

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 446. Vol. XXXVIII.

APRIL, 1928.

PRICE TWOPENCE

## MOTHER—LOVE.

A little girl of pensive mood  
Would often sit her down and brood.  
She never stayed up late at night;  
For that, you see, would not be right.  
But once the night came very soon;  
For the first time she saw the moon,  
And to her mother she did cry,  
"There is a flash-light in the sky."

A little boy was sick, you know,  
And had to stay at home and grow.  
He never went outside to play,  
And mother nursed him day by day.  
And then one day he better grew;  
'Twas at the door he saw things new.  
He saw a policeman, big and fat,  
And said, "O, mother! what is that?"

A little girl and little boy  
Sat on the ground, and, full of joy,  
They talked of fairies, sweet and small,  
And mother listened to it all.  
For in the land of make-believe,  
There is no time to sit and grieve;  
And happy hours are always spent  
When mother's love provides content.

## Nominations for B.S.L.U. Officers.

For election at the Annual Conference:—

*President:* Miss E. Elliott, Mr. J. Slimin.

*Vice-President:* Mr. G. A. Mack, Miss E. Elliott, Mr. J. Slimin, Mr. E. G. Cox, Mr. W. Burrows, Mr. J. E. Hart, Mrs. L. Nurse.

*Treasurer:* Mr. C. J. Williams.

*Auditor* (one wanted): Mr. C. T. Batley, Mr. E. Wilson, Mr. E. Aked, Mr. R. Slater, Mr. J. Walmsley.

Some other nominations have been received but are not included in the above list. For various reasons, they are not valid.

## AREA ELECTIONS.

Area.	Candidate.	Lyceum.
A*	Miss H. Cleland	Glasgow (S.M.U.)
	Mr. James Shaw	Glasgow (Govan.)
B*	Mr. J. Slimin	Sunderland (Derwent St.).
C*	Mr. J. F. Smith	Sheffield (Attercliffe).
D	Mr. E. Aked	Shipley.
*	Mr. W. Burrows	Halifax (St. Paul's).
E	Mr. J. R. Charnley	Radcliffe.
*	Mrs. L. Nurse	Blackpool.
F*	Mr. J. E. Hart	Manchester (Progressive).
	Mr. E. A. Keeling	Liverpool (Daulby Hall).
G*	Miss V. G. Rayner	Nottingham (Mechanics' Hall).
H*	Mr. E. G. Cox	Peckham.
	Mr. H. C. Guy	Portsmouth.

\*Present members, eligible for re-election.

## THE BALLOT.

Ballot Forms have been issued to Lyceums in Areas where there is a contest.

If any Lyceum has not received the Ballot Form, please write at once to the General Secretary.

The names of all candidates in the Area must be submitted to the Lyceum Session held on Sunday, April 8th, and voted on by the Lyceumists of voting age (over 12 years) then present.

The number of votes cast for each Candidate shall be recorded IN FIGURES by the presiding officer and entered on the Ballot Form, which must be signed by the Conductor and Secretary.

The Ballot Form must be returned to the General Secretary within seven days (before April 15th) or the votes will not be counted.

The complete return of votes cast in the Area Elections will be printed in the May issue of the LYCEUM BANNER.

## DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Lyceum Secretaries are requested to note that the Delegates Forms must be filled up and returned to the General Secretary not later than April 21st to ensure representation at the Annual Conference which takes place at Manchester on May 26th and 27th, 1928.

## THE FEDERATION OF YOUTH.

### VISCOUNT CECIL APPEALS TO YOUTH IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT.

The third Annual Conference of the British Federation of Youth was held at Church House, Westminster, on Saturday, the 17th of March, the subject being "Youth and Disarmament," and Viscount Cecil being the principal speaker. The gathering was well attended by representatives of many youth organisations, and messages of greeting were received from France, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States of America, and from African, Indian and Chinese Students' Unions in Great Britain.

The Chairman, Wilfred Pohl, B.Sc., explained that the British Federation of Youth represented twenty-six youth organisations and local federations that were working together in the interests of international peace. It was acting as the International Secretariat for the World Youth Peace Congress to be held in Holland in August next.

Viscount Cecil urged his audience to join in a campaign to destroy the monster of war. War was not inevitable; it could be eliminated from civilised life in the same way as other evils had been.

Then came the League of Nations and the Covenant struck a notable blow at the War monster. But those who drew up the Covenant did not feel strong enough to kill it outright.

So far the British Government had been unwilling to accept the proposals for guaranteed security which had been put forward and had been unwilling to enter into any general agreement to accept arbitration, such as by the signature of the Optional Clause of the Statutes of the Permanent Court of International Justice, a step which 27 other Nations had already taken.

In conclusion, Viscount Cecil said that we of all nations had least cause to desire the retention of the right of war. No doubt the Russian proposal was right if it were practical, but it was not so at present. We must advance by stages, by limitation, by reduction, and finally, let us hope, by abolition.

The evening session of the Conference was opened by Mr. Howard Diamond (Treasurer of the Federation). Mr. Diamond said that the time was past when "pacifist" was a term of reproach. All reasonable men and women were to-day realising that war was a survival of barbarism and that the close weaving of international communication made peace between nations essential.

Much could be done by young people in the cause of peace by international correspondence, by exchange of papers, during holidays abroad, and through friendship with foreign students.

—From the British Federation of Youth.

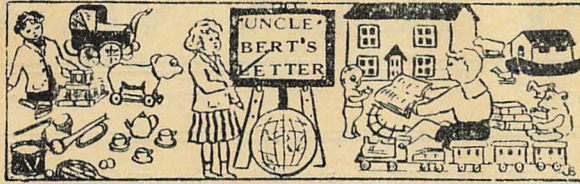
## LONDON DISTRICT.

The newly elected Council have had a busy month. During March, in addition to the usual visits paid by our District Visitors, Officers and Members have attended the following Anniversary Services:—Peckham, Croydon, Surbiton, Forest Hill, and Clapham. Prize giving, Social, and Council Meetings at Tottenham and Fulham, also the Battersea Lyceum Guild.

Our programme for April includes visit to Southend, April 1st. Social and Dance at Stationers' Hall, April 21st. Outings in conjunction with Fulham Lyceum, Wimbledon Common, Easter Monday.

The 1928 Programme is a very full one, and only a few open dates for Propaganda meetings are vacant.

PUBLICITY MANAGER.



My dear Boys and Girls,

Seeing that most of you will receive this letter on the first of the month, I should just simply love to leave the page blank with the exception of the date.

Mr. Editor is not a bad sort of chap you know, but he says no, no Uncle, you must not carry your little jokes too far, so there you are, I shall have to let him have his own way.

When I come to think about things, I promised you I would write about Spring this month.

Spring, ah, I shall have to consult my doctor, my doctor. "What on earth am I talking about, I mean my dictionary," for the Clerk of the Weather seems to be misjudging the time, or else he is trying a "put the clocks back" stunt of his own.

He has allowed Jack Frost to escape from his winter quarters, with a following of rain, hail, snow, and other climatic mixtures, all warranted to improve your complexion or give you red noses.

Here we are Springing to the subject in the dictionary, Spring, Spring Onion, If I talk about that you'll want to weep. "Oh dry those tears." Spring mattress, that reminds one of bed time, so that will not do, Spring beauty, claytonia Virginia that might be alright. P.T.O. Please topple over. Auntie Ruth says it does not mean that at all, it means please turn over, so I will.

Let me see, "What's the time, please." Oh, the spring's gone; the spring's gone. Yes, it's been going all day, because I've been carrying it. Oh! stop it, Herbert; you'll make my Hair Spring stand up on end in a minute.

Why, there's nearly a page full of springs; so I had better start winding up, because it says spring, to rise as the sun. Think of the time it would be.

It also says the Vernal Season, or the season belonging to youth; and perhaps, after all, this is the most important reference for our consideration just now.

Spring referred to as the Season of Youth reminds us of the young life we see around us at this time of the year. From the branches of the trees we see the new young buds breaking forth. In our gardens we behold the young shoots of plant life pushing their way through the soil. All this is for one great purpose: to beautify our earth plane.

You, boys and girls, are but the buds or the young shoots of the future. Your mission is to create happiness and brightness, and in order to carry out these desires, I think a simple little lesson from garden life may be helpful to you. I wonder how many of you have watched the spike of the bulb pushing its way through the earth, often lifting a stone out of its way, or creeping up by its side, but never giving up because it meets obstructions.

You will meet many obstructions in life which will tempt you to give up, but if the tiny bulb wins its way through I feel sure not one of you will be beaten, but will meet life's obstructions in the same way.

Let us now look at bird life and see if they have a lesson to give us.

Oh, yes; a very beautiful and useful one. Have you noticed at this time of the year how they sing their song of praise every morning? Why, they must get out of bed singing. I often hear them chirping away, long before I get up. Sometimes I try to fit words to their notes, and I think two words they always say are "Thank you."

Now, how often do we get up in the morning with a song on our lips; saying "Thank you?" I am afraid we often find ourselves rubbing our eyes, saying, "Oh, dear; it's time to get up. What a bother." Every boy and girl who can sing early in the morning denotes the spirit of happiness within. So let us try and follow this happy example which our bird friends so freely give us.

A third lesson is from the Sunshine. I hope by the time you get this letter it will be giving a full demonstration of its power again. I know all of you who so winningly joined my Sun Ray League have been doing your very best to make everyone feel merry and bright during the dull wintry weather; and, of course, you will continue to do so, although summer is coming.

While you have been doing your parts, doctors and other, have been proving to us the value of sunshine to our healths by giving sun bath treatment by means of artificial methods.

Sunshine is a free tonic to all. I want you to get as much of it as you can this summer. Do not rush to pull down the blinds or buy sunshades, unless, of course, we get a heat wave and its power becomes too strong for you; but get out your bats and balls, and make for the open spaces where you can get the fresh air into your lungs. If the artificial methods are such a valuable aid to health, surely the real gift of nature must be more so.

Here I have given you three points, each of which bring new gladness into our lives; not one of them are self-centred. The flowers bring cheer; the birds give praise, and the sunshine provides health.

This is the springtime of your little lives. Use it to bring gladness into the lives of others.

In the language of the season "SPRING TO IT."

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES.

- No. 89. 1. Tom. Rose.  
 2. Albert. Ethel.  
 3. William. Minnie.  
 4. Charles. Grace.  
 5. Walter. Doris.  
 6. Frank. Annie.  
 ,, 90. Looking Glass (Mirror).  
 ,, 91. Sleep, sleep until Sunday Morning.

ANSWERS RECEIVED FEBRUARY, MARCH:

Doris Hammond, Nancy Grant, Allen Bannister, Eva Horn, Ethel Emery, Iris Thornton, Elsie Pitt, Muriel Lamb, Annie and Reggie Hope, Harold Collins, Hetty and Kathleen Lilliott, Lily Emery, Annie Sherran, Walter Taylor, Mrs. Robinson, Ivy Whitehead, Celia Whitehead, Alice Whitehead, Ingham Whitehead, Horace Tyrer, Lucy Manuell, Dora Wakefield, Madge Spence, Mary Biggs, Gladys Bayliffe, Ernest Morris, Nellie Dean, Edith Taylor, Frank Pedlar, Gladys Hopewell, Willie Owen, Florence Morris, Leslie Morris, Edith White, Mrs. Dean, Hilda Unsworth, J. E. Jackson, Barbara Taylor, Clara Stuart Jones, Olive Stuart Jones, Leonard Venthan, Vera Rose.

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES. THIRD TEST MATCH.

Writers in our *Manual*.

- No. 92. 1. GSWDEERNOB. 2. YSEERK.  
 3. TNOIKS. 4. NNNSTOEY.  
 5. LGLOFONLEW. 6. GNIDHERA.  
 TTRNBIE.

No. 93. There are many beautiful quotations in our *Manual*. This month I am going to see if you remember from which reading and songs I have taken the following. You can give the title or the number in your answer:—

1. Every man and woman, every boy and girl.
2. Echo not an angry word.
3. Clap your hands.
4. Never rob the little birds' nests of their eggs.
5. Don't wait till to-morrow, but do it to-day.
6. In the school-room and the parlour.

No. 94. SIX SPRING FLOWERS.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. D . . . . . L. | 2. C . . . . . S. |
| 3. D . . . . . Y. | 4. B . . . . . L. |
| 5. S . . . . . P. | 6. V . . . . . T. |

In the first and second TEST MATCH Portsmouth, Newton, and Bury have scored the highest points. One point for three correct answers, half a point for two, quarter for one. The highest total replies from each Lyceum denote the winner. Let this be an all-in test.

I expect some of you will think I have forgotten all about Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns this year, but this is not so, but knowing you will all do your share in eating these dainties, I am going to let you do your own cackling and tell me all about them.

LIBERTY SECTIONS. THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

"You were not made for failure, you were made for victory; go forward."—GEORGE ELIOT.

All replies should be sent by April 18th.

With love,

Your loving friend,

UNCLE BERT.

2, Villiers Road,  
 Osterley, Middlesex.

# The Education Department.

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

## THE B.S.L.U. EXAMINATIONS.

This year the number of sitters creates a record, for out of 1328 entrants there were 1017 sitters, i.e. approximately 77 per cent.

### WHICH IS YOUR D.C.?

The following tables show at a glance the support (or lack of it) given by each D.C. Well-done, London: make it 300 next year! But isn't Scotland supposed to be noted for its keenness on education? What are its Lyceumists doing, to let down their countrymen's reputation so badly?

District Council.	Entered.	Sat.
Birmingham	26	24
Bolton	48	40
Bradford	29	23
Coventry	20	16
Halifax & Huddersfield	53	45
Leeds	91	77
Liverpool	62	47
London	262	200
Manchester	129	107
N.E. Cheshire	13	11
N.E. Lancs	103	78
Nottingham	68	52
Scottish	Nil.	Nil.
Sheffield	89	48
Southern Counties	66	54
S.E. Lancs.	20	17
S. Wales	33	24
Tees-side	59	45
Tyneside	155	106
Area Lyceum	1	1
Canada	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>1017</b>
No. of Lyceums	120	118

Will all D.C.'s please do their best to send up their numbers of candidates next year, and help us to have some from every Lyceum in each D.C.

### THE B.S.L.U. EXAMINERS.

The Education Committee gives very sincere thanks to the Examiners, who have so willingly and loyally given hours and hours once again to the work of correcting the papers. Each is a *voluntary* worker, and has little leisure time, yet readily devotes many precious hours to help on the work of Lyceum education and progress.

The Examiners this year are:—

- Grade V.—Mr. Tinker, Mr. Keeling, Mr. & Mrs. Mack.
- IV.—Mr. Owen, Mr. Williams, Miss Halliday.
- III.—Mr. Burrows, Mr. Collinge, Misses Lawton.
- II.—Mr. Stewart, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Gurd, Miss Elliott.
- I.—Mrs. Slimin, Mrs. Leng, Mrs. Tims, Miss Rayner, Mr. Ainley, Mr. Wright, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. J. Taylor.

### COLLEGE NOTES.

#### THE 1928 EXAMINATIONS.

The 1928 Examinations in the National Joint Education Scheme, under the Auspices of The National Spiritualist College, have taken place—the ASSOCIATE (B.S.L.U.) Section on 19th February and the GRADUATE (S.N.U.) Section on 24th and 25th March. It is hoped to publish the Graduate Section questions in the "National Spiritualist" for May, June and July, as an aid to future tutors and students and to give the Movement an idea of the scope of the Scheme and the nature of the examinations.

#### HOW THE DISTRICTS RESPONDED.

The entries for the Graduate Scheme were not large; but they are encouraging and full of promise that, when the Scheme is better known and more fully understood, the support from the Movement will be as gratifying as is that of the Associate Scheme, at whose six examinations 1017 Lyceumists of all ages sat last month. For the Graduate Entrance Examination 27 candidates have entered, and for the Intermediate 19, of whom 10 qualified through last year's Entrance Exam.: and 9 through Grade V.

The number of Grade V entrants is disappointing; but correspondence during the year explains the cause in some cases, while the present economic conditions explain others: the price of books and the entry fee being beyond the resources of many.

The comparison between the number who have entered for the Graduate Section and for the Associate Section in the various districts will be of interest to all educationists, and for the following table the S.N.U. Council Districts are the units:—

District.	Graduate Section.		Associate Section.
	Entrance	Intermediate,	
Lancashire	5	10	375
Wales	12	1	33
London	5	2	262
Yorkshire	2	4	262
Northern	1	2	214
Midland	1	Nil	115
Scotland	1	Nil	Nil
Southern Counties	Nil	Nil	66

and there was one Lyceumist Entry from Canada.

### JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING.

Some very important business was enacted at the meeting held in Huddersfield (Ramsden Street) on 25th February, when there was a full attendance of members.

It was again emphasised that the Intermediate Certificate issued by the Exponents Committee is only a Consolation award to unsuccessful candidates in the D.N.U. examination—and DOES NOT entitle the holders to sit at the Intermediate Exam. of the Graduate Scheme. It was suggested that the name of this Certificate might be altered.

Mr. Oliver complained that one of the difficulties of organising the March examinations was that he could not obtain replies to his letters from some of our Area Representatives. He was empowered to appeal direct to the Secretaries of the Churches to which candidates belonged, and to bring the names of the Representatives concerned before the A.G.M.

It was decided to approach the S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. executives with a request that their publications on the Syllabuses should be sold to candidates at special rates. It was felt that the prices of some of the books on the Syllabuses were prohibitive, and with this in mind the Syllabuses were examined with a view to revision. It was suggested that the Entry Fees were too high; but consideration of these was left over to the next meeting, on 6th October.

Later, the College Governing Board adopted a suggestion that they should issue a comprehensive Leaflet on Class Work, to include the revised (or up-to-date) Syllabuses—as it was felt that the success of the National Scheme depended on Class work being fully understood by all tutors and students, as well as Local Branch Committees.

The College has a balance on hand of £38 10s. od., after spending £23 11s. 2d. on Printing of Diplomas, Forms, the Booklet, etc.

#### B.S.L.U. Honorary Education Secretary:—

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

For information about the College, and Advanced Scheme, send stamped, addressed envelope to:—

Mr. A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C.,  
College Secretary,  
19, Oakhurst Road,  
Forest Gate,  
London, E.7.

### THE B.S.L.U. ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

There are a large number of new Lyceum Secretaries who may be desiring information about the Delegates, Billets, etc., for the Annual Conference. Application for Delegates should be made before April 21st to the General Secretary.

The charges for Billets and meals during the Conference have not yet been decided.

The Credentials will be issued, along with copies of the Minutes of the last Annual Conference, agenda, etc., early in the month of May. Full particulars concerning the applications for Billets will be printed on the back of the Delegate's Cards.

The Officers of the Union are elected at the Annual Conference. The Representatives for the Areas are elected by each Area and voting takes place in the Area Lyceums on April 8th.

## Our Lyceum Guild.

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

### OUR ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION.

As we have previously announced, our annual competitions are to be held earlier this year, so as to come in the "slack" time between the February exams. and the beginning of the study-classes for the next session.

The competition is, however, only so in name; for *each* competitor can be *successful*. To each essayist who scores not less than 85% of the marks is awarded a MERIT BADGE, worked on his, or her, ribbon-badge for the last Grade passed. We are hoping for a record number of entries; and *three months* are allowed for preparing and writing the essays.

### RULES FOR COMPETITION.

A. (i) The essays must be posted not later than 30th June. (Results will be announced in the September issue). (Do NOT post before June).

(ii) Disregard of the following rules will disqualify a competitor.

B. (i) On a sheet of paper write—name, address, Lyceum, age (if under 21), Grade passed (if any), Guild number, and, if you have already won a merit-badge, give year or years.

(ii) Write your essay on *one* side of the paper ONLY.

(iii) Write in ink.

(iv) Do NOT enclose a letter.

(v) In the top left-hand corner of your envelope write "Guild Competition."

(vi) Only *one* essay per subject may be sent in; but if a member is eligible (see list of subjects) for more than one subject, then more than one essay may be sent (each essay being on a different subject). (Give the essay its title.)

(vii) The effort MUST be *your own* work, and not copied from another; nor joint or collective work.

(viii) *Each* essay sent in must have a slip attached, giving name, number, Lyceum, etc.; even if more than one are sent by the same individual.

(ix) Where two or more competitors belong to the same Lyceum, their essays may all be sent in the same envelope.

(x) If a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed, the essay(s), when marked, will be returned; unless the Leader desires to publish any winning effort, in which case such essay will be retained.

The Leader reserves the right to publish any winning essay, but cannot promise to do so.

### C. Marking of Essays.

(i) The Examiner's decision must be accepted as final.

(ii) Marks will be awarded for:—

- (a) Originality of ideas, and (or) grasp of subject.
- (b) Essential matter and facts, and arrangement (or development).
- (c) Keeping to the point, and conciseness.
- (d) Expression, choice of language, fluency and coherence.
- (e) Correct grammar and spelling.
- (f) Legibility and general neatness.

### SUBJECTS FOR ESSAYS.

#### A. FOR JUNIORS UNDER 10 YEARS.

- (a) My Pet,
- (b) My Lyceum.
- (c) Fairies.

#### B. FOR MEMBERS OF 10 TO 12 YEARS.

- (a) What being a Lyceumist teaches me.
- (b) The importance of little things.
- (c) Children in Spirit Life.

#### C. FOR MEMBERS OVER 12 WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN GRADE I.

- (a) A comparison of Lyceums on earth and in the Summerland; (and bring in suggestions for raising *our* standard)
- (b) Lyceum *versus* Orthodox Sunday School.

#### D. FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN GRADE I.

- (a) The uses and abuses of spirit communion; (with facts and examples).
- (b) Spiritualism—its relationship to, and affect on, everyday life.

#### E. FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN GRADE II.

- (a) "The mediator between hand and mind is heart."
- (b) A conversation between a Spiritualist who has *proved* the truth of the continuity of life and *either* an Orthodox Christian *or* a Materialist *or* an Atheist.

#### F. FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN GRADE III.

- (a) (i) Draw up a Lyceum Session Programme suitable for *either* a Lyceum Anniversary, *or* a Harvest Festival, *or* A Flower Service, *or* Founder's Day; (ii) Give the connected teachings; and a *brief* address by the Conductor to the whole Lyceum to take the place (and time) of Groups on that occasion.
- (b) "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."

#### G. FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN GRADE IV.

- (a) Mediums and mediumship.
- (b) The uses and abuses of the public circle.

#### H. FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN GRADE V.

- (a) The reform of our Platform.
- (b) The Home Circle.

#### J. FOR ALL MEMBERS OVER 17 YEARS.

- (a) A Universal Language; and its Value.
- (b) "All religion has relation to life."

### OUR ESPERANTO GROUP.

"Will Esperanto help me in my study of Spiritualism?" writes A.H. (Liverpool).

Our Group will NOT help any person to study either Lyceumism or Spiritualism any more than French or German will, but it WILL help us to *practise* our teaching of brotherhood. In No. 2. Handbook we are told, "Their loving helpfulness puts to shame the coldness or antipathies of the whites." Of course this is referring to foreign *spirits*, but we must remember that *THEY* once lived on earth, and if they can be helpful *THERE* they can also be helpful *HERE*.

If, as stated in an earlier article, we communicate with people who do not speak English, but who understand Esperanto, we have a glorious opportunity to tell them of our "ism." We may have a little difficulty at first, but, then, would we have had Lyceums if the pioneers had considered *their* difficulties too big? Therefore, why not be a true Lyceumist and spread the truths of Spiritualism abroad. Most of you will guess the way I mean. If not "LERNU ESPERANTON."

All letters must be sent to:—Mr. W. Taylor, 1, Willow St., Failsworth, Manchester.

## Our Lyceum Guild Serial.

### High Jinks in Nursery-land.

BY VERONTAS, THE GUILD IMP.

#### I. (cont). GERALD GOES A-FLYING.

Gerald felt his heart jump into his throat, for now, to add danger to the confusion, the centre of the carpet began to rise at a terrific rate—till at last it was like a steep hill, with the Nursery-Landers holding on to anything or anybody they could grab, in the hope of saving themselves from tumbling off over the edges. The situation was saved by the Sprites, who, at a sharp command from their Leader, flew swiftly straight up into the air, until the floor of the "airship" became once more level and they were able to continue their forward flight. Greatly relieved, and very curious, the passengers looked back to see what obstacle had so nearly brought shipwreck and disaster, and gazed—first in surprise and then in growing anger—at a slender stalk, clothed in clusters of oval green leaves, which was still shooting higher and higher into the sky; and finally the thoughts and feelings of all were put into words by Fee Fi Fo Fum, who pointed a shaking finger at Beanstalk and cried:

"Jack, you young ass, you've been throwing some of those wretched beans of yours about. It isn't fair, making me think I've got to go up to my castle and get killed, just as I'm on my way to a meeting. What do you mean by it?"

Beanstalk could see by the looks of the others that they were not pleased with him and for a moment he hung his head, saying:

"I didn't mean any harm. I was just throwing some beans to Crusoe's parrot, and the silly old bird must have dropped or missed one. And it's all right, Fee Fi, I shan't go doing any climbing to-day. I'm sorry if I've upset anybody."

"Oh, that's all right, then," said the giant. "After all, you're only a kiddie, so I suppose we'll have to let you off, though you deserve to be sent straight to bed for being so thoughtless."

"That's all very well for you," came a complaining voice from the edge of the crowd, "but what about me? I've burnt my hands, keeping my dragon from rolling off. What are you going to do about them?"

"Oh, shut up, St. George," snapped Old Mother Hubbard; "you and your dragon are public nuisances. He's nearly knocked poor Rover off with his tail. And serve you right for not wearing your armour."

"How could I wear armour when I'm going to a meeting?" howled Saint George; "and besides, I didn't know he was going to be hot. He only gets to boiling point on our Great Fight days; it was Jack's fault for frightening him and making him turn on the heat. Just look at him—the poor old thing is roasting hot!"

"I wish he was roasting chestnuts," shouted Simple Simon, and everybody laughed, someone calling out, "or baking beans."

"No baked beans for me," chuckled Friar Tuck, "especially if they are Jack's special kind. For one thing they might give me growing pains; and for another I don't want to risk waking up one fine morning and finding myself in Fee Fi's grinding machine. But talking about giants, that beanstalk shoved us up so near Giant Land that I for one feel quiet chilly. Let's make George's patent oven useful, and put him in the middle of us so that we can warm our hands on him."

"Good for you, Friar," came a chorus of assent. "Come on, Towser."

"I won't have it," shouted St. George; "I won't have my dragon called Towser, and I won't have him used as a heating stove."

Nobody took any notice of him, however; and the dragon, which seemed to like being the centre of attraction, waddled into the middle of the company. They crowded around him, laughing and joking and slapping his sides just as if he was a favourite dog—much to the amazement of Gerald, who had always thought that a fiery dragon must be a very fierce monster, and anything but a pet. But "Towser," who did not appear to mind what the Nursery-Landers called him, seemed to be a very good-natured monster, and screwed up his face at the slappings as if he was trying to manage a friendly grin; and when Gerald at length found courage to put out a timid finger and stroke him between the eyes, he actually purred and tried to wag his tail. But this very nearly brought about a second disaster; for a dragon's tail takes up a lot of room, and when it starts wagging *something* or *somebody* has to make way for it. This time it was *somebody*, and of all people Saint George himself; and had it not been for the crumpled horns of Beanstalk's cow, he must have been tossed to the ground and hurt. But by great good luck, at exactly the proper moment Brindle tossed her head—and caught him as he was flying past; and the roar he let out proved that she had caught more than his clothes! He was pulled off the cow's horns by several of the laughing voyagers; a touch of Queen Mab's wand cured all his sores and even his bad temper; and in high good humour the party proceeded on its merry way.

For a little while Gerald kept a keen look-out, as he did not intend to be caught napping again by bean stalks or any other magic growths. But by degrees his mind wandered from possible dangers to the strange trip he was taking and to the strange adventures he was having; and more than anything else he wondered about the difference between what he had read and what he had seen and was seeing. These people seemed truly enough to be the heroes of his Nursery Tales. They were just as described in the books, and they called each other by the same names as they were called in the stories—but either he had somehow got mixed up about the stories, or the story-books were all wrong in what they told. For instance, he was sure that in his books the dragon was a fearful monster that belched out tongues of flame in its wild rage and shook the country for miles around when it rumbled out its thunderous roar; and that when they met St. George and it fought to the death. Yet here were St. George and the dragon, and they seemed to be the best of friends; St. George was as willing to quarrel about how his dragon was treated as if the monster was a dearly loved pet instead of a deadly enemy; and the dragon was acting just like a good-natured, clumsy dog would amongst people it liked and trusted. Again, not very far away Little Red Riding Hood was sitting with her arms round the neck of a fierce-looking wolf; and neither her granny, who was seated beside her, nor anyone else seemed to be alarmed. And Jack the Giant Killer was laughing and joking with Fee Fi Fo Fum, who was anything but a bloodthirsty monster in human form and looked, like most big men, good-natured and fond of a joke. By rights

the giant should have been looking for some man whose bones he could grind to make his bread; instead he had been very angry and (thought Gerald) just a little bit frightened when he thought that he would have to go up to his cloud-castle and fight Beanstalk. There was something wrong, somewhere, and either he was asleep and dreaming or else the writers of the fairy stories and the nursery tales were wrong, and did not know what they had been writing about. He rubbed his eyes and pinched himself. It hurt!—so he must be awake.

What a tale he would have to tell in the morning, when he got back from this trip and met his brothers and sisters—and his school mates! He could imagine how surprised they would be when he gathered them round him and told them that he had been on a visit to Nursery-Land; that he had seen the Fairy Queen, and the Witch of the Wood, and Jack the Giant Killer, and Maid Marion, and Little Jack Horner, and Saint George and his Dragon, and Aladdin and his wonderful lamp, and—oh, ever so many others; and that he knew that what they had been told about these people was all wrong. How they would open their eyes—and their mouths, too, he thought with a giggle—when he told them that the ferocious fiery dragon was as tame as an old toothless dog; that the wicked wolf was the pet of Red Riding Hood; that Queen Mab and the Witch of the Wood were really very good friends, and that the Witch herself was a dear grey-haired old lady just like one's own grandmother; that Fee Fi Fo Fum and Jack of the Beanstalk seemed quite fond of each other; that Dick Whittington's Cat and Puss-in-Boots were one and the same with the Cat that played the Fiddle!—In fact, that everything was ever so different from what it was supposed to be.

"What will they say?" he murmured, "when I tell them."

"Most likely, either that you have been dreaming or that you are telling fibs," answered an amused voice close to his ear.

He turned round in surprise—and there was Queen Mab, reclining gracefully in Fee Fi's palm and smiling at him very sweetly.

"H-h-ow d-did y-you know——" he began to stammer, but Her Fairy Majesty interrupted him.

"How did I know what you were thinking about? How could we help knowing? There was no magic about it, I assure you—and no need for any. You have been standing there thinking aloud, and talking at the top of your voice! I know you must be surprised and puzzled over what you have seen and heard since you arrived in Nursery-Land. But please be patient for just a little longer, and you will have everything fully explained to you. And you won't have to wait so very long, for here we are at the Fairy Glen."

(To be continued.)

#### THE S.N.U. FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

Dear Sir,

I have great pleasure in reporting the following income for February.

Sunderland, Derwent St., collections and donations, £3 12s.; Hebden Bridge, £1; Hull, No. 1, Progressive Lyceum, £1 1s.; Mrs. Dowdall, 5s.; Mr. and Mrs. Scott, 10s.; Wombwell Church, 12s.; Shipley National, £1; retiring collections, Rev. G. Vale Owen Meeting at Eden Progressive Church, 16s. 6d.; Rotherham, Percy St., £1; retiring collection, Birmingham Centre, £1 10s.; Dalton-in-Furness 13s. 6d.; Mr. W. J. Walters, per E. W. Oaten, 10s. Total, £12 10s.

The Committee tender their grateful thanks to all subscribers. So far this year three Lyceums have made special efforts and remembered the Fund. I do wish I could in some way impress your minds with the responsibility that is yours and at the same time help you to keep in mind the work these old workers have done for you, and now, after the struggle of work and sacrifice is over, and just living quietly on the old age pension and the grant allowed from the Fund.

The Committee's only regret is that they cannot increase the grant, and bring greater comfort into their lives. This is not possible at present, but we HOPE ON and feel sure ere long the trade in the country will brighten and then Lyceumists will rise to the occasion and help the Fund liberally. In the meantime, I am still waiting to receive your gifts. With grateful thanks and success to all your endeavours.

Yours fraternally,

MARY L. STAIR,

32b, North Street,

Keighley, Yorks.

# 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 (18/12) 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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APRIL, 1928.

## THE FUTURE.

Little systems have their day and cease to be. Empires rise and fall. Man reaches physical limits and disintegrates to mortal dust, but in his case he exudes from the physical body to larger possibilities. Therein lies the potent factor that raises intelligence beyond the grosser earthly elements to move in new locations. The power of the laws of heredity become plastic again and the will of the spirit can mould desire to the promptings of a larger consciousness in the new environment.

Whilst there are ties on earth which draw the memory of a spirit back to the earth-life, so long will the spirit remain earth-bound. The association of human beings is essential to satisfy the moods and temperaments of a kindred spirit.

There are, too, the missionary spirits who bring back those who have some earth-lessons yet to learn, ere they can fully understand the laws of a spiritual universe. Thus humans find themselves in contact with three conditions among spirit-people:—Firstly, those who are drawn back by the personal love-tie. Secondly, those who are forced to return to complete a knowledge of earthly conditions. Thirdly, those who have an innate desire to help humanity and undeveloped spirits to a larger knowledge.

The missionary spirits have realised that personal love is but the infant cry at the birth of conscious life which leads to the greater love of divine service and ministration. They understand the real meaning of God calling a person to higher service. The obligation becomes greater, but strength is also given for any self-appointed duty. Therein is true leadership. The force of example is permeative and potential. Humanity may save itself much worry if these ideas are the source of its inspiration.

As mediums we may draw one or a select few spirits to be our controls. Or we may find ourselves drawing from the influences around us and, through our desire to serve humanity, bring nomadic spirits to our aid and find we have no settled controls. Influence by spirits depends on concentration to an idea, meditation upon the subject, and mental composure to receive inspiration. The source of the inception of a thought, an idea, a mental picture, or an objective clairvoyant vision from a spirit to a mortal may be consciously or unconsciously in the mind of the medium. It may occur to the mind of the recipient in the wakeful moments, in dreams, or in trance. It needs long experience and study, in most cases, to know when an idea is personal or when it originates in the mind of another spirit or mortal.

Our isolation as nations, the language barrier, absence of personal contact and the separateness of our physical bodies have all prevented us from conceiving the transmutability of thought and the probability of inspiration, except in rare cases where the faculty could not be ignored. Thus we have exalted, and sometimes worshipped, the outstanding powers of what we now call psychic personalities. Religions have been formed around a number of people who had magnetic powers to attract the crowd. Immediately such a leader dies, his circles break up into groups and the followers are confounded

by a confusion which disintegrates until some other attraction draws them together again. And yet, despite the chaos, it should be stated that there is always a section which continues to worship the influence of a power which has passed, even though the central figure has been removed. It is the ever-present "now" which should occupy our minds. We base our future on past experiences, but we must use life—continuous life—as our aim, and not death as the culmination of human endeavour.

And so, realising what the past has revealed to us, we can shape our immediate conduct to avoid the pitfalls that have made life chaotic and bewildering.

The eerie pall of the death chamber places a solemnity in our minds. The sensation is all-absorbing and we dwell on the problem of life and death. Ancestor worship and paganism have led us, through research, to the power of Divine Wisdom which is expressed in spiritual and natural laws to such a degree that neither man nor spirit can place himself outside the orbit. More than that, we can now realise the Divine Force within ourselves, and, to some degree, adjust our lives to the expanding consciousness.

The death chamber is still eerie, but we know the condition is caused by the changed condition of the freed spirit and the absence of the personal magnetism which has gone from the earthly body to occupy the finer substance of a spirit form. There are other spirits present, too, though we may not see them. It is not usual to experience contact with the spirit people in this way, and so we feel uncanny as a result of the spiritual conditions prevalent. We feel more passive when we leave the chamber because we are not ready for such a condition to come to ourselves. (The operating theatre always gave me a similar sensation and I was always glad to get away.)

The foregoing is rather a long preamble to the future, but it has probably induced the mood to reflect on the past with a view to shaping immediate actions that we may benefit by the mistakes of previous generations who have had handed down to them many traditions we can discard with pleasure and build anew from the evidences we understand.

The root principles of revealed truth are the foundations of progressive unfoldment. With such a base and the guidance of Divine Wisdom we can build a constructive life within harmonial law that will satisfy the needs of men and spirits in which we can combine to produce concord as the first essential thought to guide our relations with each other. Mutual trust not only breeds confidence but strength, and we begin to work together for common ends. And common ends possess the greatest exaltation. It is no longer the poor who help the poor, but the strong helping the weak, the thinker guiding lesser minds, and the medium becoming the go-between that directs action in relating to a foreseen result.

We, the Lyceumists, claim to be progressive. Not will-o'-the-wisps, or weather-vanes. We possess directive energy. And so, when truth knocks at our door, however disguised, we may see through the mask and realise it is not the medium but the message that must be examined.

An unprogressive spirit may touch our lives with its obsession, but it will still be a proof of the existence of the spirit. We must clear away the false notion and raise our communicant to a sense of true values. Then again, hallucination exists. We must dispel that condition. If we are brought in touch with an unhappy spirit, there is probably some means in our power to remove the cause or our association would not have been sought. Fulfilled opportunities provide attraction to progressive spirits and we find new inspirations dawn in our minds. We have not only helped others but we find that we also are helped. There are great opportunities await us in the progressive unfoldment of social and spiritual laws based on the evidences of fellowship and brotherhood.

We have pity on the creed-bound sectarian who cannot see God and love beyond the confines of his voluntary imprisonment. He is a pigmy mind on one of the smallest of the planets in the great universe, shivering in the fear of a Lord of his aberration. He invites us into his prison, but we have basked in the rays of Divine Love whose warmth is felt in the relation of man and spirit. We know we transcend death: for those who live in this condition are in our homes and fill our minds with inspiration and knowledge.

And what of the future? The future is near and awaits us always. It may be distant, too, but every moment passes into history and destiny becomes gradually revealed. Past, present and future are terms used to express periods of duration in the life of a spirit.

Spiritualism is a world force, nay more, it is universal and fills all duration, no matter what period of life's expression we occupy. Mortals and spirits are enfolded in its encompassing power. Our task is to understand its purpose and utility. It is worthy of appreciation that we have a record number of Lyceumists seeking increased knowledge of these Divine truths through the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme. We congratulate every student and, more particularly, those interested people who have the vision and integrity to draw an increasing number of voluntary students year by year. Distance has been overcome; absence has been annihilated; unity has been expressed; ideas and inspiration have been invoked; and a movement of educated Spiritualists dawns upon the world.

What of the future? We shake hands with nations overseas and belt the earth with our enthusiasm. Truth cannot be stifled or gainsayed. Knowledge is her handmaiden. Wisdom is her servant. Real religion—universal brotherhood in harmony and love—binds men to God. It does something else. It binds men together and spirits commune with mortals. The future has ever been influenced by the inspiration of progressive spirits. Omnipotent genius unfolds the methods of progressive law. Fear is replaced by love; discord by harmony; quarrels by toleration, and ignorance by knowledge.

The future holds out to Spiritualism the increasing facilities of nobler lives, sweeter inspiration, more delightful companionships and greater joys. In the Lyceum—the location is incidental—there are chances for any reasonable faculty to be displayed. The future depends on the opportunities we can make and the services we render. That is the acid test of the virtue in our existence.

G. F. KNOTT.

### Births, Marriages, and In Memoriam.

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.

DROYLSDEN.—We regret to report the passing of our young Lyceumist, Edward Hill, on Feb. 15th, after a brief illness. Aged 15 years.—A. Green.

LEICESTER.—In loving memory of Rose Annie Moore, who passed into the Higher Life, 16th March, 1924.

With love from Mam, and friends of the Liberty Lyceum, Leicester.

LONDON, Brixton.—FOLL.—In ever loving memory of my dear boy Douglas, who passed away April 11th, 1919.

From his ever loving Mother.  
He told me "To trust in God." With his help I well.

### ON DREAMS.

In your March issue I was interested in your article on "Dreams."

I have always been a dreamer; mostly of a symbolical character, and so I have wondered what was the cause and value.

I will relate one which may throw some light on the subject, but I shall have to give a little of my life's incidents to make it clear.

When I was in my teens my father had a hen-pen near a brook. On the opposite side of the brook was a roadway and a protecting wall.

When in the pen, lads would sometimes throw stones in the pen from across the brook. The water prevented us from getting across to stop such conduct. At this period of my life I was a weaver, but I was not a success, and I determined to go to America.

It was some time after I had a dream. "I was again in the hen-pen, and a young fellow threw some stones at me. I told him what I would do if I could get at him. The next minute I seemed to be beside him, and I struck him on the chest, knocked him to the ground, and killed him; though I didn't seem to worry about that, and merely said 'He won't throw any more stones.'"

This fighting spirit is not my natural condition, but I would have prevented the throwing of stones.

Before I went to America my dreams were of an agonising nature. I would dream of my looms spoiling my work, and I could never stop them, try as I would to reach the spring handle.

Dreams are a reflex of how we mentally and physically meet the daily events in life at the particular period of the dream.

RALPH WADDINGTON.

### IF I WAS CONDUCTOR.

A BOY'S ESSAY.

I would have each one say a prayer when they first enter into the Church, and all to sit silent and quiet, as they are in the house of God, our Heavenly Father. I would teach them the love of God, and to love and be kind to each other. I would tell them about their Guardian Angels, who help them in every way that is good; and to love their Mother, Father, Sisters and Brothers at home, and God will bless us all. Also I would teach them to be orderly and obedient and to do the best they can for our Lyceum to win the shield every year, as it would be a great honour for the Lyceum. I would teach the children to take notice of what their leaders teach them and to listen to what the Conductor has to say. I would teach them about the beauty in the flowers. I would try to make everyone bright and happy and to be in harmony with one another. I would have the older ones speak gently to the younger ones, and that would encourage them to come to the Lyceum.

I would teach them to be kind to each other and to be kind to dumb animals and not to rob the little birds of their eggs, and do good for one another.

I would also teach about the Spirit World and how to resist temptation. If any of the little ones are ill I would get the little children to visit them and take flowers to brighten them up. I would teach them to do what is right and to take care of their *Lyceum Manual*.

I would have marching at the end of every month. For the Silver Chains I would have a certain group picked out for the reading and to explain what it meant. That would help them on a bit.

I would try and get them all to take part in the individual efforts, including the adults. We are never too old to learn, and I would always keep reminding them "The Workers Win."

ROBERT SCALES (aged 11).

### CHANGE OF SECRETARIES, etc.

Liverpool, D.C. Secretary.—Mrs. L. George, 85, Queen's Road, Everton, Liverpool.

Liverpool, D.V.—Mrs. E. Clitheroe, 69, Lime Street, Wigan, Lancs.

Scunthorpe.—Mrs. Crawford, 74, Fox St., Scunthorpe, Lincs.  
Southern Counties D.C. Secy.—Mr. H. C. Guy, "Roydon," 119, Graham Road, Southampton.

Manchester, Milton.—Mr. C. H. Roach, 7, George Henry Street, Eccles New Rd., Salford, Manchester.

Collyhurst.—Mr. H. Redden, 29, Silver St., Miles Platting, Manchester.

Coventry, Foleshill, Broad St., 11 a.m. Mrs. E. E. Hutton, 63, Churchill Ave., Foleshill, Coventry.

Dalmuir, Broadway, Harmony Hall, Shaftesbury St.—Mr. J. Angus, c/o Millar, 450, Dumbarton Road, Dalmuir, Glasgow.

Salford, St. Philips Place.

Rock Ferry.—Mr. J. E. Fitzgerald, 70, Cobden St., Birkenhead.

Burnley, Hammerton St.—Mr. H. Patten, 18, Smithies St., Burnley.

Marsden.—Mr. I. Wilson, 91, Mount Rd., Marsden, nr. Huddersfield.

Woolwich and Plumstead.—Mr. W. Rainbow, 7, Leghorn Rd., Plumstead, London, S.E.18.

Todmorden, Eagle St.—Mr. H. S. Potts, 8, Whiteplatte St., Todmorden.

Hampton Hill.—Windmill Road.

Ashington.—Mr. W. Barton, 4, Hawthorn Rd., Ashington, Northumberland.

Cardiff, Park Grove.—Miss B. Davies, 3, Picton Place, Canton, Cardiff.

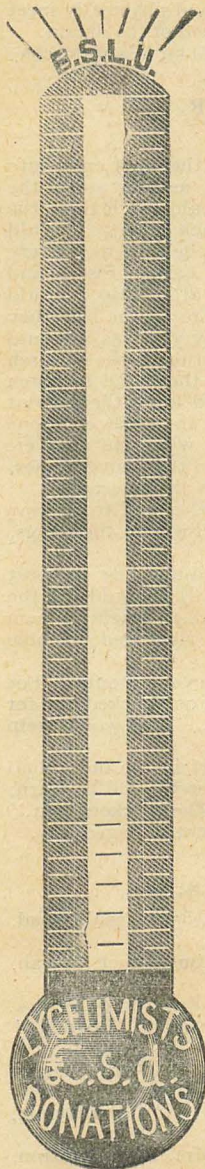
Grimsby.—Mr. W. Piercy, 220, Wellington Street, Grimsby, Lincs.

Newport, Albany Hall.—Mr. A. G. Stanham, 12, Capel Crescent, Newport, Mon.

London, Fulham.—Miss E. I. Field, 32, Rosaville Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

London Lyceum D.C.—Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth A. Fruin, 2, Villiers Rd., Osterley, Middlesex. Assistant D.V.'s., Mrs. Calway and Miss Pennington.

THE  
£2,000 EFFORT  
BAROMETER



£519 16s. 7d.

£2,000 Effort Report.

Dear Lyceumists,

This month I am sorry to have to report that the donations are slowing down again. The amounts I have received are 5s from Dalton Road Lyceum, Barrow, and £1 1s. 0d. from Southern Lyceum. I am glad to receive these donations and return the Union's thanks once more, with hopes that there are still some Founder's Day Collections to come in. The collecting cards are still awaiting the call of any Lyceum as a whole, or any individual particularly. I would be glad to see the Fund moving more rapidly than it does.

I wonder sometimes how many Lyceumists read the appeal. We put the Barometer in last month's issue, but we have had to remove part of it this month for repairs and alteration. The mercury got so cold with standing that it froze (perhaps?). However, all jokes go free till Christmas.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Cox, of Peckham, for the payment for the Block, and also to our General Secretary in conjunction with him in the matter. In this matter I owe long-standing thanks to Mr. E. A. Keeling for kindly making himself responsible for the cost of the collecting cards. I am intending publishing a record of all those who have in any way donated to the Fund, in the May BANNER.

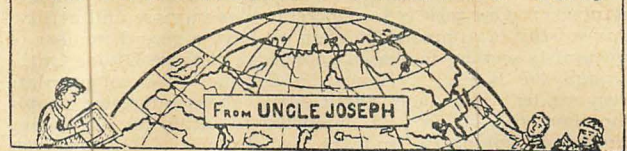
Yours faithfully,

W. BURROWS,

Hon. Sec., £2,000 Effort.

29, Kliffen Place,  
Halifax.

FOR THE CHILDREN OVER THE SEAS



ABOUT MUSIC.

Dear Children,

"Though they may forget the singer,  
They will not forget the song."

"So the Fairy Queen forgave the naughty fairy, and they all danced around whilst the trees and the brooks sang a song."

We had been to a fairy play. One fairy had been so very naughty that the Queen had to turn her out of the band; but she didn't care one bit. In fact she had got the idea that she could rule better than the Queen herself. Well, of course, that would never do. Anyway they held a court meeting and asked the naughty fairy if she was sorry; but she said she wasn't, so what do you think they did? Well, they gave her a pair of black wings and told her they would turn white when she came to her senses.

Well, how would you like black wings? Don't you think it was awful? Nobody had seen a fairy with *Black* wings. Pink ones, Green ones or yellow ones I dare say, but never Black ones.

But the fairy didn't care. She wasn't going to apologise. She went off grumbling and grunting and disagreeable, and she promised herself that whatever good the Queen wished, she would try and make it turn out bad.

On Midsummer night the fairies met again, and they gave out that anyone who found the wishing stone after they had gone, and put their hand on it and wished very hard they would get their wish.

Well, some children had stolen away out of bed and heard the order, and saw the dances, so they came forward next day, and sure enough the wishing stone was there, just like any old stone. They put their hands on it and wished for many different things. In the middle of it all the bad fairy came along, and one little girl had not wished, so the fairy said, "Well, I'll tell you what to wish, just wish that something bad might happen to someone you don't like."

But the little girl said "Oh no, I'll wish well to everybody, and what funny wings you have; all black. I'll wish that your wings should turn white."

"Oh," said the fairy, "they can't do that unless I beg to be forgiven by the Queen."

"Well," said the little girl, "I wish that you wish it." And so the fairy had to wish it.

"Well, they held another court, and the bad fairy begged to be let off just this once, and the Queen said she would take her back, and give her her place again in the band. And she called the little girl to her and gave her the power of seeing music in everything.

But can you see music? Well, let us think about it. Now then, all eyes closed, take a deep breath, and the fairies will take charge of us for awhile.

Now we are in a wood, but oh, how black and bare it looks; never mind let us go into it. Why, here are some twigs with little buds on them. These are turning into leaves, and it shows us that the trees are waking out of their winter sleep.

Bend down and listen, and you will hear the song. It is all about the warm summer sun which is coming to waken them all into life, and the birds building their nests, and how good the great big 'Lyceum Conductor of all' has ordered things so well.

Year after year the same thing happens. Down come the leaves, painting the roadside with varying tints of brown. And in the forest we are in the depths of the fallen leaves and bracken; all gone to sleep for the winter. Then comes Uncle Snow with his white blanket, to smooth over the rough places and make everything snug and happy, whilst nephew Jack Frost goes about painting pictures on window and bush. So Master Squirrel says "Good-night and God bless you," and lays down with his front paws around his nose. Master Hedgehog turns himself up into a ball deep under a snug covering of earth. All the harvest mice had scattered away long since and are fast asleep dreaming about their fairy friends.

But along comes Miss Spring and waves her wand. She is a great fairy and can work wonders, for she rolls away the cold and brings all the little folk out of their holes. She charms the

leaves out to see the time o' day, and the primroses and snow-drops start their showing tiny shoots. Father sun comes along with a broad grin, and the land is getting quite gay again. And all sing their song, the keynote of which is,

"We thank thee, all, our God."

For God to them is the power which allows them the means to sing their song.

Hark, what a merry chuckle! Whatever is it? Why, just look, it is a little brook; and how it is laughing at us. Here it is singing a song; let us listen,—

"From the hills I have come; Jack Frost had me in chains, but I am free; free again; and now all is hurry, hurry down to the big river. I laugh, I play, but all the time I fulfil my part in the great song of nature.

Yes, their is music in the ripple of the brook, and in the flow of the river. The music is everywhere.

Did you ever hear how a great musician made a little blind girl see moonlight? Some of you have, some of you haven't. Well, let us have the tale again; it will stand telling once more.

He walked into the room out of the cold wet night for a bit of shelter. He talked a little with the girl, and he saw that she could not see with earthly eyes, but God had given her other gifts to replace them, which shows you how true our pearl is about God being good.

Well, a friend told him it was time to be going as the rain had gone, and it was a fine moonlight night.

"Oh," said the girl, "I would like to see the moonlight, for they tell me the fairies come when the moon shines."

"Well," said the musician, "You shall see the moonlight."

And down he sat at the little harpsichord (which means a small piano, but we have put in the other word to amuse the big folks). And he seemed to have a magic power with him, for as the music rolled out of the little piano the girl could understand the beautiful blue-white light of Aunt Moon, shining on the earth. Out popped the fairies keeping time to the tune. Tinkle-tinkle, nodded the flowers, whilst jovial giants laughed and chattered and sang. And it all ended in one big burst of music; one vast hymn of praise. To the musician? Oh no. To the great One who caused the music to flow like a great stream. Our Musician called it "Inspiration," which perhaps after all is one more very good name for the greatest Musician in the world, the Master Mind who gives all things their being.

Well, are you tired of all this talk which seems to be getting us nowhere? Or would you like to see the beautiful mountain, all covered with heather reaching so high into the sky that its top is covered with snow all the year round. It is so high that men hold their breath, and say "Surely God lives there!" What a song there is in that beautiful stretch of moorland! It is full of life; ants, beetles, birds, bees, all busy about their own little business, and each crooning a tune about the goodness of Mother Nature which many people say is another name for God. And I don't think they are far wrong.

Look at the railway; four sets of lines, and all as neatly arranged as if they had been done by a ruler. See, there is the Express coming; it has a song of its own, and if we ask the Engineer nicely, perhaps he will tell us what it is. I heard the train singing its song, and it seemed to me to be.—

"Man made the Engine, God gave the thought."

and I thought it was a very good song for the train to sing after all. There it was, running along like a schoolboy loosed for the holidays, and singing away about the goodness of the One Great Power. The train is useful, and anything which is useful sings a good song.

Here is a great big warehouse; Ah, it is an ugly squat thing, but it has a song; listen!

"I hold goods; Yes, sir; wool, iron, food. Aha! I send out my stores to feed you and make you comfortable; the big ships fill me up, and out again the stuff goes into the big, big city. Men fashioned me with their hands, but the thought came from God, so praise God from whom all blessings flow." So you see that place, ugly as it is has its own song of usefulness.

And what music, too, in the glad smiles of your brothers and sisters in other lands when the postman knocks at the door; "Rat-tat, rat-tat-tat" just like the song of the drum. And down we rush to open the door. Ah, that little chum for over the seas has answered at last, and we can retail some gossip at our Lyceum. But it is the sort of Gossip which brings music to our ears, for it is "News." Yes, it tells a tale of far-off lands where our friends are carrying on in their good way to help us with our Lyceum teaching; and they want another letter quickly; oh, so quickly, to say what we are doing, and so back to our table to answer right away, for we too are full of a song of praise, and we must be quick to sing it.

Well, now we had better see how far we have got. We find the rivers talking, the trees whispering their part and the mountains chiming in; the engine roared out its jolly song and the houses told their tale. Well, it says in our Manual that everything has its own particular little song to sing or tale to tell, and I always think about one man—a very wizard with his pen—who told us that he listened once to each little part of a big ship, and he found them all bristling over with importance, because Giant Steam told them that each was so useful to the life of the big boat, and as the voyage went on the man found that all the voices melted into one big voice, and the ship had come to its own and the Master Architect had in His own good time welded it all into a harmonious Whole.

So you see it takes more than one little voice; more than one chord (as we sometimes call the musical notes) to make up a song, and each child of us, big and little has a part in the long song of Life.

Some people say it is all nonsense; we cannot see fairies, nor can we see music.

Well, perhaps they have never tried to see the fairies, or made wishes which they tried to *make* come true, because you know you have to work if you want to get anything really worth having, and sometimes it is very hard work indeed. It is the same with the songs. You can hear the little voices if you stop to listen in the right way; and it is worth it. So let us try to get in tune with the voices and hear some of the most wonderful music in the world.

I went into a Lyceum the other day, and found some very clever children, and they were so very very interested in what their Conductor had to tell them, that they asked questions, too. And I was pleased with the way they did the marching, each going round as if they really enjoyed it. I realised the joy and harmony of it all as we gave each other the right hand of fellowship and left hand of fraternity.

At another Lyceum the Conductor sat on one side and said "Take my place please for once." And I did; we had a beautiful little ceremony during the service. Another little Lyceumist was brought to receive his name, thus adding one more note to our general song of praise. It is always beautiful to have these little ones brought into our midst, for a naming ceremony means that we all get livened up. Yes, we turn another page over for that particular Lyceum, and the Angel-fairies rejoice with us. Did we hear music when that little one was received amongst us as a member? I'm sure we did, and the fairies whispered a fairy name for the child and it was given by the lady who held the child. And we all sang a song of welcome, for we had opened the door for one more little angel to our great big Lyceum.

This month is called the month of smiles and tears, for we generally get plenty of rain and sunshine. It is the month which shows us what music a real English Spring can make, and that is where your conversation can flourish. Perhaps, where your chum is away over the seas it may be just coming Autumn, and you can tell them that though Summer has left them it is only because it is coming to us, and forming the great big circle, and singing a song which never has an end. But with the Lyceum it is always spring isn't it? for as fast as one job comes to an end there is another to be started, and so we go on and nobody can say when we shall stop.

Now remember, children, we may forget the singer, but not forget the song. We may seem to meet with no reward for our good actions. People may just accept without even a "Thank-you," but Angels know and are glad, because they know when we are trying to serve them, and they will join us in the glad song of Love.

I have received some wonderful letters lately. Some fine ones from new-found friends in our own lands, whom I have linked up with chums in other lands; and one from a friend over the seas. This last friend sent me a big book with pictures of beautiful scenery, and it sang another song to me of how great and big and wonderful the world is. And I know that others are receiving and sending their letters and keeping up their links cheerfully and well; each doing their share in the great song of hope and love.

Now, as we are all just parts of one grand song, let us each strive to keep up our own little tune to swell the grand Hymn of Praise. Just one more thing; we would like more to join us, but don't forget your duty to the other parts of the Lyceum. Your Lyceum is the best in the world, for your Lyceum is just for you. And your song is you, so make it a good song all life through.

Good-night and God bless you all,  
Yours lovingly,  
UNCLE JOSEPH.



DEAR FELLOW IMPS,

I am afraid that those of you who received Certificates have not been able to get them framed, because they got crumpled in the post and so lost their nice appearance. So I am not going to send any more in envelopes; a supply of tubes is now on order, and as soon as they come to hand they will be used to bring new certificates to all who have received crumpled ones. You needn't trouble to write, unless you have something you have written for Our Corner. Every member will be sent a new certificate.

And I hope members will keep in mind that they are members of the R.A.O.K. because they are going to keep on helping to make the Kiddies' Corner a Page that is written by the Lyceum Kiddies themselves—not FOR them but BY them. And in the December BANNER will be found a list of the NINE members who have sent in most efforts from the beginning of this year. So carry on, keeping in mind that your name being in this list will bring credit to your Lyceum.

#### OUR CONUNDRUMS.

The answer to Doreen Hedderly's puzzle is:

Q: What is the difference between a Jeweller and a Jailor?

A: One sells watches, and the other watches cells.

And the answer to Mac Sikkar's puzzle is:

Q: Why does a donkey eat thistles?

A: Because he's an ass.

Frank George is working to be in the December Honours List, and he has sent in two puzzles, one of which is:

Can you read the following story (one letter, only, has been left out in a number of places; if the letter is put back the jumble of letters will be found to be a sentence):

HREEIREDINKERSRIEDOROOOENHAM. (Answer next month).

Elsie Storey (Whitley Bay) has sent quite a number; and I'd like both old and new members to send in the answers to the following, as well as to Frank's; and, of course, some of their own:

What chins are never shaved?

What is it that is full of holes, but yet holds water?

As green as grass; as white as snow; with whiskers like a cat—what is it?

#### HELD OVER FROM LAST MONTH.

The following story is now given, as promised last month:

##### THE CHINA DOG'S DAY.

One day a white china dog sat in the window of a cottage, and looked longingly at the freedom of the garden. His name was Chip.

"If only I could move," he sighed; "for every dog has his day: even a china dog." Suddenly he felt a peculiar feeling in the tip of his polished tail. "I believe I am going to be able to wag it."

And he wagged it; and then his ears felt warm, and he twitched them; and then—oh joy!—he dashed through the window, breaking the glass and chipping the tip off his left ear. He raced across the garden in the sunshine, and the only cloud in the china dog's sky was that he could not bark. He ran into the road and raced until his red china tongue lolloped out, when suddenly a hand grasped him, and he was thrust into a tinker's pocket.

"Oh, you dear!" said the tinker's wife, and she carefully placed him upon the mantel-shelf. "Where did you get him, Timothy?" And the tinker replied that he had found Chip.

Chip wanted to weep when he heard this; and he longed to tell the tinker's wife that he could run about. But the twilight of Chip's day had come, and the wag was going out of his tail, and his ears were getting cold and stiff; and when night set in he was once again only a little white china ornament.

DOREEN BURKILL (Grimsby Lyceum).

#### NEW WORKERS.

Fifteen new workers have joined Our Order, and I am ever so sorry that there is not room for all the Individual Efforts sent in. The following will serve as samples—and encouragement:

##### THE STORY OF A PENNY.

At first I was a piece of dirty brown copper; then men dug me up, and I was put through all kinds of machines, and in one of them I was flattened out and stamped; then I went to the banks and then to the shops. One shopkeeper gave me in change to a lady; the lady took me to her house; then I went from house to house. When I was worn out, I was sent back to the machines to start on my travels all over again.

HORACE JONES, (Newton Heath Lyceum).

##### I AM A DOLL.

I am a doll; my name is Doris. At night my mother puts me to bed; of a morning when she comes for me I am asleep, so she leaves me; then she goes and cooks the breakfast. When I wake up she comes for me and I have my tea; then I go a walk with my mother. As I am going, sometimes I fall asleep; so she takes me back again and puts me to bed and then goes and reads. When I cry she puts a dummy into my mouth to make me quiet and gives me some milk; then she plays with me and makes me laugh. She tells me tales about other dollies which cry.

OLIVE TYRER (Newton Heath Lyceum).

You sound more like a baby, "Doris," but you are the one who ought to know, and if you say you are a doll—well, then, you *are* a doll.

#### OTHER HONOURABLE MEMBERS.

Kitty Kenyon (Macclesfield); Joan Newton and Celia Peat (Croydon); Margaret Wise (South Shields); Marjorie James and Winnie Rayner (Woolwich and Plumstead); Irene Tyrer, Madge Spence, Mary Briggs, Alice Whitehead and Ingham Whitehead (Newton Heath); and Henry C. Brookes (Moston)—all these have sent in worthy efforts, for which we may be able to make space later. But the great thing is that they have done something, and we want our Kiddies to be DO-ers, not dreamers or—worse still—empty talkers.

#### HIGH JINKS IN NURSERY-LAND.

I suppose you are all reading the Guild Serial. We are having great times in Nursery-Land, and we think that you Kiddies ought to be told all about them; so I have been allowed to tell you in the BANNER. If you cannot think of anything else to write about, tell me what you think of "High Jinks."

#### 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—unless you are over twelve.

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

Your loving Brother Imp,

VERONTAS.

Lyceumists visiting Scarborough during the summer will be welcomed at the Lyceum held in Hildreth Buildings, North St., Scarborough, at 2-30 p.m.

## London District President's Address.

(Continued from last month)

I cannot pass this part of my address without expressing a word of real appreciation and admiration for Brother Clegg, who is still labouring amongst us, and who has rendered me several personal services during my presidency.

I would also not forget such workers as Mrs. Drury and those who are confined to their homes. It is often from such centres that workers gain their strength; through the medium of Prayer. The past year has been one of the most harmonious and successful ones I have spent in any office in my life.

Our quarterly meetings too have become centres of usefulness and interest. Under such conditions as these the Council have been able to do some real progressive work. The result of our labours will be seen by the various Reports to be given later. There is so much work in front of us that I have only time to touch on a few main items.

Under the heading of future work, I would remind those who accept any office to-night, not to do so in any light manner, I tell you frankly that you will not find The London Lyceum District Council a convalescent home for those seeking rest. I would rather liken it to Twelve Months' Hard Work without the option of excuses.

We have spent a good deal of time this year in organising our Council. I think you will agree with me that this is an essential qualification, as important to a small council as to a large business undertaking.

The Interchange of Conductors Plan; social work under the supervision of a Social Committee; recognised dates for holding propaganda meetings; formation of Bye Laws for local use, and several other items have I think improved the standard.

The New Year upon which we enter to-night calls for greater Service than any previous year; from every Lyceum and every Lyceumist, and not just the Council members.

One great blot on the London map is that we have about 40 Non-Lyceum Churches in our midst, some of them have got very attractive names, but have a closed door to the children. We have got to get a closer working co-operation with the Eastern Area. Also we must encourage those in the West. We have got to reach the hearts of the Youth of London. I am not saying these things for the sake of saying them. They are living facts to be faced in 1928.

To do this work our financial side has to be considered, and here I would express my appreciation to our retiring Treasurer, Mrs. Barnard. Thanks to the generous support given by Lyceums and Churches we have improved our standing this past year, but while this looks nice on a balance sheet it fails to show the times that the Treasurer and others have had to advance capital. I think the time has come when we have got to put our Council on a firm financial basis, with a reasonable reserve fund at the back of us.

I am not guilty of wearing funny hats, or do I propose bringing in any New TAXES on the already generous supporters, but seeing The Salvation Army have their Self-Denial Weeks, Hospitals, various Institutions and Flag Days, I do think we might have a Lyceum Council Sunday when we could ask every Church in London to take a Retiring Collection for Lyceum propaganda work.

Further, to affiliated Lyceums, might I suggest the creation of a deeper interest in our work amongst your workers. You could get them to join the Council as Associate Members. The Subscriptions are only 2s. 6d. per annum, and my fellow Officers and Council members, together with myself pay this amount. An average of about 5 from each Affiliated Lyceum in London will bring us in nearly £10 a year, whilst the expense of sending notices to them will not exceed 10s.

Beyond the financial gain, we shall have had great moral support. I do want to see this Council in a position to hire larger Halls in London for Social and Propaganda work: together with funds for advertising such events, so I appeal to you to consider the suggestions with your Committees.

The working between Our Council and The Lyceum Union during the year has given every satisfaction, and we are looking forward to giving a practical demonstration of our good fellowship when its Officers visit London shortly.

Our relationship with The London District Council of the S.N.U. is very friendly.

The relations between our Council and the United District Council has not been very strong, and you will be asked to discuss this point later.

We are giving our support to The League of Nations and The Federation of Youth movements.

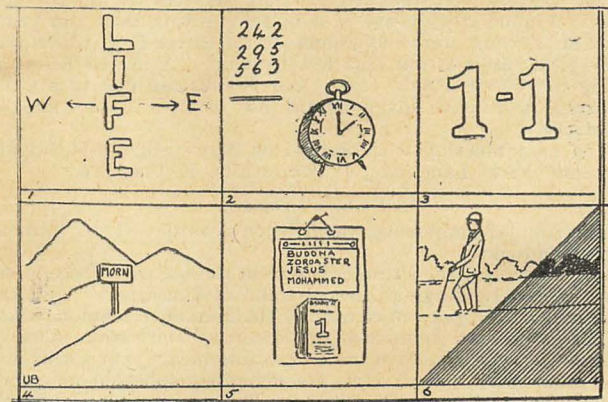
I am afraid the Church does not offer much attraction to Young people, therefore it is our duty to keep them in our fold until they realise their greater need.

I know all centres have not the room to make such attempts but it is wise to remember one of Spurgeon's illustrations:—

"When you come up to a brick wall which you cannot see through, climb it to see over the other side."

ALBERT E. FRUIN, President.

## The Children's Puzzle.



There are six titles of Lyceum Manual Readings and Songs in the above pictures. When you have found the titles, send your answers to Uncle Bert.

## District Council Reports.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The B. & D.L.D.C. will hold a Tea and Social in the "Forward Spiritualist Church," 58, Villa Road, Handsworth, on Easter Monday. Assemble at 4-0 p.m. Tea at 4-30 p.m. Admission, Tea and Social 1s. Social only 6d.

Will all Lyceumists rally round and support the Council. A good programme is assured and it is hoped to have a real good time.

The next meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, April 14th, at Drummond St., Wolverhampton, commencing at 3-0 p.m. prompt. It is hoped there will be a good attendance of delegates and associates as there is some important business on the agenda.

D. STRAW, Sec.

### BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The Bradford L.D.C. held a meeting at Laisterdyke Lyceum on Sunday, March 11th. All the Officers, 5 Lyceums' Delegates, and a few Associates were present.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

Now that the Keighley Lyceum dispute is settled it was decided to see if the Keighley Lyceum was still in membership with the B.S.L.U., if so to write them and ask them to become members again of the Council.

The B.S.L.U. Nominations were under discussion and it was decided to nominate persons for all offices, the Secretary to write nominee for consent.

Re Judge for Silver Shield and Bell Competition. It was decided to ask Mr. Harding, of Wakefield, to be our Judge for 1928. The date for starting the Competition was left with the Secretary.

Re Council dates for 1929: the meetings will be on Saturday afternoons.

A Whist Drive will take place at Shipley on April 21st (for Council Funds). Lyceums have promised to support this effort.

Miss Jacques and Mr. Illingworth, of Idle Lyceum, and Mrs. and Miss Craig, of Otley Road Lyceum, were confirmed as Associate Members of the Council. New Associate members are Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls and Miss Firth, of Harker Street, and Miss Stone, of Idle.

The next meeting will be held at Milton Lyceum on April 8th.

A nice Open Session was held in the afternoon. Several scholars gave recitations and solos. A good session. Our President, Miss Hudson, conducted.

The Evening Service was addressed by Mr. Aked, Miss Craig, and Mrs. Craig. A Vote of Thanks was given by Miss Teale. Our President was in the chair during an enjoyable day. Mrs. Babbs thanked the Council for their services.—E. Aked, Sec.

#### COVENTRY AND DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting was held at Broad St. Church, on Feb. 18th. All Lyceums were represented except Stoke.

Election of Officers for 1928: President, Mr. Burrows; Secretary, Mrs. E. Coe; Treasurer, Miss Bull; District Visitor, Mr. A. Coe; Auditors, Mrs. Waters and Miss Taylor.

The Officers were thanked for their services during the last year. Financially we are in a better position than last year. Bull St. Lyceum were the winners of the Silver Bell, which was very good, as it is our smallest Lyceum. A united Effort is being put forward this year. Our thanks are due to all the Churches that have given us the use of their rooms for the meetings.

The next meeting will be held on May 12th, at Broadgate Lyceum, Vicar Lane, at 3-15 p.m.—Mrs. E. Coe, Sec.

#### LEEDS DISTRICT.

The Annual Conference was held on Saturday, Feb. 25th, at Heckmondwike.

Mr. Tweedale, the President, was in the Chair. The Conference opened by singing "Sweet Land of Sunshine." Invocation by Dad Kitson. Welcome by Mr. Martin, Heckmondwike.

The President addressed the meeting and said,—Twelve months ago you honoured me by electing me as your President. The retiring President, Mrs. Hurley, then appealed for goodwill, co-operation, and loyalty to accompany my term of office. That has been accorded me. I have never had reason to doubt your loyalty. I am sure that goodwill and fellowship has accompanied all my efforts. All our meetings have been orderly and businesslike. The spirit of reason has been shown by everyone. I wish to thank all my fellow-officers for their service and help. My continued good health has enabled me to attend all meetings. Had we required Mrs. Hurley's services she would have been ready to take the reins. In our Treasurer (Mr. Wilson) we have an able worker. Our District Visitor (Mr. Spencer) has attended to his work with zeal in visiting our Lyceums. I wish to thank the L.D.C. and B.D.C. Delegates for the time they have spent in serving the Council, and also for their reports. I appreciate the assistance of the Credentia Officers. In referring to the Demonstration on Wakefield, the Field Day Secretary has tried hard to place the success on myself, but you may rely on the success was almost entirely due to him. I am looking forward to this year's Demonstration with every confidence. Your Field Day Committee has again elected me your Marshall. I will use my utmost endeavour to ensure success. I am looking forward to the forthcoming year and take the opportunity of asking for your continued support and assistance. Your Officers will be ready to respond to every call of duty. I am very pleased to see with us to-day our esteemed friend and co-worker, Dad Kitson, and I give him a most hearty welcome to our Annual Meeting. In conclusion I ask all Lyceumists to rally to the call of service and be determined that nothing shall be left undone which will further the cause of Spiritualist Lyceums. My earnest desire is that all Lyceumists will strive for spiritual progression.

The Minutes of last Conference were accepted and confirmed. Correspondence, Invitation Y.D.C., Massed Session at Wakefield on Easter Monday, April 9th, 10-45 a.m. was accepted. The Conductor will be Mr. Howard (Easy Road). Letters of thanks and appreciation from the M.C. Meeting at Castleford were read.

Reports were given,—D.V., L.D.C., Fraternal Delegate, Treasurer's Quarterly and Yearly Statements. Balance in hand, General Fund, £4 11s. 7½d, Field Day Fund, £31 13s. 8d. The Auditors, Field Day Secretary's, and Secretary's Yearly Report were accepted.

1928 Competition: Adjudicator is Mr. Barnes, of Bradford. Associates, Mrs. Eccles and Mr. Howard.

Election of Officers: President, Mr. Tweedale; Vice-President, Mrs. Hurley; Treasurer, Mr. Wilson; Secretary, Mr. Harding; D.V., Mr. Spencer; Fraternal Delegate, Mrs. Harding; Delegate B.S.L.U. and U.D.C. Conferences, Mr. Harding; Scrutineers and Auditors, Mr. Daisley and Mr. Lee.

B.S.L.U. Officers. The Council agreed to nominate and support the following persons,—President, Miss E. Elliott; Vice-President, Mr. Mack; Treasurer, Mr. Williams; Auditor, Mr. E. Wilson (Dewsbury); Area Representative, Mr. Smith.

Notice of Motions: U.D.C. Conference, "Children's Manuals," College Scheme, Affiliation, Motion referred to

B.S.L.U. The Conference instructions were given to the Delegates on these important questions.

The closing date for entries to competition is March 31st. Open Council, (Castleford), *re* progressive Lyceums, Groups. Conductors passing examinations to qualify as Conductors. There was much discussion and very interesting.

South Kirkby and affiliation to Council. Agreed to accept them this year without Fee, owing to financial reasons.

Credentia Officers report,—Officers 5, and Honorary Member 1. Fraternal Delegate L.D.C. 1, Auditors 2, Delegates 17, representing 14 Lyceums, Associates 5.

The details of next Conference were left with the Secretary to arrange. Votes of thanks to local friends. Our President and Mrs. Harding accorded our best thanks to Heckmondwike for hospitality. The President of the Church replied.—A. V. Harding, Sec.

#### SCOTTISH DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting of the above was held at 46, Queenshill St., Springburn, Glasgow, on Saturday, Feb. 25th. There was only a fair representation of Lyceums. The S.N.U. D.C. was represented by Mr. Dalby, and the West of Scotland Workers' Guild by Mr. J. Shaw. Resignations from office were intimated from Mr. D. Urquhart, Dundee, and Miss Blaik, Edinburgh, and Mr. Rankine, Dalmeir. It was agreed to record our appreciation of the services of these Lyceumists and notify them accordingly.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports gave further evidence of the continued industrial depression, and the need for economy was once more emphasised. The following Officers were elected: President, Miss H. Cleland; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. M. Scott; District Visitors, East, Miss P. Neilson, West, Mr. Gow; Delegates to Annual Conference, Messrs. Reid and Gow.

The meeting was a lengthy one, and terminated about 8-30 p.m., after a very useful discussion on various phases of the work in this district.

The next quarterly meeting will be held in Fabian Halls, Dundee, the new home of the Dundee Society of Spiritualists.

Mrs. Hastie, of the S.M.U., was heartily thanked for her hospitality and exceeding kindness.—J.M.S.

#### WEST OF SCOTLAND LYCEUM WORKERS' GUILD.

Annual Report presented to the S.L.D.C. Meeting on 25th Feb., 1928.

At the last annual meeting of the S.L.D.C. in February, 1927, the formation of above Guild was agreed on and Officers appointed, Miss H. Cleland being elected President, and Mr. Jas. Shaw, Secretary and Treasurer.

On Sunday, May 1st, in the rooms of the S.M.U. Lyceum, 100, West Regent Street. Delegates attended from Glasgow Association, Scottish Medium's Union, Southern, Henrietta St., Broadway Dalmeir, Dalmeir, No. 1, Northern, and Govan Lyceums, along with the President, District Visitor for West Scotland, Guild Secretary and Treasurer. It was agreed to meet monthly.

The membership Fee for Lyceums was fixed at 2s. per annum, the financial year to end on 30th April.

It was arranged that as far as possible the Guild should arrange for rambles, Field Days, Rallies, etc., and assist Lyceums in every way possible.

A ramble to Fereneze on June 25th had to be called off due to the bad weather. A Field Day was arranged for Aug. 20th, in West-thorn Grounds, London Road, Glasgow, use of which was granted by Glasgow Corporation Water Works Dept. Sports, etc., to be held. Again, Jupiter Pluvius intervened, with the result that only about 30 attended. However, these friends enjoyed themselves very well. The football abilities in five-a-sides of Northern and Govan being tested, Govan emerged winners. Ladies' races and mixed three-legged races were also run off, the winner in each race being awarded a prize. Miss Cleland intimated that a friend who wished to remain anonymous had given her a donation of £1 for prizes, and she was asked to convey to the donor the thanks of the Guild.

Massed Sessions were held in the large Hall of the Masonic Halls, West Regent Street, jointly with the Scottish Mediums' Union Adult Association on Oct. 2nd and Dec. 25th. Both were well attended. At the latter Session, toys were brought by the Lyceumists and taken later to the East Park Home for Infirm Children, who received them very thankfully as an addition to their Christmas Tree provisions.

A Study Class was started on Thursday, Nov. 17th to meet twice monthly, on the second and fourth Thursday of each

month, and since then the class has been carried on, although on most occasions with a very small attendance, drawn from S.M.U., Northern, and Southern Lyceums, almost exclusively. The financial result of this class has been negative, resulting nearly every evening in a loss and a draw on funds of the Guild, but they are still being carried on. The programme taken has been a study of the B.S.L.U. Constitution and the No. 1 Handbook of the Education Scheme, with occasionally other subjects allied to Lyceumism, suggested during the meetings by those present. It may be that the success of the class has been more than the promoters think.

**Finance.** Seven of the eight affiliated Lyceums paid fees to the Guild, bringing in a total of 14s. This sum was very quickly taken up with general expenses, and had it not been for the goodwill of the S.M.U. who agreed to give the Guild half-collections at each of the Open Sessions, while getting us the use of the Hall free, we should long ago have had to close down through bankruptcy. As it is, due to a Social held on the 11th inst., yielding a balance of £1 12s. 3d., a balance of 9s. 6d., in General Fund, and £1 14s. 1d. from a Free Gift Sale, after paying for printing, the Guild closes to date, with total Funds of £3 19s. 10d. It must be stated that the Free Gift Sale was first of all made possible by the gift from a lady in Glasgow, long interested in Lyceums, of a hand-knitted shawl. This generosity stimulated other members of the Guild to offer other prizes. To all these thanks for their assistance are due.—James Shaw, Hon. Sec. and Treas.

#### SHEFFIELD DISTRICT. REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Re-Union and General Meeting was held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25th and 26th in the Attercliffe Spiritualist Church. Nearly every Lyceum in the D.C. was represented at the Re-Union Gathering on the Saturday. Tea was provided, during which fraternal greetings were exchanged and jovial conversations ensued.

After tea, the "Optimists Concert Party" from Chesterfield provided a two hours concert, which was highly appreciated by a full audience. The evening's entertainment ended after about one hour of dancing. The whole proceedings were harmonious, fraternal, and a good preliminary to the more serious business.

On Sunday, Feb. 26th, at the Annual Meeting, Mr. F. Smith, President, was in the Chair. After Opening Exercises, Welcomes, and greetings, a standing vote of sympathy and condolence was extended to Mr. R. Latham in his bereavement. Mr. J. H. Webster, and ex-member of the S.N.U. E.C., and Mr. Oliver, Y.D.C., and S.N. U E.C., were given a cordial welcome and voting power at this meeting.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, correspondence, and various reports were accepted. Roll Call showed 5 Officers, 14 Lyceum Delegates (representing 13 Lyceums) 1 S.D.C. Delegate, 7 Associates, 1 Honorary Member, 1 S.N.U. and Y.D.C., 12 visitors. Total 41. The Auditor's Report and the Balance Sheet were accepted. Balance in hand of 5s. 0½d.

At the Election of Officers all retiring Officers were re-elected. Various Delegates and Sub-Committee were elected.

The Afternoon session was conducted by Mr. Smith. During the Session the Banner and Bell were presented to successful Lyceums in the Competition. Heeley, Gifford Road, won the Banner, and Chesterfield Lyceum won the Bell.

The Evening Service was conducted by various members of the Council. Mr. Smith presided. It was a busy but interesting week-end in the children's Cause.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Sunday, April 22nd, in the Barnsley (North Pavement) Church. Agenda,—Business, will commence at 10 a.m. Usual catering arrangements. The Council will conduct the Afternoon session and evening service.—H. Heath, Sec.

#### SOUTHERN COUNTIES DISTRICT.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Reading on Feb. 25th and 26th. The business side of the Council showed a very encouraging report, although only delegates from Brighton, Southampton, Portsmouth, and Reading attended. The financial side appears to be stable. The officers of last year were re-elected for 1928.

The meetings on the Sunday were well attended. Mrs. Baker, the President, and Mrs. Hart, the Treasurer, conducted the morning meeting. A great feature of the Lyceum at Reading is the well developed Liberty Group. About 30 attend to hear some interesting papers discussed every week. The junior section, under the supervision of Mrs. Lawrence, the

Conductor, shows great interest. The Council feels that at Reading we have a Lyceum that will in time rival Southampton, who have a membership of 120.

The Secretary of the Council conducted the Evening meeting, and showed what effect Spiritualism has had upon science, philosophy, and religion, and also upon the teachings that it promotes. As a Council we feel we would like to express our thanks to the Reading friends for their kindness in their invitation and hospitality, and all feel sure that the visit has aided and strengthened us in the South.—H. C. Guy, Sec.

#### TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting of the T.L.D.C. was held at Gurney Valley, on Sunday, Feb. 12th. The usual reports were presented. Election of Officers: President, Mr. J. Riley (Witton Park); Secretary, Mr. E. Nellist (Grangetown); Treasurer, Mr. A. H. Colbourne (Middlesbrough); District Visitor, Mr. Foster (Horden); Assistant D.V., Mr. Bland (Shildon); Auditors, Mr. Spedding and Mr. Chester (New Shildon).—Ed. Nellist, Sec.

## District Visitors' Reports.

#### MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

The following Lyceums have been visited,—

Shepley St. Longsight, Jan. 1st, present 37. Attention fair. Many comments on readings and many questions were asked by the children. Marching and callisthenics were good. Great progress is being made in this Lyceum. A good session.

Cornbrook, St. Brooks Bar, Jan. 8th, present 25. Attention very good. Good response to readings. The efforts from the children were splendid. Marching and callisthenics were fair. The session was very good.

Droylsden, Jan. 22nd. Prompt start, present 27. This Lyceum Session was conducted in a most able manner by one of the young people. Questions and explanations on the readings were fine. Recitations, girls 5, boys 3. Pearls from all. The marching and callisthenics were good. A most enjoyable session throughout.

Stretford, Watson St., Jan. 29th, present 57. This Lyceum is well to the fore with efficiency from both children and adults. There was a naming ceremony by Mrs. Jackson. Marching and callisthenics were really splendid. The session was an education in itself.

Hollinwood, Byron St., Feb. 26th. Good attendance. Marching and callisthenics good. Responses to readings fair. Only a poor response to the individual efforts. There is a decided improvement in the order of this Lyceum, and I sincerely hope they will progress.

Maskell St., March 4th, present 27. Silver Chain, Golden Chain, and Musical Reading, were conducted in a most able manner by the young people. Good response to recitations and solos. The children were very attentive. Marching and callisthenics were good. Good Session.

Cornbrook St. have removed back to Stanley Grove, and opened on March 4th, with a Massed Session. I had the pleasure of being present. A very fine session was gone through, ably conducted by their young conductor, Miss L. Moulson. I feel sure, if the continued interest is taken in the children, this Lyceum has a very bright outlook for the future.—G. Ashton, D.V.

## Special Reports.

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

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—The Open Session on Mar. 4th proved a great success. The following Lyceumists responded well with solos, duets, recitations, songs, and pearls.—Mrs. Babbs, Miss A. Hudson, Mr. Wilman, Miss M. Cook, Miss L. Batty, Miss M. Ackroyd, Joseph Farnell, Edith Keene, Jonas Pearson, Emily Hirst, Phyllis Wilman, Mary Luty, Herbert Hirst, Marion Ashford, James Hill.—J. Babbs, Sec.

BRADFORD, Ripley St.—Open Session held on Mar. 4th, when a glorious time was spent. Items by Joan McKaye, Winnie Hill, Lilian Plumb, Misses N. Leng, Florence Leng, and Hilda Turner.

On Sat., March 17th, we celebrated our 10th Lyceum Anniversary. A large number sat down to tea. In the evening a

concert was given by Peggy and Partner, assisted by Miss Winnie Hill in various dances and impersonations.

Miss Butler, prize dancer, gave a demonstration of Charleston. The following also took part.—A. Wilkinson, A. A. Wilkinson, L. Plumb, V. Solomon, Joan MacKaye, H. Turner, F. Barber, G. Baxter, Mrs. Speak. We brought an enjoyable day to a close with competitions and games.

On March 18th Open Session was held. Mr. Stevens, Mr. Plumb, Miss Hudson, Miss Teale, Mrs. Solomon, Mr. Aked, and Mrs. Walton, spoke a few encouraging words to the Lyceum.

In the evening solos were given by Misses Leng and Turner. Mrs. Walton gave the address. Best wishes to all.—E. Pickles, sec.

DUNEDIN, N.Z.—The Lyceum closed on Dec. 18th for the annual holiday. Only one girl was absent through sickness, and there were a number of visitors present. Pearls were given by all members, and a "Welcome" by seven girls. During the singing of "Heart Flowers" four little girls carried trays of button-holes to all adults present, and Jean McConnell presented a basket of roses to Miss Burgess.

Recitations by—Edith Asher, Hazel Pratley, Dulcie Pratley, Jean McConnell, Mavis Dobbin, Kitty Dobbin, Esme Morgan, Joyce Ferguson, Frances Anthony, Roland Paul, Hilda Paul, Raymond Englefield, Kenneth Brooks, Charley Bayliss, Margaret Asher, and Lilian Bayliss. Joan Hargreaves sang "Little Lord Jesus." Small prizes, one in each class, were won by Margaret Asher, 13, Dulcie Pratley, 9, Raymond Englefield 7, and Frances Anthony, 5 years.

Pianoforte solo by Mr. Hargreaves, our Musical Conductor, who is retiring after 4½ years loyal service. He has been an untiring worker and we shall find it hard to replace him, but we realise he needs a rest. We still hope to see him at the Lyceum whenever he has time. He, with other loyal workers, has worked hard to assist in the payment for the piano, and he has the satisfaction of knowing the last payment has been made and the beautiful instrument is now the sole property of the Lyceum.

All the children took part in one item. 15 children held cards which were raised as they said their parts, showing "A Merry Christmas." The others were arranged at the back, holding flags.

Miss Burgess was the recipient of many gifts. Small gifts made by Miss Burgess, bags of chocolate given by a friend, and large cards to those having sufficient attendance marks, were distributed by a very miniature Father Christmas (Irene Brooks) who, to the delight of the children, had paid a special visit, carrying his gifts in a sack. The teachers also gave their scholars gifts, and a very happy band of little people sang "Clap your hands for joy." Mrs. Brooks gave the benediction, and with Christmas greeting to all the session closed.—Miss R. Burgess, Con. Sec.

LONDON, Fulham.—On Feb. 26th, Frank William, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, was given the name of "Truth" by Mrs. Neville. The large gathering of friends were captivated by the baby's smiling content and a few Lyceumists presented him with a silver spoon. He was made a fellow-Lyceumist with his parents and brother.—E. I. Field, Sec.

LONDON, Peckham.—On Feb. 26th we celebrated our 21st Anniversary. In the morning the Service was provided by Lyceum workers, including Uncle Bert.

In the afternoon an Open Session was conducted by Mrs. Barnett. The Council of the L.L.D.C. were present and brought us greetings from various Lyceums. Fifteen efforts were given and these created a record for London, so we were told by Uncle Smiles, who also complimented us on our general improvement.

Tea was provided for all wishing to stay for the Open Session which was conducted in the evening and included efforts by Edgar, Phyllis, and Daisy Watts, John Cox, Peggy Bailey, Janet Franklin, John Porter, Mrs. Franklin, Ivy Holmes, Gladys Bamber, Irene and Freda Coombes, Gordon Turner, Fred Wiltshire, Harry Hibberd. A solo was rendered by Mrs. B. Petz, accompanied by the Organist. Addresses were given by Uncle Bert and Mr. E. G. Cox. An inspiring Benediction came from our trusty old friend, Mr. Clegg.

It was altogether a coming of age never to be forgotten.

WINNIPEG, Polson Avenue.—We held our Open Session on Feb. 5th. We had a fairly good turnout at the Session, but the children were a little backward with songs and recitations. Pearls, songs and recitations were given by Daisy Knox, Arthur Redmond, Sylvia Parkinson, Verna MacLeod, Irene Turner, Olive Forrest, Mr. Chadwick, Harry Forrest, Hazel Dale, Harry Towns, and Edna Brown. Mr. Brown, our Conductor, gave the children a very interesting description of

"Money and its Power," showing to the scholars that money had no power. J. Knox, Sec.

LINCOLN, Coultham St.—On March 4th, our Anniversary Services were taken by Mrs. Raspin (a Lyceumist) with special singing, recitations, and pearls by our young members.

On Monday, Mar. 5th, a Service of Song was well rendered. We have had two good social evenings. All efforts have been very successful.—N. Willey, sec.

LONDON, Hackney.—On Mar. 4th we held our Open Session, and we had the pleasure of a visit from the Conductor of Eltham, Mr. Elphick, who conducted the Session and seemed delighted with the general standard. We had a good attendance. The following contributed to a very pleasant afternoon: recitations by D. Owen, D. King, L. Chiplin, and R. Howard. Duet by H. Banfield and D. Wigg. Solo by Mrs. Huggett. Pianists, C. Huggett and I. Wemborne. The marching and callisthenics were done exceptionally well, and everyone seemed to have had a very enjoyable time. Thanks are due to all who took part.—M. White, Assist. Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—Another successful Prize night on March 4th. Our Mayor and Mayoress presented the prizes with words of encouragement and a handshake to each recipient. Councillor Potts presided, and was supported by Alderman and Mrs. Brookhouse, and Councillor Pimblott, J.P.

The infants were sweet in their song and march. The boys, with their band, received a well deserved encore. The Fairy Play "Butterfly Queen" (Marjorie Hulley) with Fairies, Girl Guides, Scout, Witch, and not forgetting Tweedledum and Tweedledee (Gladys and Lily Hill) was a splendid success. The Lyceumists had been trained by Mrs. Pimblott, Misses Dean and Hulley. Special Prizes were won by Gladys Hill, Norman Read. Six prizes for perfect attendance (given by Mrs. Pimblott) were won by C. and S. Royle, C. Normington, B. Kenyon, W. Carter, and Joyce Potts.—Hannah Rushton, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—A Social was held on 25th Feb. for the presentation of the Shield. We had with us, Mr. Hart and Mr. Dixon, President and Secretary of the M. & S.L.D.C., also Mr. Bostock (Warrington).

Mr. Hart presented the Shield, with some very interesting remarks, to our Conductor, Miss Entwistle, who responded and expressed the wish that our Lyceums would still continue to progress both materially and spiritually. We admire the spirit and goodwill which the last holders of the Shield extended to us.—P. Owen, Sec.

WEST HARTLEPOOL, Musgrave St.—We held our Open Session on March 4th. Good attendance. 28 pearls. Recitations by Tommy Baimbridge, Norman Jefferson, Nora Jefferson, and Mary Petty. Solos by Nancy Ryder, Maggie Ryder, and Harriet Lawrence. Duets.—Mrs. Readmon and Mr. Cook. Mary Petty and Florrie Walker. A happy session.—E. Platts, Sec.

CLECKHEATON.—We held our Open Session on March 4th, and we had a very good attendance. Pearls were given by Mrs. Burke, Misses E. Tolliday, A. Raynor, Mr. J. Burke, Mr. Sinkinson, and Mr. Bryan. A lovely duet came from Misses A. Wilson and A. Raynor. Recitations by E. Rowley, N. Boswell, and a trio by Misses D. and D. Garside, and E. Rowley. The Conductor for the afternoon was Mr. T. Brooke. Everyone enjoyed the Session.—T. Brooke, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley, Gifford Rd.—On March 4th we were agreeably surprised that, after having held the second prize of the Sheffield Lyceum District Council Banner and Bell Competition (The Bell) we are this year the winners of the First Prize (The Banner).

Our Open Session was taken by Miss Jefferson, one of our Assistant Conductors. Numerous recitations and solos were given by young Lyceumists.—A. Truelove, Sec.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Brunswick St.—On Mar. 11th we held a Service of Song entitled "Silver Lilies." The story was read by Mrs. Williams (Conductor). The songs, duets, and solos were beautifully rendered. The service was a success though there was a small attendance owing to the weather. Mrs. Dodsworth trained the children for singing.—S. Williams, Sec.

## LYCEUM REPORTS.

- RULE 1.—Reports must be written in ink or typed on one side of the paper only. Commence the Report by stating the name of your Lyceum, and sign your name at the end.
- RULE 2.—Record only the events occurring after February 22nd

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 April 25th, to ensure insertion in the May 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

BLACKBURN, St. Peter St.—On Feb. 26th we held our Open Session. Mrs. M. E. Pickles was our speaker. About 90 took part in the marching and callisthenics. The following gave recitations,—W. Railton, J. Parkinson, C. Railton, J. Entwistle, I. Lightbown, A. Railton, I. Entwistle, L. Slater, and Miss Darbyshire. Monologue by Mrs. M. E. Pickles. About 130 present. A good session.—Thos. Wood, Sec.

DONCASTER, Catherine St.—We held our Open Session on March 4th conducted by Miss Johnson. Invocation by L. Gomersall. Marching and callisthenics were very good. Pearls were given by L. Gomersall, Mrs. Crossland, E. Gomersall, Mrs. Ball, Miss D. Barty. Recitation by A. Crossland. Muriel Holloway sang a little solo. A duet by F. Gomersall and P. Wilcox. Mr. Bates gave the benediction. An enjoyable session.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

EARBY.—We held our Open Session on March 4th, when the following Lyceumists took part: Recitations, O. Wilkins, E. Butterworth, M. Chadwick, F. Clarke, T. Hancock, W. Hancock, D. Seddon, V. Harrison, E. Clarke, Q. Dawson, A. Taylor, N. Hodgkinson and Donald Seddon. Duets by A. Bannister and W. Winstersgill. Q. Dawson and M. Enniss. Beacon group boys and Beacon group girls both rendered Lyceum songs.—Miss B. Smith, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—The monthly Open Session was held March 4th. The general interest was taken up and credit was due to the two assistant Conductors who ably presided, the Conductor being speaking elsewhere. The items were well rendered and received. Recitations by Irene Watkins, Kathleen Hague, Laura Moore, Eric Horan, Harry Horne, Tom Wright, and Kenneth, Frank, Ruth and Dorothy Harris. Pianoforte solo by Nora Harris. Duets by Elsie Johnson and Kitty Thurston, Mrs. and Miss E. Firth.—Mrs. E. K. Firth, Sec.

GRANGETOWN.—We held our Open Session on March 4th. Pearls were good. Marching and callisthenics good. Recitations and solos were not so good.—Ed. Nellist, Sec.

LEICESTER, Rupert St.—March 4th was our Prize-Giving Day when Mrs. Ford gave the scholars the prizes and a word of encouragement to everyone.

On March 18th we had a visit from the members of South Wigston Lyceum. A new Lyceum has just begun there. They watched our Lyceumists go through their marching, etc., with delight.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LINCOLN, Midland.—In keeping with a glorious day we had a good time at our Open Session. The recitations and pearls were given by O. Garratt, J. Garratt, V. Sharpe, V. Bailey, E. Green, V. and D. Dobby, M. Read, and Mrs. Crane.—A. Dobby.

MANCHESTER, South Manchester.—We held our Open Sessions on March 4th. 10 Lyceums were represented. The Area Representative, Mr. J. E. Hart, was present with us. Many of the Lyceumists gave recitations and solos. A pianoforte solo was given. The marching and callisthenics were smartly gone through and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the sessions very much.—J. Woodcock, Sec.

MORLEY, Queen St.—March 3rd and 4th, we held our Anniversary. Mrs. Adamson, our speaker, gave good addresses at both services. The children took part. Prizes were given.—J. Harrison, Sec.

OLDHAM, Elliott St.—On Feb. 5th we held our Lyceum Anniversary, which we celebrated with ability. It consisted of pearls, recitations, and the usual routine of the Lyceum.—M. Harper, Sec.

WEST HARTLEPOOL, Charles St.—On March 18th our scholars rendered "Netty," a service of song, which was excellently read by Miss Young. Quartette by Misses Young, Howe, and Phews. Recitation by Miss James and solos by Master C. Mordaunt and Miss K. Mordaunt, which were greatly appreciated.—A. Craik, Sec.

BARNESLEY, North Pavement.—We had a Service of Song, "Shepherds of the Hills," and also a sketch, for the benefit of the Church. Mrs. Gelder and Mrs. Howe conducted. Donald Gelder, Nellie and Alice Marfleet, Miss Margarite Hampton and the Lyceum children took part.—H. Lucas, Sec.

BARROW, Dalton Road.—We held our Open Session on February 5th. Mr. Roy Brown, our Conductor, made a few interesting remarks. The following recited:—Mary Howbrook, David Brown, Jackie Howbrook and Jackie Huddleston. Duet by Amy Johnson and Vera Harris. Kind thoughts to all Lyceumists.—L. Brown, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On March 4th we held our Open Session. Recitations were numerous, especially from the younger Lyceumists. They were good and enjoyable. Pearls were given and well explained. The Session was interesting and very educational. Much discussion arose, but the time was short. Our new Lyceumists are creditably improving in the callisthenics.—John Hirst, Sec.

BOLTON, Deane Road.—We held our Open Session on February 26th. We had a good attendance. Pearls, recitations and a duet by Lyceumists. Our speakers for the day were from the B.L.D.C. We had visitors from other Lyceums and all spent a very happy time.—E. Bleackley, Sec.

CARDIFF, Park Grove.—The following officers were elected for 1928:—Conductor, Mrs. Marsh; Assistant, Mrs. Hare; Secretary, Miss B. Davis; Treasurer, Mr. Helps.—B. Davies, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—March 4th we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists obliged with items:—E. Clements, J. Slater, S. Hobster, J. Orwin, E. Heath, R. Marriot, F. Hobster, M. Leverton, C. Slater, H. Hobster, L. Driver, B. Slater, M. Wagstaffe, L. Slater. We welcomed two visitors from Sheffield. Our Council Delegate presented us with the Bell we had won in the Merit Competition. The Session closed with "Shoulder to Shoulder."—M. Wheatley, Session Sec.

COLNE.—We held our Anniversary on March 4th. The Session was conducted by Mr. Fred Blackburn. The following rendered items:—Duets by Misses Blackburn, Misses Spencer and Hooper; recitations, Miss L. Williams; pianoforte solo, Mr. H. Broadley. Mr. Townley gave a short address on the Lyceum since its foundation. Mr. Townley was one of our original founders of Lyceum work in Colne. The Session was well conducted.—Thos. Hargreaves, Sec.

DARLINGTON, Northgate.—On March 11th a baby belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Little was named by Mr. Sutton. Earthly name Jean, spiritual name "Emerald." A Lyceum Badge was presented to the infant.—Mrs. Christopher, Sec.

DARWEN.—On March 10th we held our Annual Tea and Prize Distribution. 160 Lyceumists and friends sat down to an excellent tea, prepared by the ladies. The entertainment, presented by Lyceumists, consisted of "The Wonderful Dollies," "Seaside Lodgings" and "Jackets." The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Johnson, of Bolton.—Dorothy Coghlan, Ban. Sec.

EDINBURGH, Gayfield Square.—On March 18th we held a very successful Flower, Fruit and Toy Service, in aid of the Sick Children's Hospital. A wonderful display of fruit, flowers, etc., was sent in by Lyceumists and friends.

We also held our Open Session on this date, when the following helped to make it a success:—Songs by Bessie Houston and Molly Brown; recitations by Janet Knowles, Isabel Best, Marjory Guthrie, Gilbert Anderson, Jack Forbes and Ronald Forbes; pianoforte solo by Letty Cobb; violin solo by John Cobb. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent.—P. Lawrence, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—We held our Open Session on March 4th, when the following Lyceumists took part:—S.C. was led by Hubert Norris; M.R. by F. Pickvance, Harold Crooks, W. Taylor, and the G.C. by Mr. Baxter; recitations were given by Rosa Bagshaw and W. Taylor; duet by G. Norris and C. Waterhouse; solo by Mrs. Doswell.

On Saturday, March 3rd, we held our Annual Concert and Prize Distribution. The concert was given by Lyceumists from Blackburn, Accrington and Rishton. It was a great success.—C. Waterhouse, Sec.

GRIMSBY.—On March 4th we held our usual Open Session. Recitations by Bobbie Eddington, H. Tartellin, A. Letch, R. Chapman and I. Jewitt; solos by R. Barron, N. Hockley

and R. Chapman, and Mr. Ryecroft; trio by F. and V. Pilkington and R. Eddington; a song and march by B. Tartellin, R. Mathieson, J. Shaw and Joe Fields was very much appreciated.—P. Stanham, Sec.

**HYDE, Clarendon Street.**—A splendid Revue has been given successfully by our Dramatic Company (all Lyceumists), entitled "Find the Girl." It was written and produced by our brother Lyceumist, Mr. S. Jackson. The proceeds were in aid of our new Church and Lyceum, which is being opened on Saturday, April 21st, by Mr. Oaten. He will also be with us on the Sunday, along with our worthy President, Miss Elliott. A hearty invitation is given to all.—N. Cartwright, Sec.

**LANCASTER, Great John Street.**—We held our Open Session on March 4th, which was an enjoyable one. The following contributed to its success:—Margery Kendal, Ethel Stephenson, John Peel, Dorreen and Muriel Bleasdale, Doris Baines, Betty Kelly, Clara Bell, Alma Coupland and Alice Wilson.—E. Thompson, Sec.

**LEEDS, Easy Road.**—On March 10th we had a Concert, given by Lyceumists and friends, comprising songs, recitations and two sketches. The evening was well spent, being both pleasant and a financial success.—Miss McDonald, Sec.

**LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.**—On March 4th we held our Open Session. A good attendance of Lyceumists and friends. Recitations by Annie Hughes, Elsie Clements, Cyril Clements, Yvonne Dehoux, Elsie Clements and Lily Jayes; duets by Mrs. Thwaites and Mr. W. Beck, Lavinia Garrett and Kittie Townsend; solo by Mr. H. Jayes; quartet by Messrs. T. Kenney, S. Wheatley, A. and F. Gamble. Our Conductor named the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ludlam. The names given were Barbara May, spirit name "Violet."—S. Wheatley, Sec.

**LONDON, Stratford, Idmiston Road.**—March 4th was our Open Session. Individual efforts were given by Betty Haughton, Doris Walters, Doreen Walters, Florence Christopher and Harry Soones. Mrs. R. Christopher gave an address on "Andrew Jackson Davis."

On March 14th we were visited by the Manor Park Lyceumists, who repeated the performance of two fairy plays, interspersed with individual efforts. The proceeds were in aid of our Manual Fund.—Eva Connor, Sec.

**LONDON, Tottenham.**—On February 26th we held our Open Session. An interesting ceremony was performed by our Conductor, Miss Ridding, in the naming of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harriss, who was given the spirit name "Joy."

On Saturday, March 3rd, we held our Prize Distribution. Mr. Fruin, President of the L.L.D.C., and Mrs. Fruin, presented the prizes.—W. H. Markham, Sec.

**MARSDEN.**—We held our Open Session on March 4th. Uncle Joseph visited us, and conducted the Session. We also witnessed the naming of the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bamforth, his earthly name being Jack and the spirit name "Comforter." Miss Gee officiated. Items were given by Eva and George Wem, Eva and Annie Shaw. 46 Lyceumists and friends were present.—Irvin Wilson, Sec.

**MANCHESTER, Progressive.**—On February 26th we had the pleasure of Mr. Tinker at our Liberty Group, when we had a very interesting discussion on the proposed Eighth Principle.

On March 11th we held our Open Session, when recitations, pianoforte solos, duets and two violin solos were given by the Lyceumists. Greetings were conveyed from eight Lyceums, the M. and S. L.D.C. and the M.C. of the B.S.L.U.—E. Jackson, Sec.

**MIDDLESBROUGH, Grange Road.**—On March 4th we held our Open Session. Marching and callisthenics were good. Pearls were numerous. A continuous sequence of items contributed to a very pleasant afternoon. Quite the best Open Session this year.—J. Abbott, Sec.

**MIDDLESBROUGH, United.**—On March 4th we held our Open Session with a good attendance. Pearls, marching and callisthenics were very good. Recitations and solos were given by various scholars. A very enjoyable session all through.—R. Massey, Sec.

**NEWCASTLE, Heaton and Byker.**—On March 4th we held our Lyceum Sunday. Afternoon Session. Pearls and recitations were given by Mr. Ronaldson, Jim, David and Doris

Ronaldson, Olga Pybus, Edna Hughes, Olga Stephenson, Lily Laws, Mary Barker. 20 books for good attendance were presented by our Conductor in a very pleasing manner.

At the evening service the Lyceum rendered the Service of Song, "Lost to Gain," which was very much appreciated by all. Mr. Lunn, our Conductor, gave the readings in a very able manner, the Lyceumists singing their best.—S. J. Hunter, Sec.

**NOTTINGHAM, Mechanics' Hall.**—On February 26th we held our Annual Prize Distribution, conducted by Miss Rayner. Mrs. Rhodes Brown presented 56 prizes in a very pleasing manner to the successful Lyceumists, and gave remarks of encouragement to each. Two beautiful violin solos were rendered by Joseph Hitchener, accompanied by Mr. Sidney Jones (blind pianist). Two vocal solos were well rendered by Miss Kemp. Recitations were given by Lily Simpkins and Rubin Simpkins. Vocal solos by Kathleen Kiddy and Lily Simpkins. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent.—O. Peel, Sec.

**PORTSMOUTH.**—On March 4th, at the Annual Prize-giving, Mr. Tarr, of Exeter, presented the prizes and spoke a few words of encouragement to the Lyceumists. Pleasing recitations, songs, etc., were rendered by scholars during a bright enjoyable session.

On March 11th a naming ceremony was performed by Mrs. Petz on Barbara Taylor, a member of the Lyceum. Her spirit name was "Vera."—Clara Stuart-Jones, Sec.

**PRESTON, 68, Lancaster Road.**—Open Session March 5th. We had recitations from James Hatch and Robert Culling; songs from Mrs. Sherburne, R. Daniel, A. Curtis, M. Holderness, C. Curtis, D. Rae, W. Huckin, and Mr. Rae; violin solo by Mr. Culling.—Evelyn Curtis, Sec.

**PRESTON, Moor Lane.**—We held our Open Session on March 4th. Recitations by Miss E. Dodson and Connie Tallon; quartet by Miss Cooke, Miss H. Kilver, Mr. F. Dodson and Mr. S. Waring. Miss Cooke and the children's group sang "Joy Bells."—R. E. Tallon, Sec.

**RADCLIFFE.**—The Open Sessions on March 11th were enjoyed by all. Visitors from Bury and Bolton rallied round despite the wintry weather. Fraternal greetings were exchanged by Lyceumists.—Wm. Haworth, Sec.

**SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.**—On Saturday, February 25th, we held a Tea and Concert for the Reunion of S.L.D.C. The tea and concert was a huge success. Nearly every Lyceum in the District was represented there. The Concert Party was from Chesterfield Lyceum, and they gave a very good concert; everyone had a good laugh.

On Sunday, February 26th, the S.L.D.C. held their Annual Meeting. In the afternoon the officers of the Council went on the platform and all spoke a few words to the children and elders. The marching and callisthenics were good. The session was very good all through. We had a lot of visitors from various Lyceums.

The Lyceum Council Banner was presented to Gifford Road Lyceum, and the Bell to Chesterfield Lyceum, for best efforts and conduct during the last twelve months.—Mr. E. Johnson, Sec.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—On March 14th our Lyceum Concert Party gave a splendid concert. Musical items and two sketches, "The Love Germ" and "The Rehearsal," were rendered by Russell Harwood and his co-workers. This was the party's first effort, and a really enjoyable one it was.—E. W. Long, Sec.

**WEST PELTON.**—We held our Open Session on March 4th, the following taking part:—L. Dryden, L. Abbott, J. Douglas, G. Morton, B. Gransbury, J. Robinson, R. Dryden, E. Hobson, D. Douglas, J. Cockfield, W. Hardy. Conductor was Mr. Abbot.—A. Dryden, Sec.

**WINDHILL.**—Open Session, March 4th, conducted by Mr. Wright. Readings, recitations and singing from the Lyceumists were very good and enjoyed by all present.—Mrs. E. Feather, Sec.

**WINNIPEG, Princess Street.**—We held our Open Session on March 4th. Pearls and recitations were said by Evelyn Lindsay, Mary Lynch, May Armitt, Margaret Muir, Dolly Sutherland (2), May Lindsay, Evelyn Brown, Miss H. Hopkins, Mrs. Burley, Mr. Slater and Mr. Pearson. Solos were given by Miss Lindsay, Miss Muir and Mr. Pearson. Mr. Pearson led the marching and callisthenics, which the children did very well.—Mrs. M. Armitt, Sec.