills to enter upon it.

At this period of the year, when we look back, we all see how much we might have done, how little we have done according to the opportunities which have been ours.

1928 is here. What about it? boys and girls.

You see by the extra thick letters above that **CHEERFULNESS** is my proposal to you.

I have suggested just a few simple ways we can bring it into play. I hope all of you, especially the large number who have promised to be Sunshine Rays during this winter, will do all you can to join with me in endeavouring to carry these proposals out.

If you do this I am sure you will all enjoy A **HAPPY NEW YEAR**, which is Auntie Ruth's, Doris's and my wish for each one of you.

This letter commences the fourth year of this page. Therefore I think it would be fitting to tell you a few things about it and my hopes for its future.

Reviewing the past three years, Auntie Ruth and I have experienced much happiness by the wide bond of friendship it has created between ourselves and its many readers. Each month brings us a large batch of letters from various centres. It is pleasing to note that some of the writers have never missed a month since they started.

Others who write us at less frequent intervals keep the link of friendship unbroken.

A special word of congratulation is due to co-workers, who make arrangement to collect the children's letters each month, and forward them in a batch to save the children the expense of postage.

Three inches on your nose would make an outstanding feature. Likewise three years in age marks many changes in one's life. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that some of the children who wrote in the early days have now left school and have entered the business world. It is pleasing to see that such do not consider themselves too old to write to their Uncle.

Such letters have opened up a useful section through the medium of correspondence.

While this is a children's page, Auntie Ruth and I both hold a very keen interest in the young men and women of our Movement.

We always welcome the opportunity to be of service to you, in endeavouring to help you with your doubts and queries. Uncle Joseph once referred to me as "Father Confessor." Three years' efforts in this page has proved it was no idle title. There is, however, no Penance Money to pay for any assistance we can give you; a stamped addressed envelope for replies is all that is required.

The future of this page will continue as at present, my main wish being to create the Spirit of Cheerfulness, Fun and Helpfulness to all, always extending the good wishes of fellowship with my colleagues, Uncle Joseph, The Guild Imp and other writers.

PUZZLEDOM CORNER COMPETITION.

- Answer No. 81. 1. Exchange Greetings.
2. Welcome Postman.
3. Receive Presents.
4. Create Happiness.

- No. 82. A Greeting to my little friend,
This time of Christmas holly;
May Happiness on Joy attend,
And all the time be jolly.

Answers received from:—Liverpool, Florence Stuart, Helena Tollerton; Wigan, Emily Bispham; Peckham, Phyllis Watts; Manor Park, Doris Nash; Portsmouth, Eric and Mary Hayward; Newton Heath, Messrs. Joe and Walter Taylor, Miss Dora Ingham, Alice, Celia and Ivy Whitehead, Mrs. Robinson, Lucy Mannell, Irene and Madge Tyrer, Marjorie Slingsby, Beatrice Smith, Ellen Barnett, Gladys Bayliffe, Dora Wakefield, Ivy Whittle, Madge Spence; Bury, Mrs. and Nellie Dean, Edith White, Leslie, Ernest, and Florence Morris, Edith Taylor, Frank Pedlar.

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE.

This month we shall have our second **TEST MATCH** for answers to Puzzles. This is sure to form a strong contest between Newton Heath, Portsmouth and Bury, but I want to see others enter.

The winners will be the Lyceum who score the highest number of points.

Puzzle No. 83 (For Manual Searchers).

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. PLOT | 6. SAM |
| 2. COLT | 5. COAT |
| 3. KNOT | 4. LOST |

The above are first letters taken from *Manual Titles*, for example:—1. PLOT. See G.C.R. 126.

No. 84. Find a Lyceumist hidden in the following lines:—
 "It was a lovely night for a ride, Eric drove the car and Katie intended to see over some new houses, but Norah suggested it was too late."

No. 85. Letter A Sentence.
 "A . Y . A . . . A . . . I . . . A . E . A . R . . . G . . . G
 A . . . A . . . R . . . T . V . . . A . . . E . N . . . N . A . T . R
 A . . . R . . ."

Greetings from all London and Portsmouth Lyceums
 With Love,
 Your Loving Friend,

UNCLE BERT.

Letters should be addressed to Uncle Bert, 2, Villiers Road, Osterley, Middlesex, not later than January 17th.



Unique Photography.

An Experiment by G. F. KNOTT.

Mrs. Lingard, formerly of Rochdale, now in U.S.A., was a medium who had been giving public trance addresses and clairvoyance from the age of 16 years.

Some years after her marriage she was relating to me that a sceptic, whom we both knew, had taken a spirit photograph of one of her "guides." The sceptic showed the result to the medium, admitted he was puzzled, and destroyed the photo and negative rather than admit the evidence of the presence of the spirit. He excused his conduct by saying he must have made a 'double exposure.'

One night, after I had learned of the foregoing experience, I was sat with Mr. and Mrs. Lingard during a seance, and the spirit, a black child, said it was not right that her picture should have been destroyed.

Both the husband and myself possessed cameras, so I suggested we each made two exposures to try and obtain the photograph of the spirit. My conditions were that I should find the plates, load the cameras, and provide the room in which the photos should be taken. I was to develop my two plates in my own dark room and the husband must develop his plates at his home.

I provided a room and had the plain back of a theatrical scene for a background. The medium sat on a chair which was placed on a low platform.

Our cameras were set ready for the exposures. I gave instructions to the medium to tell me when she felt the control of the spirit. As the medium went into a trance when under control the position was rather difficult.

I used my inspirational sense and saw the medium was changing so I said, quietly but quickly, "You are under influence."

The voice which replied was the voice of the spirit, "Yes I am here."

I said, "We will expose while you are there."

The spirit said "No, wait a little while," but I was impetuous for I realised the spirit had full possession of the medium.

I commanded the spirit not to move the medium and we made two exposures each, of 23 seconds duration.

The medium became conscious and asked me was I satisfied. I said I was satisfied about the control, but we should have to wait and see the result of the exposures.

I went to my dark room and my friends went home. The result of my efforts were apparently a failure, as I could see no extra on the negatives.

The plates were left to dry, and two days after I made a print. I was surprised to find the face and hands were not white, but nearly black. I made a few more prints by the daylight and gaslight processes, but with the same result.

Then I went to my friends' and found Mr. Lingard had not developed his plates, so I developed them myself, with the same result.

I asked the medium could she explain what had happened. As she had been entranced she knew nothing about the exposures.

"Oh," she said, "there is an explanation. I can see Topsy (the control) laughing."

"Will you ask her?" said I, "why you have the dark face and hands, but no spirit form has been shown?"

We held a seance and the coloured spirit spoke through the medium, telling me "I would have my own way; I was in too big a hurry. I had not given the spirit any time to leave the body of the medium and build up her spirit form with the 'stuff' she would have to use to show herself. And so she (the spirit) decided to stay where she was—in the body of the medium—she had no patience with stupid folk." That was the reason, said the spirit, "that I had got her and her medium all mixed up."

The result was thus explained and after twenty years I have unearthed one of the negatives and had an enlargement made. It is a phenomenal photo of peculiar interest and possibly I have not valued it as much as I ought to have done. It gave me definite proof of spirit control and the infusion of the spirit within the body of the medium in at least one case of trance control.

I wish, now, that I had persevered, but I only gave passing notice to an event which occurred during a period of some other very successful phenomena.

I have found too, that most controls do not occupy the body of the medium. This statement adds value to the photograph as an evidence of control.

G. F. KNOTT.

B.S.L.U.

Under the auspices of the Leeds Lyceum District Council the Management Committee of the B.S.L.U. will hold

An Open Session

AND

Propaganda Meeting

in the Castleford National Spiritualist Church, Lower Oxford Street, on Sunday January 15th, 1928. An invitation is extended to all Lyceumists and Spiritualists in the district.

Hymn Sheets provided,

Collections,

The Education Department.

THE ASSOCIATE (B.S.L.U.) SECTION OF THE
NATIONAL JOINT EDUCATION SCHEME.

IMPORTANT TO INTENDING CANDIDATES.

This month your entrance fee, to take the examination, and name MUST be sent in to the B.S.L.U. Education Secretary. Please ask your Lyceum Secretary if he (she) has your name on the list, and remind him (her) to be sure to send in List and fees soon. The time has been extended to 31st January.

The examinations will be held on Sunday, 19th February; so try to get through the allotted work in Handbook and Manual by the end of January, to give you February for revision and memorising notes, etc.

THE WORKERS WIN.

GRADE V. AND ENTRANCE EXAM.—TO TUTORS AND STUDENTS.

By the kindness of Mr. Gush, D.N.U., F.N.S.C. (of Huddersfield), who has successfully coached students for Grade V. and for the S.N.U. Entrance Examination, we are giving NOTES OF LESSONS, as prepared and used by him in his classes, on the Grade V. Handbook (No. 3).

If these are used along with their respective Chapters, and then learned, they will be found of great help in grasping the important points, and in summarising what has been studied.

The first set of these Notes was given in September.

NOTES ON "THE VARIOUS PHASES OF OPPOSITION TO SPIRITUALISM AND HOW TO MEET THEM." James Tinker, F.N.S.C.

(Handbook No. 3—for Grade V. and Entrance Exam. Students).

1. Like all new movements, Spiritualism finds itself opposed by men of every phase of thought:—
The *Religious Bigot* regards it as being of and from the Devil.
The *Materialist* argues that there is no life apart from (physical) matter; therefore that when the body dies the life dies with it.
The *Agnostic* holds that the phenomena and philosophy of Spiritualism lie outside the limits of provable truth.

CHRISTIAN OPPOSITION.

2. There must be an acknowledged common standard for every discussion. The standard for the Spiritualist is the order of Nature, the evidence of facts.
For the Christian the standard is the Bible.
3. The Spiritualist may take as much of the Bible as he finds consistent with the order of Nature.
The Christian may accept as much of "natural truth" as he consistently can.
But if neither will approach the other on these lines, discussion is useless.
4. Therefore the Spiritualist who has to debate with Christians must know "Bible" Spiritualism and its correct interpretation.
5. Fundamentally the Christian IS a Spiritualist, accepting that
 - (a) God is Spirit and the Father of all spirits;
 - (b) Spirit is the substance, and God the sustainer, of all things;
 - (c) There is a grand hierarchy of spiritual beings.
 Christians therefore (at least theoretically) hold to a far wider spirit communion than we do.
6. They must be faced with this, and asked if these orders of beings can only communicate miraculously—or whether they continuously live and act by natural laws.
7. The Christian pays no compliment to God when he charges Him with prohibiting our communication with angels, while permitting it with devils.
8. The Church and the Bible fail to distinguish clearly between a truthful and a lying spirit.
The Archangelic messengers of the Bible act and speak too much like fallible men to be considered in these days as direct messengers from God.
The orthodox Christian asserts that Spiritualism is Anti-

Christian. If, as some say, it is but the Science of Spirit return, it is neither Christian nor Anti-Christian.

9. Schemes of atonement, and sacrificial substitutes, are common to all religions; and we might ask the Christian believer—why accept the Christian scheme rather than that of the Jew or others?
10. Spiritualists reject ALL schemes of substitution—following the example of Nature, which ensures that each sinner and blunderer must pay the price of error.
Learning to keep the law through painful experience; distilling wisdom from adversity; this is the only scheme of salvation that we recognise—no sacrifice of a Divine Man being necessary.
11. Christianity is a spiritual religion and keeps its votaries *because of* that inner spirituality and *in spite of* its obsolete creeds.
12. All religions which call forth the soul powers of their members are equally valuable.
13. The Church asserts that our methods are crude and coarse. This may be partially true, but modern Spiritualism will bear comparison with the early Christian Church in this connection.
14. Notwithstanding this "crudity," Spiritualism is full of life and vigour, and satisfies the spiritual hunger of those the Church has not fed.

EVOLUTION COURSE. NOTES BY THE EXAMINER.

The general idea of the theory of Evolution is that the earth is peopled with animals and plants which have not sprung up into sudden disconnected existence, but are connected with each other by a common ancestry. No matter how different they appear, all living things are descended from simpler and still simpler forms of life.

Our text book, "The Story of Creation," covers a wider field of study and outlines a cosmic philosophy. The examination questions will be set upon the book as a whole and students are advised to study the various chapters and in particular the parts dealing with the nature of matter, the earth and its fossil contents, the correspondences between plants and animals, the fertilisation of plants and the functions of living things generally. In Part 2 Explanatory attention should be paid to the development of life from cell to living organism, the survival of the fittest and the process of natural selection. Because of its importance, special study should be made of the last chapter on Social Evolution.

As a further help, an example of the type of question which may be expected is now given, together with an answer.

Question: Give a brief outline of the origin and general features of the earth and describe its motions.

Answer: Out of a cloud of fire came the earth on which we live. Countless journeys the cloud of fire made through the heavens before the red-hot earth cooled down, shrank within itself, threw off the fragment that is now our own moon and became a mighty ball, 8000 miles from side to side and 25,000 miles round. It is composed of the same material as the other bodies that make up the solar system and is subject to the action of the same forces. Spherical in shape, slightly flattened at the poles and bulged towards the centre, the earth consists of a core within a rocky crust, three-quarters of which is covered with water and the whole surrounded by an atmosphere composed mainly of oxygen and nitrogen. The entire mass, solid, liquid and gaseous, spins on its axis at the rate of about a thousand miles every hour and speeds through space in its orbit round the sun at the rate of one thousand miles every minute. It is believed that beneath the earth's crust there is a molten magma over one hundred miles in depth and the contraction of the interior mass as it cooled brought about a shrinkage of the surface, thereby giving the pleasing variety we have of valley, mountain and plain. The crust extends to a depth of 25 miles, and so far as it can be examined it consists of solid rocks of various kinds, earths, metals and other substances, rocks being the principal material. All these substances constitute what is called the Mineral Kingdom. The lowest rocks have been fused by fire and the uppermost laid by water. In the successive strata of the latter are the remains of plants and animals and provide what record we have of life upon earth through measureless time.

THE INTERMEDIATE GRADE—DIFFICULTIES.

The preparation classes are in full swing, and judging from the reports (and the grumbles—not very serious) received, every tutor and student is keen on making a good start on the Advanced Course that leads to a Graduate (G.N.S.C.) Degree and, possibly, to the S.N.U. Diploma of Certified Exponent. And it is easy to understand that both tutors and students will be impatient of any flaw (or supposed flaw) in the Scheme that threatens to rob them of the expected reward for their study and application. Therefore I was quite prepared for the letters received from two enthusiasts in educational matters—one a tutor, who considers that the Scheme cannot be conducted successfully with only one mid-week class, as the time will not allow of the study of the three divisions of the Syllabus; and the other a student who considers that the Syllabus has been made too "heavy."

These are two very important points, and they require careful and sympathetic consideration. To deal first with the tutor—I will not use the cheap retort that if one class is not enough he should hold two; and that for the reason that if two classes had been possible he would not have complained about one not being enough, and also that I, personally, do not consider that two classes per week are necessary, if the students are sincere and enthusiastic—and only enthusiasts would take up a Scheme such as ours for its own sake. But I would like to be allowed to suggest that the tutor has made a mistake in trying to deal with the Reading, Philosophy and Evolution Courses on any one night. And, of course, if he really means STUDY of the three sections, I don't think that *two* classes per week would be enough. Quite early in the Education Scheme it is pointed out that the books must be studied at home and the work done there discussed at the class. On page 4 of "How to Prepare for the Examinations" (which can be obtained from Miss Kitson for 1½d. post free) is the following note:—"It should be pointed out to the students that they do not come to the Group or the mid-week class to study, but to talk over the lessons they have been studying at home. The Class should only be used for the interchange of knowledge and opinions, under the guidance of the tutor." May I suggest that, in a two-hours class, half an hour each should be given to discussion of the three sections, and the last half-hour used by the tutor to point out important items in the following week's work. This is my own personal view, and I shall bring the matter before the next meeting of the Joint Education Committee. Will educationists who have any suggestions to make please send them along at once?

The chief of several very good points in the student's letter is: "I think you will agree that the majority of Lyceumists and Church members have had only an elementary education. Students being faced with the numerous books chosen for the Intermediate Grade, most of which are full of hard matter, will need a firm resolve coupled with more than an ordinary memory and intellect, to read, study and understand them within a short period." And again: "Unless a student can turn to study as a *pleasure*, and not as a *laborious cram*, it may discourage rather than encourage intending students." In the first place I want to record my gratitude to my correspondent for being so frank in her very helpful criticism. Shall I surprise her if I say that I entirely agree with all she claims about the Intermediate Grade Syllabus?—and especially with her claim that it cannot be mastered in a short period. I think that here lies the source of the difficulty, for the Intermediate Grade was not designed to be mastered in a short time. The "Winter Session dash" which was sufficient for Lyceumists to freshen up their *Manual* and *Handbook* knowledge will not suffice for the Intermediate; but I claim that, with a proper system of study, a student who starts studying in August, and follows the Lesson plan issued by the Joint Committee, will find no difficulty in mastering the work. Let us keep in mind that the only sections that have to be *learned by rote* are the Logic and Evolution sections. All that is required in the Reading section is "to show an intelligent *general* knowledge"; and any discussion or opinion asked for will be on a *GIVEN* incident or passage, which I take to mean that the passage, etc., will be *quoted*. So there is no need to memorise the Reading texts, all that is needed being careful reading (and re-reading if possible, of course) as an adequate preparation. Were I acting as a tutor, I should advise my students to take the Reading Course independent of the classes; to start with Berry's "Hints

to Students," which will lay a sound foundation for all future studies; to follow with No. 1 Handbook and "The Seven-Pointed Star" (which are after all only two pamphlets which deal with elementary points in Spiritualism) and "Modern Spiritualism"; and to memorise and underline all important points in the Logic and Evolution Handbooks, taking the Joint Committee's Lesson Plan as a guide. "The Story of Creation" contains (in the Rationalist Press edition) 114 pages of reading matter, which, spread over 26 weeks, gives less than 4½ pages per week to learn. And I have been informed by a leading tutor that "Essays on Reasoning" are such a successful summary that they make the study of Jevons' Primer very easy; so the student who *reads* the Essays carefully will find the Logic Primer to be an old friend in new clothing. I have left "Psychic Philosophy" to the last, as some seem to think that it is difficult. It is not. All the points are put very plainly and clearly, and the summaries of chapters given at the beginning of the book are really brief statements of the argument of each section. And the Plan gives 14 weeks for a first reading and six weeks for the second reading (which may be confined to the student's underlinings and notes).

Of course, if the student puts off study and then tries to do six months' work in three months, he is sure to find himself beset with difficulties; but they are NOT inherent in the Scheme or the Grade Syllabus. However, the Joint Committee exists to remove grievances and obstacles, and I would be only too glad to bring any suggestions before our next meeting (in February). Don't save over your grievances; give the Committee the opportunity to remove them. If our Scheme is unworkable we shall ask for Conference permission to alter it, or even replace it with one that is workable. Please help us.

A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C., *Joint Education Secretary.*

LOCAL BRANCHES.

The Attercliffe and South Manchester Lyceums have enrolled as Local Branches, bringing the number up to 15—out of a possible 73.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEMES.

For information about *Oral Grade and Grades I., II., III., IV. & V.*, send stamped, addressed envelope to:—

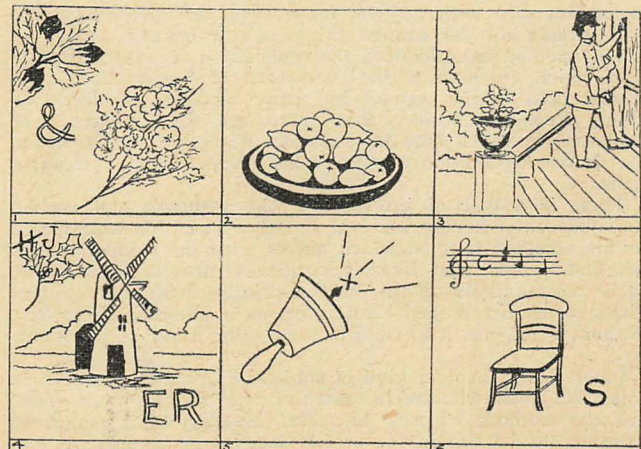
Miss M. E. KITSON, B.A., F.N.S.C.,
Hon. Ed. Sec., to B.S.L.U.,
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Mr. A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C.,
College Secretary,
19, Oakhurst Road,
Forest Gate,
London, E.7.

The Children's Puzzle.



You will find some happy party games in the above pictures, if you are clever enough to guess them. Send your answers to Uncle Bert.

THE LYCEUM BANNER:

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

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

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

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

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8-30 a.m. to 6-0 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday, 8-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Callers by appointment.

JANUARY, 1928.

Spiritual Impressions.

Whilst other religions and schools of thought are trying to make their ideas agree with modern science, the Spiritualists are busy searching for the application of fundamental truths, as revealed by spirits, to mould public opinion.

There are so many ways of using spirit-return and communion that it may be wise to witness the effect spirit intercourse has among mortals.

There are a number of outstanding types which have been affected in different ways. It may be useful to the Lyceumists to discuss these types.

We find the purely scientific method in the researches of Sir Wm. Crookes. He sought for, and found, evidence of survival by the introduction of mechanical appliances which demonstrated the operation of forces beyond the limits of known natural laws.

He finished his investigations with the materialisation of spirits. We are still scientifically in doubt how the materialisations are made. There is visibility and we know the tangibility is largely drawn from the medium, but we cannot analyse the substance of the spirit bodies which build up—owing to its unstable composition.

We have seen, heard and felt the presence of spirits, and from these evidences, once we have experienced them, we can scientifically say we know the existence of spirits to be a fact.

Another method of investigation has been to sift the evidence of mediumship with a view to proving that psychic science will explain all the strange things which happen.

This method has produced the explanation of many talents in man which are akin to the phenomena of Spiritualism. But it has been finally agreed by many members of the Psychical Research Society that there are some phases and evidences in which only the existence of spirits can be accepted as the explanation of what takes place in their investigations.

There is a type of investigator who witnesses and verifies the evidence of human survival and then looks for some record in his accepted religion which agrees with the evidence. Thus we find people who have scientifically proved Spiritualism to be true, and yet retain their association with the religious views of the Established Church, or, as in the case of the Rev. Walter Wynn, use it to confirm some other form of Christianity.

Later we get another kind of student—if such persons can be called students—who are in search of copy for the press. Such are the methods of men like Mr. Moseley, who cannot be expected to be convinced, or his job would be finished and he would need some other vocation.

There are others who are attempting to make Spiritualism a wing of Christianity with Jesus Christ as the central figure, whilst others say Spiritualism permeates all other existing religions. Another section say that the evidences of after-life are

based on a moral code and have no relation to any religious system.

The Lyceumists are faced with this complex, and must find some adaptation or overcome these barriers to the unity of expression.

It is safe to say that all existing religions have some elements of truth in their basis.

We Lyceumists have, in conference, declared Spiritualism is a religion freed from creed, based on science, guided by philosophy and proved by experience.

It is sometimes said that there is only one religion, but many versions. This may explain why there are so many Christian sects, and also other great religions in the world.

Our case stands out clearly. At the advent of Modern Spiritualism the spirit people named the many sections of religious, scientific philosophic and civic thought which, through their representatives, should witness the phenomena. None of the existing schools of thought would accept the revelation and the far-reaching effects on modern thought.

And so the modern movement began as a separate entity, but had to draw its adherents from the existing schools. Some people split away and started various cults, but the avenue between the two worlds of existence is still open and the evidence of survival beyond death remains the central truth. Some converts bring their old ideas, and others discard the tenets they have outlived.

A great drawback is that children inherit, through the association of older people, many of the ideas it would be wise to forget. Thus it is difficult to make a new start with a pure inspiration of natural and spiritual impulses and inspirations.

There is greater hope for progress and truth if we lend our ears to those who have passed beyond many of the temptations of the flesh and worldly things, and enjoy a greater freedom of mobility and will than most of us possess.

Finite though we are, we can feel that virtue, love and the charm of the beatitudes are more important than world wealth, though we may not be always able to rise to the spiritual standard while occupying mortal bodies.

The Lyceum is a social gynecium from which may spring a truer concept of real religion, pure philosophy, and natural science, if we obey the axiom that a child contains the attributes of God. There is a method by which children teach themselves, though we must necessarily provide for their physical needs. In spiritual education we are often in a worse position because we have been erroneously led into false values, as in vicarious atonement and personal egotism.

Methinks God gave the children in our lives that we may overcome our mistakes by learning anew through our offsprings the simple lessons of unfolding truth. The plaintive cry through the speechless mouth, and the yearning eye of a defenceless babe awakens love and service.

As the child looks at us, so do we look to God and in our common helplessness. Let us begin again and we shall find ourselves in the undeniable thrill of unfolding power with love to chart us through the seas of life.

We must sit, like a little child, at the footstool of knowledge, or we shall learn nothing. Our spiritual impressions are the true guides.

Let us weigh the evidence of all things in the balance of truth, and make it the standard of the man. The creedalism of the sects will become as vain as the arguments of the materialists.

The embryonic force of the God-seed will flourish and thrive if we weed away the thoughts which have hindered spiritual progress.

We are happy in the Lyceum and rejoice in its advantages. Good deeds and service awaken the best ideals within us and bring us nearer to the real education, not finishing at 14 or 24 years of age, but accumulating experience and knowledge as the days go by.

The increasing liberties of youth demand our trust and beget our confidence. We have broken from the old traditions and foibles. In the Lyceum we can go hand in hand, age and youth, spirit and mortal, in the absorption of revealed truth until those who have opposed us will see the joy of our work and the results of our system. In it there is room for all. Spiritual inspiration can be the lever to raise mankind when the worn out creeds have fallen away.

Then can the Lyceumists begin to build a spiritual education for humanity, and the spirit world will help us in our task.

G. F. KNOTT.

FOUNDER'S DAY PROGRAMME.

Fellow Lyceumists,

I have again been requested to draw up the Session programme for Founder's Day, which is to be observed on the last Sunday in January, and also to make a special appeal on behalf of the £2,000 Effort. It is 65 years since the Lyceum system of education was introduced to the world. Since then great strides forward have been made and still we are confronted with changes that demand our keeping time with present needs, but to meet those needs we require your help and financial assistance, so that the project which was launched some eight years ago, might very speedily be accomplished.

During the past 65 years men and women have given their services wholeheartedly, that this Movement of ours should progress and that its Truth might shed its rays into every corner of the earth.

Some of these noble souls have gone hence; some are still with us, but it is for us to carry forward the work at the point at which they left off.

How then, are you going to show your appreciation of their loving and valued service?

The £2,000 Effort has now reached the £500 mark, but what of the remaining £1,500. Are you going to let it take another eight years before we reach the £1,000 mark? or rather, are you going to see to it the hammer will strike the £1,000 mark as a result of this appeal on Sunday, January 29th? When you are reading this article you will still have that feeling of goodwill with you in trying to make others happy. Can I then, with all the fervour of my soul, appeal to your generosity, and forward your donations to the £2,000 Effort Secretary, who, I know, is waiting very anxiously to receive whatever you feel disposed to give.

Those who have laboured for us in the past deserve our remembrance and affection. Let us show it in a very practical way.

Lyceumists, rally round, and make this a real red letter day, and help to crown the joys of those who started us on our way.

There are many ways by which you can assist: i.e., Collecting Cards, selling Bookmarks, which at this time of the year, you will find to be a very useful article for those who receive prizes and gift books. You can also practice one week's self-denial, and in a thousand other ways you can help this very deserving project.

We are constantly being asked when are we going to have our own Trading and Publishing Department. Our answer is: As soon as we obtain the £2,000, there will then be healthy signs of our going forward in this direction, and supplying your needs direct.

We need your co-operation. The call to service is greater to-day than ever before in the history of the Movement.

Answer the call, and you will find
Your lives will be richer, and sweeter, and better here,
For we find true happiness comes through loving service each day.

Session Programme.

Opening Song. No. 322. S.S. 26.
Invocation, and Welcome to unseen ones.
Silver Chain Recitation. No. 3.
Musical Reading. No. 237. S.S. 172.
Golden Chain Recitation. No. 135.
Individual Efforts.
Marching and Callisthenics (not more than 15 minutes).
Reading by Conductor.
Closing Song. No. 398. S.S. 121.
Benediction.

The Thought for the day is "Service." To be read by Conductor.

The man who would make the highest attainment must become identified with the world's progressive movement and gives himself freely for the good of the race.

Every man owes to the world the duty to serve according to the measure of his ability. Back of every noble deed are countless unexpressed impulses, deep down in the inner life. But every lofty desire will ennoble the character and strengthen some purpose.

"The Mind's Attainment."

Robert Ingersoll says:—

The object of life is to be happy,
The place to be happy is here,
The time to be happy is now,
The way to be happy is by making others happy.

May the lesson of service to-day bring forth that response that will produce real and lasting happiness, by helping forward the £2,000 Effort.

Yours in anticipation,
EDITH ELLIOTT, A.N.S.C.

Our Lyceum Guild Story.

HALF CHICK.

Ever so long ago, a mother hen patiently waited for 8 baby chickens to come out of their shells. At last, she heard a little "chip, chip, chip," sound, coming from her eggs, and, one after another, seven lovely chickens appeared in the nest. Then the last egg chipped, and the mother hen was very surprised to find a queer little chicken with only *one* eye, *one* wing, and *one* leg. This little chick was very soon known in the farmyard as HALF-CHICK.

Half-Chick soon grew to be a very bold and naughty bird. He could walk with a funny little hoppety kick and often he would disobey his mother and go into places where he was not wanted. One day, he said to the hen, "Mother, I am going to London to see the King." His mother was horrified, and tried to persuade him to stay at home, but Half-Chick started on his journey without listening to his mother's advice.

Off he went, hoppety kick over the fields, until he came to a stream, which had no many plants growing in it, that the water couldn't flow along. When Half-Chick came near, the stream called out, "Oh, Half-Chick, please pull out some of these plants. My water cannot flow along."

Half-Chick only said "Oh, I can't be bothered with you, Stream, I'm off to London to see the King"—and without helping the stream, he went hoppety kick over the fields.

Soon he came to a fire, which was almost dead because somebody had put lots of leaves on it. When the fire saw Half-Chick, it called out—"Half-Chick, please come and fan me with your wing or I shan't burn." Half-Chick only answered "I can't be bothered with you, Fire, I'm off to London to see the King," and without helping the fire, he went hoppety kick on his journey.

In a short time, Half-Chick came to the wind, caught up in some thick bushes. The wind, on seeing Half-Chick, called out—"Oh Half-Chick, please pull off some of these leaves and twigs, so that I can go on my way." Without stopping to help, the chicken answered, "I can't be bothered with you, Wind, I'm off to London to see the King."

At last Half-Chick reached London and the King's palace. He went hoppety kick past the sentry at the gate, and was just going hoppety kick across the courtyard, when a cook looked out of her window, and saw him. "Why, that little chicken would be just right for the King's supper," she cried,—and ran out into the yard, picked up the chicken, and carried him into her kitchen.

There she put him into a pan of water on the fire. The water in the pan came up, and up around little Half-Chick, until it reached his neck. He called out—"Oh, Water, please don't come any higher, or I shall be drowned." The water replied—"You would not help me, when I was in the stream, Half-Chick, and so I can't help you now." The fire under the pan burnt hotter and hotter, until the water was boiling. Half-Chick screamed—"Oh, Fire, please don't burn so much, or I shall die." The fire answered, "You wouldn't help me when I was out in the fields, Half-Chick, and so I can't help you now,"—and the fire was so hot that the water boiled away.

The cook came to look at the chicken. She took the lid off the pan, and saw that the chicken had boiled dry and was of no use. Feeling very angry at having the supper spoiled, the cook opened the window and threw the chicken out into the yard. A wind was blowing and, catching up little Half-Chick, it blew him up, and up, and up, and round, and round, and round, until the poor bird felt quite ill. He called to the wind, "Please don't blow me about so much, Wind, I feel quite sick and dizzy." The wind replied, "Oh, Half-Chick, you wouldn't help me when I was caught in the bushes, and so I can't help you now,"—and the wind went on blowing.

Half-Chick went up and up, and round and round, until he stuck right up on the top of the church steeple. He couldn't get down. He has had to stay there, and he is there now. There is only one thing that Half-Chick can do. Every time the wind blows, he turns round so that he faces it, and can listen to the tales told by the wind.

(Retold for Guildites by MISS M. E. LAWTON.)



MY DEAR LITTLE FELLOW IMPS,

Our Big Brother Imp has felt the call to more important duties, and for the time being we are left to ourselves, and must find or make what employment or sport or amusement we can. So what do you say—shall we provide our own entertainment, and have a jolly good time on our own? We shall look for games we can all play at; we shall find little jobs we can all do; we shall tell each other about our pets and their funny little ways; we shall tell each other about ourselves and our funny little ways; we shall make up stories and puzzles to be printed in the Kiddies' Corner—and we'll keep our Corner to ourselves. Nobody that isn't a Kiddie will be allowed to write for our Corner; though everybody who is a Kiddie at heart will be allowed to read about us and see how we are enjoying our dear little selves. After a while they'll be writing to tell our Guild Leader that the first thing they read on "Banner Day" is our Corner, just to see what we are up to!

We CAN do all this, fellow Imps, if we all pull together. Shall us? LET'S.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE IMP FAMILY.

I have looked up the following Imp-names in the Dictionary, as I want not only us but others to learn that we Imps belong to a very important family. The dictionary meanings are given for the sake of the grown-ups or those of us who are too young to have learned the words at school. You must read through this list of names and their meanings, or you won't be able to understand the next paragraph. You will notice that all the names start with IMP,—and could be spelled that way (as *Imp-Inge* for *impinge*); but for the sake of the grown-ups, who might not know the words if we spelled them our way, we shall spell them just as they are in the Dictionary:—

<i>This Imp</i>	<i>Means</i>
IMPART	—Give a share; or, make known.
IMPEL	—Drive or urge forward.
IMPETUS	—The force with which any body is driven (or pushed).
IMPLANT	—Cause to take root.
IMPORTANCE	—Great value.
IMPREGNABLE	—Cannot be overcome, or captured.
IMPRESS	—Make a lasting mark.
IMPROVE	—Make better, or grow better.
ALSO	
IMPAIR	—Make less in value.
IMPEDE	—Hinder; get in the way.
IMPOSSIBLE	—Cannot be done.

I have put the last three Imps by themselves, because we are not proud of them being members of our Imp family, and are not going to allow them to play with us. "Only good and helpful Imps need apply." We are not going to have anybody in our Corner who is likely to be a nuisance or a spoil-sport; or is going to keep on saying "you can't do this"; or "you can't do that"; or "that is far too hard." *Nothing* is too hard for any of us if we are only plucky enough to have a try at it! That is going to be our motto. So Faint-hearts beware.

WHAT THE IMP FAMILY INTENDS TO DO.

Having made ourselves and our position IMPREGNABLE by making up our minds what to do and how to do it—and then doing it—we shall be able to IMPLANT in the minds of Church and Lyceum Committees a true idea of the real IMPORTANCE of the work for the children. Once we have managed to IMPRESS them properly, and thus IMPART some of our zeal, we shall have given such an IMPETUS to The Work that it will IMPEL the whole Spiritualist Movement to IMPROVE in its attitude towards the special needs of the children and their position in the Movement.

And we shall have no time to be bothered by anyone who would try to IMPEDE our progress; to IMPAIR the results of our

efforts; or to discourage us by declaring that anything we want to do is IMPOSSIBLE.

HOW CAN WE DO IT?

We can do this in only one way. We must all join in doing the good work, and let the grown-ups see that we can think and speak for ourselves, and that all we need or want is a fair chance. They all seem to forget that if it was not for us children there would not be any grown-ups to neglect us! They ought to be very thankful to us that they are in this world, and not act as if they didn't know that there was such a thing as Children.

Anyway, what we have to do is show them that we are going to be useful Spiritualists when we grow up, and able to do our share for Spiritualism. And Our Guild Leader says that we can use Our Kiddies' Corner for practising. We can write and send along little stories, about fairies and other things; we can send letters about ourselves and our pets and the things we always like doing (grown-ups call them hobbies); we can do all the things I have already mentioned, and send them to be printed for our Page. You will send them to me, care of the Guild Leader (you will find her name and address at the end of the Guild Page). And every Kiddie under twelve (or perhaps we should say, not over twelve) who sends in ANYTHING to be used on our Page will be enrolled in the largest and greatest and oldest Order in the world, and be presented with a nice Certificate of Membership. This is not a PRIZE, as I know you won't want to be rewarded for showing that you can do things; everybody will get it as a proof that he or she has helped to show that Children are the royalty of the Earth. And don't tell anybody, but the Leader says that she will allow me to sign the Certificates—so aren't we all in luck! The name of our Order is such a fine one that I am putting it at the head of my next paragraph, where everybody will be able to see it.

THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT ORDER OF KIDDIES.

Doesn't the Name of Our Order look just grand? I thought you would like it. And it takes so little to qualify for membership.

1. You don't need to fill up or send in any Form.
2. You don't have to pay any fee.
3. You just send in an effort for Our Kiddies' Corner.
4. It may be a fairy tale or any other sort of story; a letter about yourself, your holidays, your pets, your hobbies; you may send in a puzzle or the answer to a puzzle; you can send in *anything*, so long as it is useful to somebody.
5. Send your effort to VERONTAS, c/o Miss Kitson.
6. As we cannot have more than a page in the BANNER, we may not be able to get all efforts printed each month. But whoever sends in an effort will be enrolled as a member of the Order, and get a Certificate, just the same. It is sending in the effort that counts for membership—for really, the prize for doing a thing is in having done it.
7. A list of members will be kept, and they will get one mark for each effort sent in (but not more than one for each month); and in the December issue each year will be printed a list of the nine members who have earned most marks during the year.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year, from
Your loving Brother Imp,

VERONTAS.

A FINAL LETTER FROM THE GUILD IMP.

Result of "BIRD" Cross-word Competition.

1. Edgar Newton (Birmingham).
2. Frank George (Liverpool).
3. Alice Whitehead (Newton Heath).
4. Ingham Whitehead (Newton Heath).

The above were the only ones who made an attempt, I'm sorry to say, but no doubt the cross-word was more difficult than I supposed for some of the Kiddies. Each one has received a book which I sincerely hope they will enjoy reading.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all who have sent to me their good wishes. I am indeed gratified that I have been in some small way instrumental in giving satisfaction to all who have followed the "Kiddies' Corner" during the short time I have conducted it.

Wishing all Guildites and Lyceumists a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely Yours,
REGINALD STEVENSON,
The Guild Imp

HARTMAN'S WHO'S WHO.

The Second Edition of Hartmann's Who's Who was published in November, 1927. It is produced by The Occult Press, Box 43, Jamaica, N.Y., U.S.A. Price 5 dollars.

The book is compiled and edited by William C. Hartmann, Founder of the Occult Brotherhood. The compiler has a wide association with most progressive movements and has produced the most comprehensive international reference book on psychic science yet issued, giving facts, authors, books, etc.

The sections deal with Who's Who in biography, bibliography, societies, etc.

Each country may find its data incomplete, but that is not the fault of the editor, who has accomplished a collection of information in the 350 pages which will certainly help in the progress of metaphysical science.

The number of societies, subjects and individuals enumerated in the book is astounding.

The Lyceum Teachings.

By CICELY BRAMMER.

The Lyceum is a school where the Leaders and Conductors endeavour to create lessons of a bright and interesting nature, which will appeal and stimulate into activity those innate potential powers that each child possesses. They also surround the children with a spiritual atmosphere, thus recognising the Lyceum as the spiritual nursery for our movement. Such trainings are helpful for the expansion of the physical, mental, moral, intellectual, and spiritual faculties inherent in the child's nature.

Naturally children are impressible, and possess the quality of imagination. The child is the budding material in the hands of its teachers. Much depends upon the environment and conditions; the home-life is a vital factor, but the children are channels which the higher intelligences use as a means for expression.

As teachers and leaders, let us inspire them to aim high, and aspire to lofty ideals, which shall permeate in their young minds, and leave a lasting impression. Let us strive to make them realise how natural and rational are the principles for which Spiritualism stands; thus illuminating false doctrines and sectarian obstacles.

The Lyceum proves by its teachings that creeds and dogmas are useless in this life, and in the higher life we as progressive are responsible for our deeds. We recognise that if we violate the spiritual laws we must make retribution here or hereafter. We are compensated for the good we perform, through natural and spiritual laws, which are immutable. The trained Lyceumist realises that our earthly life experiences are for the purpose of unfolding our spiritual natures and expressing divinity in every walk of life; to stand for the right, truth, honour, and freedom.

The Lyceumists will be the future exponents and demonstrators for the cause we represent. Our motto as Lyceumists is "The Workers Win." We know the sting of death is extracted and the grave robbed of its victory.

Our Lyceum Guild.

(GUILD LEADER—MISS M. E. KITSON, B.A., F.N.S.C., 37, South Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.)

THE NEW YEAR.

The New Year is popularly supposed to be the time when we make resolutions, and hope to keep them. Here are *Our Lyceum Guild's* resolutions; will each Guildite please help us to realise them before the end of the year. Thanks.

The GUILD's resolutions are:—

- (i) to try to increase the membership to 3,000. (We begin the year with 2112 enrolled members).
- (ii) to have not less than 50% of its members taking one or other of the Education Examinations.
- (iii) to have members from 200 Lyceums. (We at present have them from about 135 Lyceums).

OUR RECENT ESSAY COMPETITION.

The GUILD very sincerely thanks the thirty-six members who sent in essays, and trusts their efforts will have helped them in their examination studies as well. The Guild heartily congratulates the fourteen writers whose essays scored 85% or more marks. They have thereby won a merit-badge on their ribbon-badges; and should now have received these, and be the proud wearers of them.

We wish to congratulate Mr. J. Taylor, of Newton Heath, on achieving his fourth success, and winning his certificate as a Certified Guild Essayist.

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL ESSAYISTS.

Name.	Lyceum.	%
M. S. Molineux	..(Hr. Openshaw)	100
Mr. J. Bell	..(M/cr. Progressive)	99
Mrs. L. George	..(Liverpool).. ..	98
Thomas W. Harrison	(Middlesbrough)	96
Lillian Firth	..(Bradford, Harker St.)	95
Florrie Lowde	..(S. Manchester)	95
Mr. A. E. Fruin	..(Battersea)	93
James E. Jackson	..(Hr. Openshaw)	92
Ronald Marsh	..(Stretford).. ..	91
Mr. S. Briggs	..(S. Manchester)	90
Mr. J. Taylor	..(Newton Heath).. ..	89
Alice Simm	..(Darwen)	87
Miss M. A. Williams	(Bowes Park)	86
Iris A. Thornton	..(S. Manchester)	85

OUR ESPERANTO GROUP.

Lyceumists wishing to study this interesting language, as a hobby, are invited to join the above named group. A number of students have already joined and are now progressing satisfactorily. What was that I heard? "I can't speak English properly!" Well! one of the most interesting facts of Esperanto is that it gives us a greater knowledge of the words and grammar of the English language. The bi-lingual man is often envied, but often much money is spent in his education, and after all is sometimes unintelligible to a native of the country. Esperanto has no "natives" except, of course, the Esperantists. The group has been formed with an idea of providing Lyceumists with a very interesting and instructive pastime at a minimum of expense.

"Ni iris al la lernajo en Dimanco, lerni Kio vivi." This is a simple sentence which every Lyceumist has said. Do you know what it means?

Then find out by taking up the lessons, which are sent by request, to anyone desiring to become a member.

Lyceumists intending to join, are requested to first obtain the following book which will be of great help to students:—

THE "EDINBURG" POCKET ESPERANTO DICTIONARY. Cloth bound 1s. 6d. net. Leather bound, 3s. 6d. net. Ordered via your newsagent from: T. Nelson & Sons, London.

My sincerest thanks go out to Mr. R. Stevenson (late Guild Imp), Miss M. E. Kitson and to Flno., J. Ball, of Hollinwood, who are ever ready to make the group successful.

Write now for Lesson No. 1. enclosing stamped addressed envelope to: Mr. Walter Taylor, The Esperanto Leader, 1, Willow Street, Oldham Road, Failsworth, Manchester.

TO RECITE AT THE LYCEUM.

SONG OF THE SECONDS.

Sing a song of Seconds, tireless little elves,
 Who, because they're busy, don't have time themselves!
 They must work for ever—then they've never done—
 Work in rain and sorrow—work in joy and sun—
 Taking to the Minutes, this their work by day—
 Grains of good or evil folks lose by the way.
 Minutes build foundations, feebly built or strong
 As the Seconds fetch them deeds of right or wrong,
 Hours set the rafters which, as years pass by,
 Make for us our lovely Homes beyond the sky.
 So when Seconds watch us through the livelong day—
 Taking every action, every word away—
 Let our deeds be noble, let our thoughts be just;
 Let the fact of living fill with simple trust
 Hearts that now are troubled, saddened and oppressed;
 Know whatever happens always MUST be best!
 When we're rid of sorrow, when we welcome mirth,
 When we make our moments blessed upon earth,
 Then the flying Seconds in their hands will hold
 What will make our mansions rare and bright as gold.

Manual Revision Notes.

The following selection from poems sent in for consideration by the Revision Committee will serve as a sample to those who would like to help, but don't quite know how. Each month, unless there are important developments to be discussed, two or three poems will be printed. All who think that our educational Movement ought to be supported are invited to help with the revision work.

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

WONDERFUL WORLD.

W. BRIGHTY RANDS.

Great, wide, beautiful, wonderful world,
With the wonderful water round you curled;
And the wonderful grass upon your breast—
World, you are beautifully drest.

The wonderful air is over me,
And the wonderful wind is shaking the tree;
It walks on the water and whirls the mills,
And talks to itself on the tops of the hills.

You friendly Earth! how far do you go,
With the wheat-fields that nod and the rivers that flow;
With cities, and gardens, and cliffs, and isles,
And people upon you for thousands of miles?

Ah, you are so great, and I am so small,
I tremble to think of you, World, at all;
And yet, when I said my prayers to-day,
A whisper inside me seemed to say,
"You are more than the Earth, though you are such a dot!
You can love and think, and the Earth cannot!"

HOW DOTH THE LITTLE BUSY BEE.

ISAAC WATTS.

How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower!

How skillfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labours hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

In works of labour or of skill
I would be busy too;
For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be past,
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.

TO-DAY.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

So here hath been dawning
Another blue day;
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away?

Out of Eternity
This new day is born;
Into Eternity
At night will return.

Behold it aforetime
No eye ever did;
So soon it forever
From all eyes is hid.

Here hath been dawning
Another blue day;
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away?

S.N.U. FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

Dear Friends,

I have pleasure in enclosing report for November. The income has come in fairly well, the sum total for the month is £100 11s. The outgo is £45, but the Committee still feel that unless the income is increased, it will be quite impossible to add any new cases to the list, which is already a large one. Just to give you some idea of the work the Fund is doing I will say we are helping 23 widows, 3 maiden ladies, 7 widowers, and 17 married couples, whose ages vary from 50 to over 90. There are 10 persons over 80, 21 of 70, 16 over 60, and 3 over 50. In the latter cases there are 12 children included. So all interested in the Fund and its work will readily see the need for the income to be increased, so as to be able to continue with the grant. A goodly number of these old people manage to keep out of the workhouse with the grant and their old age pension. The grateful letters received help the Committee to carry on the work on behalf of these old folks.

This month 48 Churches and District Committees, 4 Lyceums, and a few personal subscribers, have helped the Fund. If your Church or Lyceum has not yet responded may I again request your attention. See what influence you have so that your Lyceum may have its name in the list, as well as sharing in the work of helping others. The festive season will be with us when this is in print. All the same I send my greetings for the New Year. May each Lyceumist realise their relationship to the workers of the past and see to it that flowers are given to them whilst in the body, to enable the Spirit to live out its allotted time on earth. All can help by sending their contributions to the Fund. They will be gratefully received and acknowledged by

Yours gratefully,

MISS MARY L. STAIR,

32b, North Street,

Keighley, Yorks.

CHURCH DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

Hanley, £1 1s.; Harrow, £1 10s. 9d.; Marylebone Ass., £12; York, Spen Lane, £1; Benwell Church and Lyceum, £2; Walsall Reunion Service, £1; Attercliffe Ch., £5 5s.; Tredegar, 10s. 9d.; Ferndale, 10s.; Northampton, Newlands Ave., £1 5s.; Blackpool Church, £2; Gateshead, Eden Progressive, 10s. 6d.; Macclesfield Free Church, £2; Aston, Birmingham, 6s. 6d.; Bristol 1st Church, Tea Collection, £1 17s.; Cheltenham Donation and Collection, £6 8s. 7d.; St. Annes-on-Sea, 2s. 6d.; Saltaire, 10s.; Millom, £1; Doncaster, King's Arcade, £1; Glasgow Association, £6 0s. 3d.; Heaton and Byker Church and Lyceum, £1 10s.; Blackpool Lyceum, £2; Clapham, £2 2s.; West Pelton, 6s. 6d.; Huddersfield, Ramsden St., £2 2s.; West Hartlepool, Musgrave St., £1; Letchworth, 6s. 8d.; Mrs. Marshall Hancock's Class, 3s. 6d.; Brixton Brotherhood, £4 4s.; Guildford and District, £1 1s.; London District Council, £5 5s.; East London Association, Earlham Hall, £1 1s.; Manchester, Maskell St., £2 2s.; Glasgow, Southern Association, 10s.; Little Ilford Christian Church, £1 10s.; District Group Meeting held at Barrow, £2; Birstall Church and Lyceum, £1; Liverpool, Daulby, £4 4s.; Middlesborough, Grange Road, £1 19s. 9d.; Sunderland United Churches Armistice Memorial Service held at Derwent St., £1; North Midland D.C. of M.D.C. Retiring collection at quarterly meeting, 7s. 6d.; Lancaster, Alliance 10s. 6d.; Coventry, Bull St., £2; Preston Ethical, £1; Rochester Square Temple, £1 1s.; Stratford, £2; Bridgend Nat. Church, 5s.; Southport Church, £1 15s. 6d.

PERSONAL DONATIONS.

J. Thompson, S. Africa, £1; Robertus, 10s.; Mrs. Dean, Bury 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Kitty Butterworth, 5s.; A. Scott, Cardiff, 7s. 6d.; W.L.M., 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. E. Lane, £1; Mrs. Cox, Home Circle, 10s.; H. Blackwell, £2 2s.; W.H.C., £1; From Roy Browns' Physical Seance at Barrow, £1; Church donations, £92 4s.; Personal Donations £8 7s. Total, £100 11s.

Blackburn Lyceum, (Ladies Effort).

STOP WATCH COMPETITION.

The Watch stopped at 11 hours, 41 minutes, 35 seconds.

Peace Congress Report.

I attended the Peace Congress held in Manchester on December 3rd and 4th. The Delegates were welcomed to the city by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Davies, who said that from the very fact that the City of Manchester had been chosen as the venue for the Congress, it was evident that everyone had come prepared for business and not pleasure, as there were very few beauty spots to be found in Manchester.

The Meeting on Friday morning was presided over by Mrs. Geo. Cadbury, M.A., O.B.E., J.P., who laid stress on the business for which the Congress had met: that of Peace.

Dr. F. W. Norwood, in his Presidential address said it was a privilege and an honour to be the President of such a useful body. To him there was no greater cause worth living for than the cause of Peace. It was not a new movement, it was in operation before the Great War and those who worked for us then deserve our remembrance and affection. Referring to the challenge from Russia, for total Disarmament, he said it may prove to be the pivot of destiny.

Manchester had been noted for the part it had played in Free Trade, and he hoped that the week-end Congress would result in as noble an effort toward an universal peace.

THE PRICE OF PEACE.

Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, M.A., addressed the Congress on "The Price of Peace." "Peace," she said, "was a revolution—revolution in mind. The time between wars is a recuperation period to prepare for another war. She said if the Russian message had to be met with negation, we of Great Britain could write ourselves down as hypocrites.

Have we forgotten the last war?

Have we forgotten the blockade?

America demanded cruisers so that if we went to war with her she could convey her own trade effects. We must have a practical resolution to remove war. The human mind is so constructed that it can be stampeded by whatever the Government choose to cry.

Britain wants to retain the right to go to war with anyone, whilst small nations have offered to arbitrate. The Protocol is dead to those who don't like it, but, said Mrs. Swanwick, it is the most insistent corpse she had ever seen.

A great nation like ours, that cannot be brave, is like the fat man who is lazy and sad. A new power (Germany) who has become a member of the League, and their Delegate, never fails to ask the question "When are the Members going to keep their treaties?"

The League means publicity. The League will have to act as conciliator, not wait until the spark has been put to the bonfire. It is Idealism of the old type when we say "We cannot help you." It is the Idealism we want when we say "We are willing to help you."

At this juncture it was very interesting to receive greeting from a Jewish Clergy, who said he represented 40,000 of the Jewish Community in Manchester and London. Although his Pastoral duties called him, he would be with us in thought for a successful Congress.

DISARMAMENT.

Sir Arthur Haworth spoke very briefly on "Disarmament through the League of Nations," and urged the Government to allow Nations to sign the Optional Clause, without interference to their Frontiers. He said that 14s. out of every £1 paid in taxation in this country is used in armaments.

BIOLOGICAL TEACHING AND WORLD PEACE.

Dr. E. Vipont Brown lectured to us on Biological Teaching and World Peace. "Evolution," he said, "is ordered change." The earliest form of life was a jelly like fish. All higher forms of life came into being by evolution. The law of the survival of the fittest, wherever there is variation, will help that individuality to be handed on. Sacrifice is demanded for the rearing of animals, "Love," he said, "is law of the survival of the fittest."

Mention was made of the mortality of the Jews of Manchester being 50% less than the poor Christians who lived in Ancoats.

Man is a gregarious animal. Never was there an animal less prepared for defence of himself than was man. In what relationship does war stand to the survival of the fittest? The boys who were passed for the Great War were those who were sound in limb and mind, and sent to the front for destruction. The weakest were sent home to breed the next generation which could only result in a C3. Nation.

War is race suicide, because it reverses the Law of the survival of the fittest. War degrades God's masterpieces.

MORAL DISARMAMENT.

Dr. Norwood again addressed the Congress on "Moral Disarmament." He said there was hardly any international laws, therefore there was no peace.

Everything that had been a "German Atrocity" was now an accepted usage of war; poison gas, etc., etc. Germany a few years ago was the world's greatest menace. Russia is the world's greatest menace to-day. America is the world's most isolated nation. These three stood for real disarmament.

Dr. Norwood said if Britain said No! to the Russian proposals we should be putting the clock back a hundred years.

As a result of Dr. Norwood's address and appeal for a carefully worded resolution to the Government, a resolution was accepted with great applause, and reads,

"This National Peace Congress representing associations and individuals of all classes and parties interested in the prevention of war expresses its appreciation of the challenging proposals for total disarmament made by the representatives of the Russian Government to the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, recognising that the attainment of the object of these proposals is part of the measures necessary for the establishment of ultimate peace.

The Congress urges H.M. Government not to take up a negative attitude towards these proposals, but to use the occasion by assuming the leadership as a League Member in stating anew a definite programme for General Disarmament in particular, and as steps in the direction of total disarmament, the Congress appeals to H.M. Government."

- (1) to sign the Optional Clause of the International Court.
- (2) to promote Arbitration for all disputes between this country and any other.
- (3) to urge the all-round adoption of the 1919 Standard of Disarmament as enforced upon the ex-emyeny countries.

ARBITRATION.

Saturday morning. W. Arnold Forster dealt with "Arbitration." He said: The Labour and the Liberal party and a good deal of the Conservatives were with them for Arbitration. Arbitration affecting Legal disputes and not war.

Italy and Switzerland, Germany and France, are bound to submit their internal affairs for Arbitration.

The Geneva Protocol states that nations should renounce private war.

"All aggressive war," he says, "is an international crime."

Dr. Nansen proposed that all Nations should call upon all signatories to submit all disputes for arbitration.

THE OUTLAWRY OF WAR.

Mr. Harrison Brown then outlined a scheme called the "Outlawry of War" as adopted in America.

THE ECONOMIC APPROACH TO PEACE.

Sir Geo. Paish, in dealing with the Economic approach to peace, said statesmen and politicians are leading the world into great danger, and putting up barriers to restrict trade. Now they had put up those barriers they had placed themselves in great danger. He said there would probably be war between France and Italy. Germany was selling an enormous amount of goods, and so we nations are putting up a protecting tariff.

How long can she remain peaceful against the high tariffs?

It is impossible to have peace when nations cannot sell their goods. The policy of restricting trade is expanding, but that method cannot increase trade, but rather, will diminish it. Our neighbours' and customers' welfare is our concern.

The World's Peace depends upon the free interchange of goods, not charging tariffs, but to take them in free.

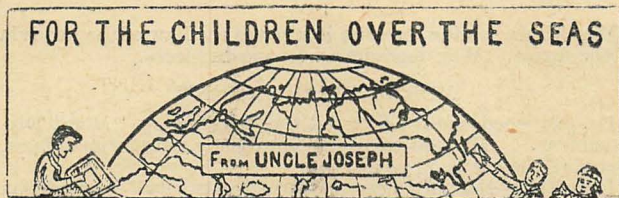
The hope of the future still lies in the nations becoming one great Family of Nations.

We want to promote all our efforts for the welfare of our neighbours so that we shall have freedom of sales and then we shall regard our enemies as our friends. The trend of Modern events it to make war impossible. It is wiser to change the militant policy now, rather than let it continue.

The whole of the sessions were educational and inspiring, and the atmosphere was certainly one of Peace and Goodwill.

EDITH ELLIOTT,

B.S.L.U. Delegate.



Dear Children,

THE LETTER "J."

Now we have come to a letter which fits in with our month. That is very good, I am sure, so I thought we might have a little talk on the letter itself.

Of course we are always talking about letters, so if we talk about this one we shall not be doing anything new.

One funny thing which I was thinking of was that "J" is simply "I" with a loop on to it, and we are very much like that, for we are joined on to somebody else, so that our "I" has also become a "J."

Now let us see about this letter. First of all our old Roman friends began their year with the letter. They called their first month after Janus, whom they had for one of their Gods. Janus was supposed to have two faces, one which saw behind him, and one which saw in front, so you can see it was a rather clever thought to call this first month after him, because now we are just finished with speeding an old year, and greeting a new one.

But let us have just another look at Janus. If he looks behind he will see all the deeds that have been done, and also he will see some deeds which ought to have been done, but which have been missed. Janus would be very much annoyed with some of us, I fear, but no! he was a fairly level-headed old fellow after all, for he said, "Never mind, you've missed a lot of things in your young life, but still, life is before you. We have taken a backward look, now let us look forward, and see what we can do to change all the slackness of the past."

Yes, perhaps it is worth looking at, for you see we are starting another jaunt, and we must try our best to make this year one of the best.

Everybody is wishing everybody else "A Happy New Year." What glorious hopes are ours. We have the pleasure of knowing that we can get on, having given a backward glance, and now, forward into the future with new thoughts and deeds.

Little children, you are workers. Oh yes, we are all workers in the army of God, and the Angel World—our harvest—is with us every day. We can always be at it, for each little act of kindness is one more step for us along the way of progression.

Once upon a time a man sent his workers into his garden and told them to work hard. He then left them and at night time he asked each what they had done. Some were able to point proudly to rows upon rows of plants neatly pruned and looking so beautiful. Others showed baskets of weeds carefully gathered up ready to be burnt, and others had seeds which they had collected. They had all worked well and the master praised their efforts. Others had not done so well, but a few words of encouragement spurred them on to do better next time.

Some, alas! had done nothing, so with these the master was very stern, because he said he could not afford to have *anybody* idle in *his* garden, so they must either work or go somewhere else.

You know, Father Janus was like that, even if he was only a Roman God. He liked to look forward for fresh work for his people; he also liked to look back to see what his people had done. Now, after all, we Josephites are very much like old Father Janus. We can look back with a certain amount of cheerfulness on the fact that many of us have laboured true and well.

Uncle Joseph knows who are his workers. What they are doing in the way of spreading the Gospel of love and peace around. Yes, many, many, nice letters are passing to and fro. We might almost call them *Journals*, which is another word beginning with "J." It means really the daily deeds; so there is another item, children. Just jot down to your friends what good deeds you have done each day, and then you can look back at your notes and see what *Joy* you have brought to someone else.

Ah! that is another word. "Joy," and it may mean such a lot to some poor friend at this time to just receive a joyful message from a friend far away.

Think of those across the sea, watching the Old Year pass away and a new one coming in; thinking of those far away in the home country, wondering how they are passing their New Year.

It is a time of joining together, isn't it, this New Year time. People who have been working away generally try to get home, making up one great family party, and so we, too, must make up a family party, even if we have to do it by letter.

Now then, which Lyceumist is going to be first to make a new friend this year? Which is going to make their Lyceum the best in the world? Because you know that would be a good thing to do. If we each tried hard to improve our Lyceum we should everyone have a lot to talk about to our friends.

Let us think very hard of some really good things to do for others this coming year. It is easy enough if we try, and lots of things cost very little except a bit extra use of our little heads.

What about those school lessons which we are going to do better. Oh, yes, there is where you can picture Father Janus will laugh. If you look back just a little you can find room to improve them.

What about these letters you have still to answer? That's where Uncle Joseph will be looking, and he will be looking, oh, so sadly, if any of his links break, because we do so want our chain keeping strong and hardy, so that it will stand a lot of pulling.

Oh, yes; just a word about chains. I have seen a lot of funny things done with chains lately. One day there was a fussy little engine came down the line, puffing and wheezing like somebody of great importance. Behind it was a great long arm, and down from this arm there was a great long chain. Well, a man came along and fastened this chain to a great big vessel. The engine tugged, and the vessel moved; but all of a sudden the chain broke. There was a weak link, and it spoiled everything until the chain was mended. Of course, the weak link had to be thrown away because it was useless. It teaches us a lesson, and that is, our chain will be spoiled if the links are weak, so what must we do? We cannot afford to throw any links away, because Lyceumists *never* do that, but it means that if one link *does not* do its work it is spoiling the whole chain. We can no longer lift our share of the burden of humanity. So now remember, children, we do so want workers in every part of our Lyceum work. Nobody is too big; none too little; and the best thing of all is, that each worker is sure of a reward. If you give of your best then Angel friends will help you always to give even better. The harder you work, and never a kind thought or act but what comes back a thousand fold, bringing with it a thousand rays of sunshine to be sent out again into God's wonderful world.

Others will also pass along our pathway, for we are all travellers along a road which we can make rough or smooth for others as well as for ourselves.

Oh, yes, before I forget, I wish some of you would read a book called the "Pilgrim's Progress." It tells you about "Journeying," which means travelling. You will read all about some people who helped one another along and came at last to the City of Beauty, and were happy and contented at last, though they had to work hard to get there.

Now, children, I must close, but there is such a lot I wanted to say. However, will you just make one resolution, and that is to keep up your letters with your friends, for those friends will be sorry, perhaps, if the postman walks past their door without knocking. Don't forget to give your Lyceum Greetings every time you write. I was at one Lyceum one Sunday and saw something which pleased me so much. We had marched round until we formed a great circle. Then we all joined hands, and each one, big and little, gave a big, long, thought to *All other Lyceumists the world over*. That means you and me and our absent friends. So if all Lyceums will do that what a great flash of love will go forth through the world, and I am sure the world will be better for it.

Now the time has come to say good-night, but before we say that let us wish one another

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

And the blessing of God and the Angel world on all Lyceumists the world over.

And may our big chain grow bigger and bigger.

Yours lovingly,

UNCLE JOSEPH.

Deeds not Words.

Once upon a time there lived a poor woman who was a widow with a large family; her two eldest girls, Lottie and Ruth, were aged respectively 14 and 12 years, and owing to their mother being delicate the most part of the *work* in the home was left to them. Lottie was a very good child in her way and was very careful to say her prayers morning and evening, but Ruth realised that *work is prayer* and would always *get up early* and try to *make home pleasant* for the others; she would wash and dress the younger children *one by one* and get them ready for school (while Lottie was dressing herself and spending a good deal of time making herself neat and tidy; she would *trip lightly* upstairs *over and over again* to see if her mother had all she wanted, so when it was time for her to go to school she often had to run off without spending much time over her own personal appearance. She often thought *what might be done* if Lottie would lend her *the helping hand* to help others a little more, but still she would *let it pass* and try to *cherish kindly feelings* towards her sister, and wonder if it were not sometimes *your mission* to only look after *the beautiful part* of life.

After school she would hurry home, so that she would be ready to *open the door for the children* without troubling her mother to; she had the *backbone* to know that *where there's a will there's a way*, and her love for them all made her *smile and be contented* through many difficulties. Her motto was *hope on, hope ever*, and she knew *there must be something wrong* if she felt upset and forgot to *speak gently* to the others. So she reminded herself that love was *better than gold* and that *angry words* made everyone unhappy. Lottie, in the meantime, did not appreciate as she ought to have done Ruth's *words and acts of kindness* to them all.

One night Lottie had a dream. She dreamt she had passed over to the Summerland (which was the name they were taught in their *Lyceum* to call heaven), and when she crossed *over the river of light* she saw a bright angel standing *by the beautiful gate* through which she had to pass. He asked her what she had done to entitle her to enter. She said *there's a home for all here*, but it depends on your actions in your earth life what kind of a home you are entitled to; if you have been among the *ministering angels* on the earth plane you have learned *how to live* here.

Lottie was surprised, because she thought her prayers were quite enough to entitle her to enter. The angel said, "I will go and read your records." On his return he said, "I have been trying to read your records, but they are very faint; I am afraid your prayers were all words and no deeds, so that accounts for the records being not lasting. But come in; we never leave people *knocking, knocking*, without welcoming them. Then she saw Ruth approaching the door. When the Angel asked what she had done to deserve to enter, she said, "Oh, dear Angel, I am very sorry, but I have never said many prayers, but I will tell the *truth* and ask *forgiveness*." So when the Angel returned after reading her record he said, "Come in, child, you have indeed built for yourself a beautiful home by realizing that work is prayer, if done for God, and actions speak louder than words. So your records are cut in stone that nothing can efface.

Then Lottie woke up and knew that her dream had been *angel whispers*, telling her how to live on the earth so as to build for herself a "mansion" in the *summerland*.

She never forgot the Angel's message and made up her mind to help her sister in the future with the every-day work, and knew that if more children were like Ruth *the world would be the better for it* and that in the end *the workers win*.

"MURPHY."

ARMLEY LYCEUM, THEAKER LANE, ARMLEY, LEEDS.

On Feb. 4th, 1928

we are holding a

SOCIAL AND CONCERT, with tea at 4-30 p.m.

Admission, Adults 1/-; Children, Lyceumist 6d., others 9d.

Concert only, Adults 6d. Children 3d.

Everybody welcome.

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.

BRADFORD, Ripley Street.—In memory of our dear friend, Miss Butterfield, who passed to the Higher Life on December 29th, 1925.

"To live in our hearts
Is not to die."

—Mr. and Mrs. T. Pickles.

DARWEN.—With highest thoughts of Mary Mann, whose soul was released on November 19th, 1927.
"I know her spirit hovers round and mingles with us here."

LONDON, Walthamstow.—We regret to announce the passing, on December 5th, of our little sister, Gladys Chesterman, aged 10 years.

Loved by all who knew her.

We regret to announce the passing, on December 9th, of our brother, Donald Russell, aged 21 years.

An earnest worker.

OLDHAM, Central.—In loving memory of Dorothy Clegg, passed over Jan. 18th, 1923, aged 3 years. Ever in our thoughts.

WOOTTON.—In loving memory of Willie Wootton, who passed to the Summerland on Jan. 5th, 1923.

From Father, Mother and Brother.

God calls our loved ones, but we lose not wholly

What he has given;

They live on earth in thought and deed, as truly

As in heaven.

District Council Reports.

LONDON DISTRICT.

As a mark of esteem and appreciation to Mrs. Tiffin, who has so generously entertained the Executive Council, by allowing them to make her home their Headquarters during the past year, Mr. Fruin (President), on behalf of members, presented Mrs. Tiffin with a Cut Glass Vase and Glass Trinket Set, at their December meeting.

Mrs. Tiffin, responding, said it had been a pleasure to her to assist the Council, and that the Council would always be welcome to meet under her roof.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

The quarterly Conference was held on Saturday, Nov. 26th, at Easy Road, Leeds.

Invocation by the President, Mr. Tweedale. A Welcome was given by Mr. Ingle.

The President welcomed representatives of Hull, Gipsyville, and Normanton, Assembly Rooms. He gave a short address in which he asked us not to talk over the heads of the children in the Lyceum, and suggested lessons with objects, diagrams, etc. We should also be careful of our language, choosing the right and simple words to express what we mean.

Minutes of last meeting were accepted and confirmed.

Minutes of special E.C. were accepted and confirmed.

Correspondence. Re letters from B.S.L.U. National Office, M.C. Meeting at Castleford, and Morley, Cross Church St. A strong appeal was made to the delegates to influence many Lyceumists to attend at Castleford on Jan. 15th. Sunday afternoon Open Session and Evening Service. Dinner and tea provided. Castleford friends desire to know the numbers attending not later than Jan. 9th, 1928.

Gipsyville application for membership to Council was agreed upon.

Field Day Secretary for 1928. The recommendation of Mr. Wright was accepted. All correspondence was accepted.

The D.V. reported visits to Armley, Sept 11th; South Kirby, Morning Session, Oct. 16th; Hemsworth, Afternoon

Session, Oct. 16th; Normanton, Oct. 23rd; Easy Road, Leeds, Nov. 6th; Birstal, Nov. 13th; Dewsbury, Nov. 20th. All showed progress except one. The L.D.C. report was given by Mrs. Harding.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement, Balance last quarter £2 15s. 11d. Income £1 1s. 2d. Total £3 17s. 1d. Expenditure £1 10s. 3d. Balance £2 6s. 11d. All reports were accepted.

Presentation of Silver Bell to Wellington Rd., Dewsbury, on Saturday, Jan. 7th. The President to present Bell and Certificate. Whist Drive and Social at 7.30 p.m. Whist 1/-, Social, adults 6d., children 3d. Proceeds for Council funds.

Agreed Mr. Barnes, Adjudicator, be invited to Field Day and Demonstration Meeting to be held at Cleckheaton on Jan. 28th, at 3.30 p.m.

Closing date for Nomination of Officers of Council, Jan. 31st. It was agreed that Mr. Kitson be made an Honorary Member of our Council. A letter of sympathy was sent to Mr. Lee (Armley) in the unfortunate accident which has happened to him. Associates, Mr. Calcutt and Mrs. Spencer were accepted.

Date and Place of Annual Meeting, to be Feb. 25th, at Heckmondwike, if it can be arranged. A vote of thanks was given to the local friends, and accepted on behalf of Church and Lyceum, by Mr. Ingle.

Credential Officers' Report. Officers 4, L.D.C. Delegate 1, Delegates 16, representing 13 Lyceums, Associates 5, Representatives from Gipsyville and Assembly Rooms.

Lyceums please note.—Any old Manuals you may have to dispose of, kindly forward them to the Council Secretary, address 19, New Row, Thornes, Wakefield.—A.W. Harding, Sec.

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The above Council held their quarterly meeting in the Burton St. Lyceum, Middleton, on Saturday, Nov. 26th, 1927. Mr. T. Dixon, the President, was in the chair. At the outset, our President extended a warm welcome to our Union President, Miss E. Elliott, and Mr. J. E. Hart, our Area Representative. Mr. Hart responded.

Minutes of last meeting were passed, as also was the correspondence.

The Council President gave an address, pleading for a closer bond of Lyceums within the Council.

The Auditors' and D.V.'s reports were accepted.

The U.D.C. report was read and various points discussed. It was resolved that all Lyceums should discuss the question of a Children's Section of the Manual, and be ready with their ideas for next meeting.

Miss Elliott was called upon to say a few words, which were most inspiring and encouraging. In response to her appeal for our distressed Lyceumists at Fleetwood, where much damage had been done to their Church, the Council voted the sum of £1 towards repair work.

The Credential Officer, Mr. Hudson, stated that 11 Delegates, 1 D.V. and 3 Associates, B.S.L.U. President, and Area Representative were present.

Our President then moved a hearty vote of thanks to our Burton St. friends for their kindness in entertaining the Council, which dispersed with the feeling that much business had been accomplished.

The Annual Meeting will be held, probably, in Regent Hall Lyceum, Rochdale, on Saturday, Feb. 11th, 1928, when a good attendance is eagerly anticipated. Fees to the Council are also then due, also review of Associates and their Fees.

The Council extends fraternal greetings to all Lyceums, and hopes that 1928 may be a year of success, with added zeal towards Council work.—H. Greaves, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The B. and D. L.D.C. held their Council Meeting in the Spiritualist Church, High Street, Smethwick, on Saturday, December 10th. There were four Lyceums represented. 1. Forward, Handsworth; 2. Wolverhampton, Drummond Street; 3. Stirchley; 4. Smethwick.

We had quite an enjoyable tea which was provided by the ladies of the Smethwick Church, who were duly thanked by Mr. Frost, of Wolverhampton, the President of the B. & D. L.D.C. It was passed that we apply for affiliation to the B.S.L.U. A Minute was passed that all Lyceums intending to

join the B. & D. L.D.C. must make an official application direct to the Secretary of the B. & D. L.D.C. not later than January 7th, 1928. A little grace will be extended to those Lyceums who don't hold their Committee Meetings till January. Mrs. Shakespeare, of Stirchley, was appointed Associate Representative, and it is her duty to secure members for the Council. It will only cost 1/- per annum to become an Associate Member of the B. & D. L.D.C.

Will all Lyceums please note that the next District Council Meeting will be held in the Forward Spiritualist Church, Villa Road, Handsworth, on Saturday, Jan. 14th, 1928, at 3 p.m. *prompt*. (Please note the time). A hearty invitation is given to all Lyceumists and friends.

"Compliments of the Season" to all Lyceumists.—Ernest C. Heath, Sec., 6, Parkfield Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham.

District Visitors' Report.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

Since my last report I have visited the following Lyceums:—

Lower Openshaw, Aug. 14th. Prompt start, present 36. Mental efficiency good. Good response to recitations from the children. Marching and callisthenics very good. This Lyceum is making great progress. Splendid session.

Milton Hall, Eccles, Sept. 4th. Present 36. The readings were explained in a most able manner by the children. Good response to the individual efforts. Marching and callisthenics fair. Great interest is taken in the children by the conductor, who would be grateful for more adult members. Session very good.

Higher Openshaw, Sept. 18th. Harvest Festival, present 52. Mental efficiency good. Good response to recitations, pearls, and solos. Marching and callisthenics good. This Lyceum is full of promise for the future of Spiritualism. Good session.

Moston, Church Lane, Oct. 9th. Present 47. Fair response to readings. Recitations, girls 10, boys 3. Marching and callisthenics fair. Session fair.

Harpurhey, Sharston St., Oct. 9th. Present 36. Considering the main officers were absent, it was a most enjoyable session. All readings explained in a most able manner. Recitations, girls 6, boys 2, solos 2. Marching and callisthenics good. A most instructive and interesting session throughout.

Salford, St. Phillips Place. Oct. 23rd. Good attendance. Great interest was taken in the session, which was rather hurriedly gone through, on account of the Church service later. Good session.

Hollinwood, Byrom St., Oct. 30th. Present 43. Good response to readings. 4 solos. Mental efficiency good. Marching and callisthenics good. The general tone of this Lyceum is improving. Good session.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Droylsden, Durham St. (late Montana St., Gorton) during the opening of their new Church and Lyceum. There was a splendid session, and a decided improvement from the other place. There is also great scope for activities. Great interest is taken in the children. The keynote here is happiness.

During the year I have visited all Lyceums in my area. On taking a retrospect I am very pleased to report progress. I found Swinton Lyceum closed, but I trust in the very near future they will open again under more favourable circumstances. I wish all Lyceums and the D.C. success in the future.—G. Ashton, D.V.

SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The following Lyceums have been visited:—

September 18th. Rochdale, Penn Street. Morning Session: 20 present. Good singing. Readings were very good. A few pearls and recitations. Marching and callisthenics were very good. We had a nice discussion in the Liberty Group. This Lyceum is not as strong as on my last visit.

October 9th. Rochdale, Baillie Street. Morning session: 37 present. Good singing. Readings were clear and distinct. A good number of pearls and 2 recitations. The marching and callisthenics were very good. No classes owing to time being short. This Lyceum is in a healthy condition. Very nice session.

October 16th. Oldham, Hooper Street. Morning session: 32 present. Singing good. Readings were explained. A few pearls. Three recitations and a few solos. The marching and callisthenics were good. Good music. A nice homely session.

October 30th. Oldham, Waterhead, Equitable Street. Morning session: 25 present. Singing and readings fair. Readings were explained. A number of pearls and recitations were rendered. Good marching and callisthenics. It was a nice session, and I was pleased to see a few new scholars. This Lyceum can be of great service to this part of Oldham.—W. Buckley, D.V.

LONDON DISTRICT.

During the period from September 25th to December 11th I have had the pleasure of visiting the following Lyceums:—

Surbiton. Children's Day. Present, 60. Eltham's Anniversary; present, 103. Woolwich and Plumstead (twice). On the first occasion 25 were present. The second visit was the Anniversary. 65 attended. Acton (twice). At the opening, when I assisted, 38 attended. A second visit was paid on October 30th. Peckham, 44 present. Where an ideal method of pearls is introduced. Each Sunday a word is taken and pearls are made introducing that word; the word "cultivate" was used on my visit, and 23 very good pearls were made from it. North London; present, 57. I attended the Albert Hall Armistice Sunday.

I am pleased with the progress that is being steadily maintained in answer to readings and question; also at the attendance. A high state of spirituality prevails. The marching and callisthenics could be improved in a good many instances. Pearls have been choice and many original ones have been given. Recitations in some cases could be improved. Wishing all Lyceumists a very happy and prosperous New Year.—Fraternally yours, Fred. J. Miles.

ILFORD PSYCHICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY.

This Church is to be congratulated, not only on having a very live Lyceum Conductor in Miss Dorothy Gilbert, but as a natural sequence, a very live Lyceum. This was demonstrated at their Annual Prize-Giving on December 13th, a new note being struck in special prizes being awarded for a year's pearls, these being independently judged by Miss Elliott and other officers of the B.S.L.U. The prizes were very gracefully presented by Mrs. Edith Clements, an earnest friend of this Lyceum from its inception. But the notable feature of the evening was a really wonderful production of the old-time story of "Alice in Wonderland," adapted by Miss Dorothy Gilbert to meet her Lyceum's requirements. We have seen professional productions fall short of this and have never seen a Lyceum play staged and produced so well. We cannot criticize perfection. A most notable performance was that of the tiny Alice of little Peggy Johnson. The other characters are too numerous to mention, but all were good. Special mention must, however, be given to other officers, Mr. Norris, Mr. and Mrs. Burton, and Messrs. A. Cornall, sen, and junior. Most notable of all was—the admission was *Free*—a real Love-Feast! We were in Wonderland.—Mrs. B. Petz, Assist. D.V.

Special Reports.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—Open Sessions held Dec. 4th. 45 members present, also some visitors. There was a good response to the Conductor for songs, recitations: Miss Ackroyd, Miss Wilman, Miss Cook, Miss Maxon, W. Hill, Mr. Barnes, Miss Keene, H. Hill, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Hudson, Mr. Wilman, J. Hill. The singing of "Shoulder to Shoulder" and discussions were fine. We are still making progress.—J. Babbs, Sec.

JARROW-ON-TYNE.—On Sunday, Dec. 4th, we held our Open Session and we had an excellent reception of pearls, recitations, and solos from children and adults. Best wishes to all Lyceums.—J. Dunn, Sec.

LIVERPOOL, Roaler St.—Nov. 13th. An original Service of Song entitled "Wolk in the Light" was rendered by the Lyceum, written and read by the author, Mrs. Lillie George. The following Lyceumists assisted: Misses H. and E. Kirk-

ham, T. and L. Burns, K. Milburn, D. Pope, Mr. Burns, and Master Frank George. Thoroughly enjoyed by all.—L.G., Sec.

WELLINGTON, Kent Terrace, New Zealand.—We join in the most fraternal New Year greetings to all Lyceums and Lyceumists at home and abroad. To make use of the title of G.C.R. 133, may "Physical, Moral and Spiritual Order" ever be earnestly studied and sustained among Lyceumists everywhere. At a very successful Lyceum Concert on October 12th, a well-staged dialogue, "Burglars in the House," performed by six Lyceumists, was appreciated and loudly applauded. There was also a varied programme of vocal, recitative, fancy dance and musical items, all of which were of individual excellence. We regret the resignation, through ill-health, of our Secretary, Mr. R. J. Ross, and we wish him a speedy return to health and strength. Mr. Seth Harris has kindly agreed to act as Secretary, *pro. tem.* We have been pleased to welcome visitors from West Stanley, Durham, Lyceum, and wish them success in New Zealand. We hope that they will not forget their Lyceumism, but still show that they are earnest "Old Country" Spiritualists, by helping the Cause in New Zealand. Thanking the Editor for his unvarying courtesy in inserting our reports.—Reuben A. Webb, Con.

WINNIPEG, Princess Street.—We held our Open Session on Dec. 4th, when pearls and recitations were said by May Lindsay, Margaret Welsh, Evelyn Brown, Margaret Mudie, Crissy Lindsay, Evelyn Lindsay, Pearl Welsh, Grace Welsh, Mrs. Pearson, Albert Pearson, George Brown, Tom White, Louis Rimmer, Mrs. Burley, Mary White, Wallace Douglas; duets by Evelyn Brown and Evelyn Lindsay, Margaret Mudie and Evelyn Lindsay, Margaret Mudie and May Lindsay; a trio by three Welsh girls. I am very pleased to say that we are getting the children all back again. Greetings to all.—Mrs. M. Armitt, 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 Dec. 17th.
- 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 January 25th, to ensure insertion in the February 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.

A large number of Lyceums have sent Greetings to other Lyceums at home and abroad.

Lyceums are requested to accept these greetings, which have been deleted from most of the Reports to save repetition. (Ed.)

ACCRINGTON, Pearl St.—We held our Open Session on Dec. 4th. Mrs. Wilson, of Oswaldtwistle, gave all the children a delineation from the flowers they brought. We enjoyed it very much, and the conditions were beautiful.—H. Swift, Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session Dec. 4th. Pearls, recitations and songs were given.

We regret the passing of an old Lyceumist, George McKenna, who passed to the Higher Life on Nov. 17th, 1927, in his 39th year. Mr. H. Shaw, Lyceum Conductor, officiated at the interment and also conducted the Memorial Service. "Sadly missed by all."—B. Lord, Sec.

BARROW, Dalton Road.—We opened our Lyceum in our new Church on Dec. 4th, conducted by Mr. Roy Brown. Miss Lawton, D.V., spoke to the Lyceum. Mrs. Butterworth, Mr. Howbrook, and Mr. Tom Jones, Assistant Conductors, also spoke a few words to the Lyceumists. We had a very enjoyable session all through.—Mrs. L. Brown, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On Dec. 4th we had another naming service, the infant being the son of Mr. and Mrs. Woodley. The name given was Albert, spirit name, Earnest.

Our usual Open Session was held and well responded to by the younger people, with recitations and solos. It was an enjoyable session, and we hope to do even better next year.—John Hirst, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford St.—Election of Officers, Dec. 4th. Conductor, Mr. Cliff; Assist., Mr. W. Edwards; Secretary, Miss E. Holt; Assist., Mr. Arthur Bromiley; Marching and Callisthenic Leader, Mr. Jack Holt; Assist., Mr. A. Bromiley; Treasurer, Mr. Ridings; Musical Director, Mr. Liles; Guardian, Miss E. Walker; Captain of Guards, Mrs. Liles; Guards, Miss L. Speight, Mr. Liles, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Cliff; Auditors, Mr. Brown and Mr. Lintott; Representative to Society, Miss Holt and Mr. Cliff; Representatives to B.L.D.C., Mr. Cliff and Mr. R. Johnson; Children's Leader, Miss H. Bromiley; Girls' Leader, Mr. A. Bromiley; Librarian, Mr. W. Edwards; Assist., Mr. James Thwaites. A vote of thanks was given to all retiring officers.—Edna Holt, Sec.

CALGARY First Progressive Lyceum.—On Nov. 13th we held our Thanksgiving Sunday by having an Open Session. A very large attendance enjoyed an excellent session, which was helped out by a fine programme. Pearls were given by nearly all in the room, and the following gave readings:—Miss Winters, Lorna Yoxall, Dorothy Browning, Raymond Parkyn, and Tom Winters. Recitations were given by Shirley Clements, Margaret Dams, Miss Winters and Ronald Brookman. Adding to our long programme were solos by Mrs. Garrad, Raymond Parkyn. Pianoforte solos by Vernona Potts, Mervin Eshlby; violin solo by Jack Eshlby; duet by Elsie and Lena Peters. This made an enjoyable session and everyone went home in a contented frame of mind. Best of luck to all Lyceums and the "Banner."—William A. Garrad, Sec.

CLECKHEATON.—We held our Open Session Dec 4th. The singing, readings, marching and callisthenics were good. Mr. Minshall gave a good pearl from our Golden Chain. We had a recitation from Gladys Hutton. Solos by Miss A. Worthington, Miss M. B. Robinson, and a lovely duet by Misses A. Raynor and A. Wilson. It was a glorious session and well conducted by Miss E. Tolliday.—Tom Brooke, Sec.

FARBY, Green End Ave.—We held our Open Session on Dec. 4th, 1927. The following contributed recitations:—F. Clark, N. Hopkinson, D. Seddon, H. Footer, H. Greenwood. Songs by M. Enniss, E. Taylor, H. Greenwood, A. Bannister, W. Wintersgill, S. Warrington, C. Smith, D. Wright, Q. Dawson, E. Rattersall.—F. Wood, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—We are once again in harness after the dreadful flood which did so much damage to our Church and Lyceum, and with a feeling of joy to be able to meet together again. We held a very successful Open Session on Dec. 4th. The children were all eager to do their best. Recitations:—Dorothy and Ruth Harris, Dorothy Church, Irene Watkins, Robert Rae, and Tom Smith. Duets:—Nora Harris and Kitty Thurston. Trio:—Kate Marron, Lily Frith, Irene Watkins. Ten little girls sang "We are trying to follow the Angels." Duet, Mrs. F. Church and Mrs. E. K. Firth. Very good pearls were given. The marching and callisthenics were ably led by Kitty Thurston and the Conductor, Mr. Patley. Excellent music played by Mrs. Rae. The speaker for the day, Mrs. Fanny Taylor, spoke at the close of a very good Session, and gave several clairvoyant descriptions which interested all.—Mrs. E. K. Firth, Sec.

GRANGETOWN.—Open Session, December 3rd. The "Fountain" Group recited "A Bunch of Keys," from the "Banner." Pearls again excellent. Only moderate session.—Ed. Nellist, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—On Dec. 4th we held our Open Session. Pearls were good. Recitations by Yvonne Dehoux, Kittie Townsend, Elsie Clements, Ethel Gamble, Annie Hughes, Doris and Horace Jayes, and Mr. Ernest Taylor. Solos by L. Garrett and Mr. W. Beck. Duets by Messrs. F. & A. Gamble, Sybil Nottingham and Eva Newtown. A happy day well spent.—S. Wheatley, Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—The Open Session on Dec. 4th was a very enjoyable one. Mrs. Challinor was Conductor and made a few interesting remarks. Our friends enjoyed a few fresh

marches which were nicely done. A piano solo by Norman Read was well rendered. The Misses E. Edwards, L. Hill, and E. Rushton sang "Sweet Golden Age" very sweetly. Mrs. Smith gave a solo. Recitals and pearls were given by most of the Lyceumists. Miss Dean led the exercises, and Miss Hulley was Musical Conductor. All did their share to make a happy and successful time.—Hannah Rushton, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Heaton and Byker.—On Nov. 27th our Lyceum Sunday evening Service was conducted by the E.C. of the T.L.D.C., Mr. Hunter, Past President, taking the chair. Speakers, Mr. Slimin, President, Mrs. Armley, Vice-President, Mr. Robson, Secretary. Mr. Hall, D.V., and Mr. Mather, Treasurer, were also present.

During the evening musical items were rendered by Mr. Robson, violin, and Mr. Ainley, cello. Mrs. Armley presided at the piano. Everyone enjoyed the service. Our best thanks and good wishes were given to the E.C. for their good work on behalf of the Lyceum Cause.—S. J. Hunter, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM, Mechanics' Hall.—Election of Officers for 1928:—Conductor, Miss V. G. Rayner; Assistant, Mrs. Baker; Guardian, Mrs. Woodward; Captain of Guards, John Billington; Guards, Alec Farnath, Maurice Farnath, Charles Woodward and Albert Buckley; Organist, Miss Ledgard, Assistant, Miss Fell; Violinist, Joseph Hitchenor; Musical Director, Mr. Farnath; Marching Conductor, Mr. A. Tunneycliff; Assistant, Mr. Albert Pepper; Marching Leaders, Mr. Albert Pepper and Miss Peel; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. O. Peel; Assistant, Miss Peel; Auditors, Cyril Stephenson and Miss Clayton; Lyceum Council Representatives, Miss Rayner and Mr. Peel.—O. Peel, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—On Nov. 27th we held our Gentlemen's Day. Our President, Mr. Standish, occupied the chair. The Speakers were Mr. Robert Roberts and Mr. Snape, two old Lyceumists. The service was a success. The Gentlemen sang an anthem "The Land Beyond." A day well spent.—Mrs. H. Clegg, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—Dec. 4th, a Memorable Session, with Uncle Bert, Auntie Ruth, and Cousin Doris. Songs, recitations, organ and violin solos pleasingly rendered and much appreciated. Large attendances of adults and scholars. Pearls and principles were given, with added explanations. Homely address by Uncle Bert, a few remarks from Auntie Ruth and a recitation by Cousin Doris all added to a harmonious day.—L. Paget, Sec.

PRESTON, Moor Lane.—We held our Open Session on Dec. 4th. We had a very good Session. Marching and callisthenics were splendid. Recitations were given by N. Martin, E. Tallon, Miss E. Dodson, Miss Cooke, and Mr. C. Ward. Songs by N. Martin and J. Blackburn. Duets by E. Tallon and E. Cavanagh. Mrs. Cooke and Miss N. Kilner. Trio by Miss Bradley, Miss Harker and N. Marsh.—R. E. Tallon, Sec.

ROCHDALE, Regent Hall.—On Dec. 3rd we held our Annual Lyceum Tea-party and Prize Distribution. An excellent concert was given by the Lyceumists, including several sketches, whilst a short play was given by the children, entitled "Little Break-my-Toys."—D. Richards, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—On Dec. 4th we held our Open Session. Mr. Armitage was the Conductor. We had a very good session. The marching and callisthenics were good. We had recitations by Olive Fukes, C. Fukes, Milly Brooks, Muriel Brooks, Doris Cartwright, Alice Thorpe, Annie Ellwell, and Harry Croft. Pearls by Mr. J. le Nourey and Miss H. Chilton. Pianist, Miss H. Chilton. Violin accompanist, Mr. A. Thwaites. An interesting ceremony was performed by Mrs. Thwaites, the naming of a baby, Bessie Bambridge. Spirit name, Rose. It was an interesting session.—Mr. E. Johnson, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley, Gifford Rd.—On Dec. 4th we held our Open Session, conducted by Mr. Hopkins. Recitations, solos, and duets were well rendered by Lyceumists. The afternoon was enjoyed by all present.—A. Truelove, Sec.

WEST HARTLEPOOL, Musgrave St.—Open Session on Dec. 4th. Good attendance. Conductor, Mr. Cook. Items were given by Norman Jefferson, Nora Jefferson, Tommy Baimbride, Ronald Macklam, Mrs. Blackburn, Betty Cook and Mary Petty. Solo, Mrs. Jefferson, accompanied by Miss V. Davey, violin. A good session.—E. Platts, Sec.