

THE LYCEUM BANNER

No. 488. Vol. XLI.

OCTOBER, 1931.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

The International Spiritualist Federation.

The Triennial Congress of the I.S.F. was held at the Hague during the 4th—10th September.

The B.S.L.U. official delegate, Mr. G. F. Knott, travelled with Mr. E. W. Oaten and Mr. G. F. Berry, a day in advance of over 100 British delegates, to attend the preliminary meetings prior to the general assembly of the Congress members.

The long railway journey to Harwich; the crossing of the North Sea by night over a smooth sea, the passage of the customs officials and examination of passports, and the short rail journey to the Hague were all accomplished with facility. There was much evidence of the pastoral life in Holland. The irrigation of the tulip fields showed the preparation of the soil.

A great feature of life in the Netherlands is that almost everyone has a bicycle.

The hotel which housed most of the British delegates was a very comfortable one.

After a hearty breakfast we visited the Pulchri Studio, which was a suite of rooms admirably adapted for the series of Congress meetings. We were met by Mr. Goodhart (President) and Mr. van Walt (Secretary), and everything was found to have been admirably arranged. The final touches were made in preparation for the influx of delegates during the following day. There were nearly 30 nations represented.

The Dutch members of the Congress numbered about 500, and great interest was shown in the whole of the proceedings.

In an international Congress much time is taken up by translators, but such proceedings are unavoidable. We were very fortunate in many ways. Many of the Dutch people could speak and understand the English language, and that made the work very much pleasanter and easier.

The Grand Committee met prior to the Congress and transacted the necessary business of the Federation. The past year's work showed a balance of about £250.

Mr. Oaten presided, and Mr. Ripert gave the Secretary's report. Mr. Ripert has been very ill and he displayed his enthusiasm by attending the Congress under great physical discomfort. Mrs. Ripert was ever by his side to help him with his work, and the Committee eased his efforts as much as possible.

Mr. Goodhart was recommended for election as the Dutch President of the Congress.

Lady Jean Conan Doyle gave her address of welcome at the reception, held to open the Congress. Miss Mary Conan Doyle, Mr. Dennis Conan Doyle, Mr. Oaten and Mr. Berry presided at various meetings held during the Congress.

Shortly after the B.S.L.U. Conference, Mr. Connor and Mr. Knott approached Mr. Oaten, the I.S.F.

President, and Mr. Van Walt, the local Congress Secretary, and appealed for a special session for the reading and discussion of our paper. The appeal was considered by the local Congress Committee, but all the time that could be allotted for the reading and discussion was 20 to 30 minutes. There were a French and an English version of the paper, *each* requiring about 25 minutes to read—that is, 50 minutes for reading alone—so it was obviously ridiculous to attempt to read *and* discuss them (in two languages) in the space of half-an-hour. Mr. Connor discussed the situation with our President, Treasurer and General Secretary at Portsmouth, during the S.N.U. A.G.M., and they reluctantly concurred that it would be sheer waste of money for Mr. Connor to travel, as the only reason for his travelling was to read the paper and answer questions and discussion.

Mr. Knott undertook the reading of the paper.

During the time allowed for discussion, a number of the American delegates spoke very favourably of the Lyceum System. A resolution was passed and afterwards unanimously adopted by the Congress, that the delegates recommend the commencement of Lyceums and Study Groups in their respective countries.

There was a British Spiritualist Service held during the Sunday Morning. The Dutch friends were highly pleased with the congregational singing—greater than is usual in Holland—and the clear exposition given by Mr. Keeling in his address. Mr. Blake's clairvoyance was very interesting.

A number of resolutions were adopted by the Congress. Further information will be given later.

The Congress terminated with a farewell dinner and valedictory speeches—more speeches than dinner. It was a great finale to a very successful Congress.

After the Congress Mr. Berry, Mr. Keeling and Mr. Knott were, with others, invited to a seance with the Reflectograph. Mr. Kirby conducted the seance and Mrs. Singleton was the medium. Some very evidential and very interesting phenomena were produced. As we have requested Mr. Keeling to write a record of the seance for the readers of the *Banner*, we shall leave the details of the phenomena to his pen.

The B.S.L.U. delegate gave a short speech at one of the evening meetings during which the statistics and educational policy of our Union were briefly outlined. "There is nothing sweeter than a child; there is nothing greater than Spiritualism; there is nothing holier than love—it is to relate the child through Spiritualism to love that the B.S.L.U. has come into existence."

The final resolution pledged all delegates to work in support of all efforts that have for their object the promotion of peace.

The invitation to hold the next Triennial Congress of the I.S.F. at Barcelona in Spain was cordially accepted. The British delegates provided a benediction by singing "God be with you till we meet again."



TRANSITION OF MR. H. T. BATTEN.

We learn with regret that Mr. H. T. Batten, of Hamilton, Canada, has passed to the higher life, after a long illness, on 13th September.

Mr. Batten was formerly much in evidence with organised Spiritualism in Great Britain, having served the movement in many positions, among which were:— President and Conductor of the Bolton (Bradford Street) Church and Lyceum, President of the Bolton Lyceum District Council, member of the B.S.L.U. Management Committee and Trustee of the Union. He also served on the E.C. of the S.N.U., Ltd.

When Mr. Batten left England during 1925 he was presented with an illuminated address by the Bolton L.D.C., in which were inscribed the following words:— "In grateful thanks and estimable appreciation of H. T. Batten, Esq., founder of the Bolton Lyceum District Council, your boundless service through unlimited courage, devotion, tenacity, spiritual knowledge and efficiency, will ever be the vital essence of our movement. It will live indelibly in our hearts and in our greater love for thee. No time nor space can rend us asunder." From the Officers and Members of the Bolton Lyceum District Council, June, 1925.

Thus as our friend worked for Spiritualism in Britain did he continue his labours in Canada, and last winter was instrumental in running the Hamilton section of the Canadian Education Scheme. After the founding of the S.N.U. of Canada, Mr. Batten was ordained by that organisation. Hamilton Church will miss his physical and spiritual help. We send our condolence to his relatives, and look for some early evidence of his active spirit ere long.

A letter from the Bradford Street Lyceum tells us that

the Rev. H. T. Batten passed to the higher life on Sept. 13th.

The Lyceum wish to pay tribute for the service rendered by his psychic gifts. The letter states:— "His wonderful healing powers effected many cures. His seances for physical mediumship, including the production of perfumes, were remembered by all who were privileged to attend. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Batten and family in their sad bereavement."

A letter from Mr. J. P. Skelton has just arrived, too late to print in this issue. It tells us that Mr. Batten talked of his passing as naturally as if he was going to another country. His final message was "To Spiritualists throughout the world my final word is, "Carry on."

Mr. John Venables.

In the last days of August there passed to spirit-life a pioneer whose name was a household word wherever organised spiritualism was practised in Great Britain. We pay our respects to John Venables for the valiant part he played in the national foundation of the British Spiritualists Lyceum Union and the National Spiritualist Federation which later became a legal union, changing its names to the Spiritualists' National Union, Limited.

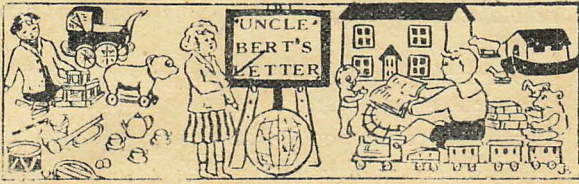
Mr. Venables was a Past-President of both Unions, and held the position of B.S.L.U. Treasurer for eight years. He ceased his official relations with the B.S.L.U. in 1914, but until two years ago he faithfully held the trusteeship of the Ainsworth legacy which is now in operation as the Ainsworth Home of Rest Scheme. He fought and won a court case which ensured the Ainsworth Legacy being finally used for the convalescence of Lyceumists at seaside resorts around the British Coast.

Mr. Venables held many civic positions in Walsall, and was the Mayor of that town for two years—1913-14. His donation of X-Ray apparatus to Walsall was one of his many benefactions to the borough.

His zeal for the local Church and Lyceum was always highly appreciated. Hydesville, the home of Mr. Venables, was the venue of many happy meetings where he was the genial host to spiritualists in the Midlands. There is a stained-glass window which is an exact representation of the Hydesville Cottage in which modern Spiritualism has its foundation through the mediumship of the Fox Sisters.

Councillor Jessy Greenwood, J.P., has been a faithful friend of the Venables family for many many years. She conducted the funeral ceremony, and we feel that it was very appropriate that Mrs. Greenwood, who is also a Past-President of both Unions, performed the last rites to our arisen pioneer.

Mr. Venables was over 80 years of age and has now gone to join his devoted wife in the Summerland. With him he has taken the love and appreciation of the old workers who know the great work our arisen friend has done for Spiritualism and humanity. He proved himself the master of his fate and was never tired of persuing truth. We rejoice in his new freedom and herald his inspiration as we merge towards the larger life to which his spirit has gone.



MY DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

Herewith my first epistle from Ruberrondo, which as you will have noted by my last month's letter, is the name of our new home. This name has puzzled many of our friends, although it is very easy to arrive at, if only you see the clues, but that is all I shall say about it this month. It is a lovely new house adjoining a very large orchard.

Evidently the owner of the orchard must have had some notion that one day such a big boy as myself might arrive on the scene. Therefore he took full precautions to move all temptation of scrumpling, by surrounding it with many strands of barbed wire. Intending visitors must not be disappointed. In the right season theirs shall be the same lot as ours. That is, to view the promised fruit from a distance only.

I have, however, no doubt but that the day will come when Cousin Doris and Auntie Ruth will endeavour to give the fruit pickers the glad eye, and chance the results. So much for chapter number one for the present.

Those who read last month's BANNER will have noticed that October the fourth is the day dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi. The observance is threefold:

(a) To direct attention to the wrongs inflicted on animals for sports, commerce, amusement, and so-called science.

(b) To focus thought on the speediest means of abolishing such wrongs.

(c) To inspire action on behalf of all suffering animals.

I have repeated this part of the paragraph because I feel such objects are worthy of being enlarged upon. Further, there is the important part you boys and girls can play towards such ideals.

As I read this request, my mind at once centred on three things. First: many of the nursery rhymes I learned when very young.

Secondly: The reading in the Manual, Musical Reading 211:

Never kill or torture any living thing for amusement,

Never rob the little birds' nests of their eggs nor mar even the wings of a butterfly,

They cannot bar their homes, nor conquer their human enemies."

Thirdly: present day practices concerning our dumb friends.

Thinking then first of Nursery Rhymes—one I suppose we all learn, as soon as we begin to get a sense of sound of language "Ding Dong Bell, Pussy's in the Well." Simple as the rhyme is, we have set before us the characters of two boys. The one who for amusement's sake puts pussy in the well, and the other who has a love for animal friends, and evidently saves himself no trouble to get pussy out. A beautiful little story if we consider it in this light. Then I remember being taught to sing:

"Daddy won't buy me a Bow-wow, a Bow-wow,

I've got a little cat, I'm very fond of that,
But I'd rather have a Bow-wow, wow, wow, wow."
In this we see love extended. There is another old favourite, too, in

"Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been."

This one gives us a sense of the intelligence of our dumb friends. Personally I do not like the word dumb, because I am sure if you have a pet yourself you train them until they know every word you say to them, and you in return know their language to you is expressed in various ways.

We come to our Manual lesson which, as one often hears said in a Lyceum Session, "explains itself." True, it might do so, but that is not the main point. Have we grasped the lesson ourselves? Are we ready and willing ourselves to carry out the instructions? Furthermore, are we trying to get others to do likewise.

Thirdly, we come to present day's practices. While much of the cruelty of the earlier days concerning birds and animals has now become an offence against the law, much remains for us to fight for the protection of these creatures.

We are told by students of our hospitals how frogs and other animals are cut up for experiment, to find cures for the human beings.

Worn-out horses are often sold to other dealers.

Wild birds such as linnets, larks and thrushes are caught and kept in small cages.

Foxes are still hunted until they have little breath left in them.

Horses, dogs and cats are often kicked in a moment of anger by those who should be their protectors.

These things with many more call for our aid.

What can we do you may ask me? Will you look back for a moment at the three clauses above, a, b, c.

You will there notice three very simple ways.

(a) "To direct attention," it is our duty to inform someone older when we see cruelty being inflicted on suffering animals.

(b) "To focus thought," thoughts are a powerful aid in our efforts to remove the wrong being done.

(c) "To inspire action," not only must we ourselves refrain from being unkind, but we must get others to join us in fighting for the day when all cruel actions shall be an offence against the law.

I feel I could write pages on such a far-extending subject, because I love animals of all kinds. Unfortunately my allotted space is limited, so I trust this brief survey on behalf of our so-called dumb friends will at least be the means of setting your minds in action too.

Owing to the busy time we have been having getting settled in our new home, I have not had time to work out any puzzles for you this month. I congratulate those who did so well with Puzzle No. 175.

I also thank those Lyceumists who sent me snaps along. These are always welcomed.

With love,
Your loving friend,
UNCLE BERT.

"Ruberrondo,"
126 Woodlands Road,
Isleworth, Middx.

Liberality and thankfulness are the bonds of concord.

No employment that is useful to mankind deserves to be regarded as mean. Those who appear to serve, very often command.

The Education Department.

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST COLLEGE.

(Under the auspices of the S.N.U. and B.S.L.U.)

ASSOCIATE (B.S.L.U.) SECTION of the NATIONAL JOINT EDUCATION SCHEME.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

The questions set for Grades IV. and V. are appended. Questions set for Grades I. to III. were printed in the September issue.

GRADE IV. QUESTIONS.

(Time allowed—not more than THREE hours).

TO CANDIDATE.

The *Lyceum Manual* may be used; but no other book nor any papers or notes.

All the questions must be attempted.

1. You have been asked to prepare a Lyceum Session Programme which has for its keynote ANY ONE of our Principles. State which Principle you have chosen, also giving your Opening Hymn, S.C.R., M.R., G.C.R., and Closing Hymn; and show how you would justify your choice of Readings to the Lyceum. (20 marks).
2. Write a suitable Invocation and Benediction for the above Session. (10 marks).
3. Write NOTES for a lesson to be given to the Liberty Group on G.C.R. 141, SPIRITUAL GIFTS. (20 marks).
4. Explain, as you would to the full Lyceum, the *second* Conductor part in M.R. 208, HOME AFFECTIONS. (15 marks).
5. Write a short account of the teaching embodied in S.C.R. 78, INVITATION TO THE LYCEUM. (20 marks).
6. Show how the need for a Lyceum Manual arose, and how eventually it was met. (15 marks).

Grade V. and Entrance Examination.

JOINT QUESTION PAPER, No. 1.

(Time allowed—not more than THREE hours).

These questions are based on No. 3 Handbook, and are calculated to test the candidate's grasp of "general" Spiritualism.

Answer FOUR questions only. 25 marks are allowed for each answer. Possible total, 100.

1. In Handbook III., page 9, Mr. Oaten writes: "We advise the student in his investigation of these perplexing subjects to sub-divide it clearly under three heads, and endeavour to gain evidence of:
 - (a) The existence of an *unknown force* used externally to the medium and beyond his control;
 - (b) The existence of an *intelligent director* who may or may not be dependent on the mentalities of the medium and sitters;
 - (c) The evidence of the *identity* of that controlling intelligence with some discarnate entity."

What are the results of your own investigations? Give evidences, as stated above, from personal experience or from information received from trustworthy investigators, or from reading.

2. *A dozen clairvoyants may be in a room . . . each may*

behold scenes of which none other is cognisant (page 13).

Discuss this statement, drawing from your own experiences for illustrations of your opinions.

3. Write a short essay on *Spiritualism, philosophically, ethically and religiously considered.*
4. Discuss the claim by Dr. Powell (on page 33) that "*The influence of Spiritualism upon Science, upon Philosophy and upon Religion, has been of an ennobling, amplifying and uplifting character.*"
5. *All modes of psychic operation point to the fact that there are modes of perceiving and transmitting knowledge not known to, nor explicable by, the ordinary physicist or psychologist,* (page 39).

Show how the materialist and Agnostic may consistently adopt our facts and philosophy, in the light of modern science relating to ether, telepathy, wireless photography, etc.

JOINT QUESTION PAPER, No. 2.

(Time allowed—not more than THREE hours).

These questions are based on the subjects dealt with in No. 3 Handbook, and are calculated to test the candidate's grasp of the methods of investigation and deduction suggested and described in "Essays on Reasoning." I-II. and VIII-XI. In all cases the steps of reasoning must be stated in your answer.

Answer FOUR questions only. 25 marks are allowed for each answer. Possible total, 100.

1. *We will suppose that you have arranged with the Crewe Circle for a sitting for Psychic Photography.*
Describe briefly your preparations and precautions, from making the appointment with Mr. Hope to the moment when you see the photographic plate being taken out of its final "bath"—with, let us assume, an "extra" you can recognise showing on it.
2. *This reason will conduct us from the observation of the movements of a table to the realisation of a new philosophy of Life and Death.*

Let us assume that you have witnessed some convincing Table Phenomena, and are perfectly satisfied that you have been in touch with a discarnate Human Being.

Starting off with this possibility of communication, show by what steps you would work up to the realisation that Spiritualism is a New Revelation of the purpose of Life.

3. *Not only must we develop ourselves: we must also strive for the development and upliftment of others.*
Discuss the above as a matter of self-protection, showing by one or two instances from your own experience how, by increasing the perfection of others, we are really making things better for ourselves—psychically and spiritually.
4. *Sometimes all the seemingly necessary "conditions" are set aside, and the manifestations occur either when there is no medium present or under difficult and seemingly inharmonious conditions.*

What is your explanation of the fact here declared by Mr. Kitson? Give reasons for your opinion—and it would be helpful if you could illustrate your answer from your experience.

5. *To all the ordinary charges of piffle and fraud (claims Mr. Tinker) we may reply—"Granted that there are such, they are not what we rely on. We have good evidences: we may relate them, but personal experience is the best proof. Form your own Circles, and go ahead. You may get piffle. Well—whose is it?"*

Discuss the above claim, with reference to:

- The importance and significance of the SOURCE of communication, and
- The value of such communications as evidence of Human Survival.

THE HAGUE CONGRESS.

For several reasons, which will be explained in due time to Conference, the Education Secretary did not attend the International Congress at The Hague. The Union's paper on "*Lyceum*" Education was taken in charge by Mr. Knott (who will give his own report elsewhere), and as a result of his advocacy the International Spiritualist Federation resolved, at the final session of the Congress, that every National Association should establish Lyceums and Study Groups. Many of the National Representatives were amazed at the volume and value of the work being done "in spare time" by voluntary effort and without any central buildings or elaborate staffs. But Mr. Knott will tell us all about it.

OUR NATIONAL COLLEGE.

Five of the eligible Lyceums, and one Church, have registered as Local Branches; and eight of the twelve eligible Grade Fivers and the seven eligible Final Graders have applied for their Diplomas for the respective Degrees of Associate (A.N.S.C.) and Graduate (G.N.S.C.). The College Board gratefully acknowledges the donations sent by the various Diplomawinners, and wishes the winners further progress and successes.

OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND.

Up to date not many Lyceums have responded to our appeal to make the presentation of their Certificates a public function—and to send the collection to our Special Fund. The Committee has to meet a considerable (and unavoidable) bill for printing, and next year's printing will be especially costly, so we are hoping for a generous return from our Lyceums and District Councils that will encourage us to continue in spite of present very discouraging economic conditions. Donations this year have been received from Darwen, Belper, Rotherham, Moston, and Southend and West-cliff Lyceums and a personal donation from Mrs. M. J. Brown, of Hull, and the total to the present is £5 2s. 6d.—but we need about £20 to make us feel comfortable, and we hope that Lyceums and Councils that can afford it will help us to realise it.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

ALL the text books needed for the B.S.L.U. Scheme are supplied from the General Offices by Mr. Knott. Mr. Connor does not stock or sell ANY handbooks.

When writing for pamphlets, leaflets, etc., please send a stamped addressed envelope large enough to hold what is asked for.

For all B.S.L.U. Educational Handbooks, copies of Examinations Questions, etc., apply to;

MR. G. F. KNOTT, F.N.S.C., 20, Toad Lane, Rochdale, Lancs.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE with regard to the College or the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme should be sent (with 1½d. stamped addressed envelope for reply) to:

MR. A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C., 13, Claremont Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

The S.N.U. F.O.B.

DOING A GOOD TURN—TO THOSE WHO DID ONE FOR US.

Some years ago an official of one of our churches was very sick. As is often the case with those who are out of sight—they are out of mind, and the sick official was forgotten and nobody visited him for weeks. But there was one old lady who could not get about very well nor had she much money. She counted the chickens and found one was missing. As soon as she learned what was the matter she visited the official, and from her tiny store produced her little offering.

That little sympathetic visit kept a good worker within the movement. He had made up his mind that if no member was sufficiently interested in his welfare when he could not work for the church, and needed a little service himself, it was not worth the sacrifices he had previously made.

The old lady was a medium and she had caught the vibration. Through her action she kept within the movement one who had decided to leave it. Now this old lady is herself in need and the F.O.B. has come to her aid.

Before the days of the motor car, the chara, the cheap tour, or day trip, many of our old workers tramped many miles, worked arduously for pure goodwill and out of love for the cause. Everyone believes the labourer is worthy of his hire and as these old workers worked to build the foundation of the present popularity of our movement we owe them some deferred wages, or at least a little recompense to keep the wolf from the door.

Lyceumists are requested to help this cause through the Churches or can send some small contribution to the BANNER and it will be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of the Fund of Benevolence, Miss M. L. Stair, 32b, North Street, Keighley, Yorks.

The date chosen for the Annual Collection is Sunday, Oct. 18th. If that date is unsuitable for a collection, you can choose any other date, time, or place for any effort to help this necessary Fund.

All official work in connection with the fund is done by voluntary effort. The meetings of the Committee are arranged when other business is being done so that even the cost of meetings is nil. By this method the people in need get every available penny that is sent in support of maintaining our aged and impoverished pioneers.

Send what you can and you will receive an official receipt from the Secretary, Miss M. L. Stair, 32b, North St., Keighley, Yorks.

THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

EDITOR: G. F. KNOTT, F.N.S.C.

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

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

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

Annual subscription, post free, 2s. 6d. To Canada and the United States, 72c. Foreign currency taken.

Money and postal orders should be made payable at Wardleworth post office. Cheques should be made payable to the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union. Bankers: Martins Bank, Ltd.

Office, 20, Toad Lane, Rochdale, Lancs., England.

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

OCTOBER, 1931.

International Congress

THE SECTIONS DISCUSS THE ESSAYS.

There were four Sections of the Congress devoted to the reading and discussion of the papers:—

Section 1. Science.

Section 2. Healing.

Section 3. Doctrine, Philosophy, Ethics.

Section 4. Propaganda, Organisation, Literature.

Over seventy papers had been submitted to the Congress. It was impossible to read the whole of the essays, most of which had been sent in very late, or had been handed in to the Secretary by the delegates on their arrival at the Congress. It is presumed that most of the essays will be included in the printed report.

Of those which were read, quite a number produced resolutions which mean persuading the subjects by delegates in their various countries when they return home.

The Congress offered its congratulations to the Ashkir-Jobson Trianion and hoped the I.S.F. will be made acquainted with any further developments. The results obtained from the Communigraph and Reflectograph were very pleasing and satisfactory. The materialised hand produced some very evidential messages.

The Essay on "Spirit Interference in Human Affairs" brought out the suggestion that further research be made by competent persons.

Another paper claimed that Electricity is useful in removing obsessions.

Magnetism was claimed to have an influence on plants. Delegates were requested to make experiments and report to next Congress.

On the "Significance and Importance of Dreams," it would appear that the psychic nature is made more active during sleep than in the wakeful state. Everyone can make notes on this subject.

It is believed there is Skotographic evidence of survival and such work is the outcome of the efforts of discarnate spirits.

A lecture on psychic photography brought forward the idea that the delegates experiment to find if the light is produced by any ray within the spectrum, and

if so, to ascertain the conditions whereby the photographs are produced.

Each nation was requested to study mediumship and prepare a list of mediums who are willing to co-operate in the work.

Healing by Spiritual means is now an alleged fact and it is affirmed to be a profession, presumes our natural capacity for healing, and the Congress invites all nations to collect evidences.

Spain was congratulated on having obtained freedom of religious worship.

The U.S.A. delegates decided to recommend active affiliation to the I.S.F.

All members of the Congress were requested to press for the institution of Lyceum and Study Groups in their respective countries.

It was recognised that all members of the I.S.F. have full liberty of interpretation regarding the principles on which the I.S.F. is founded.

We must find the way to peace on earth and goodwill before we can have a universal religion.

The Congress finally approved a peace resolution, as a fitting conclusion to the historic gathering of the Spiritualists of nearly thirty nations.

The Dutch people were very happy, hospitable and entertaining hosts. As the delegates left the Hague, Barcelona was on their lips and many were the pledges that they would be there in three years' time, for the next Congress of the I.S.F.

B.S.L.U. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS.

Mr. H. Barnes, donation of Adjudication expenses: 13s. 9d.

PATRONS: Mr. V. R. Phillips, 2s. 6d.; Rev. R. A. Webb, Dipl. S.N.U., 2s. 6d.; Bury Lyceumists, 10s.; Fulham, 13s. 6d.; London, Bowes Park, 1s. 8d.; Barrow, Dalkeith Street, 4s. 4d.; "Minister," 17s. 8d.

PATRON-MEMBERS: Penny a week. Mrs. Short, Mrs. Keeling, Mrs. Halfacre, Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Barrie, Mrs. Weatherston, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Edmond, Miss Cusdin, Miss Wren, Miss Hazelwood, Miss Harris, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Short, Mr. Field, Mr. Edmond, Mr. Dix, Mr. Weller, Reggie Short, Edward Perks, Walter Perks, Mrs. Stroude, Mr. Leonard Cocksedge, Miss M. Lawton, Mrs. Hinton, Mrs. Taft, Mr. J. Fullard.

TO HELP THE BANNER.

Mr. T. W. Coleman Offers

To help the BANNER by selling two propaganda sheets containing G.C.R. 136 "The Teachings of Spiritualism," and G.C.R. 142 "The Aim of Spiritualism." Either or both sheets can be obtained at 1/- per 100 post free.

Mr. Coleman also offers a Hymn, "Open My eyes that I may see," and a Benediction "Grant us thy peace, O God of peace and love," printed on one sheet, gummed paper, to paste in the 5x4 hymn books. Price 2/- per 100.

Send your order to Mr. W. T. Coleman, 4, Leahurst Road, Lewisham, London, S.E.13, and watch for your name in the BANNER.

£2,000 Effort Fund.

Dear Lyceumists,

There is very little to hand this month. I acknowledge with thanks from Hackney Lyceum, per Mr. J. Goodwin, an order for one dozen Hymn Leaflets, 1s.; and one dozen Recitation Leaflets, 2s. From Mrs. Dean, Bury, Lancs., by Collecting Card, 6s., making a total of 9s. I sincerely thank these supporters.

May I once again remind you, Lyceumists all, that I have still a quantity of the Musical Recital to dispose of. Hymn Sheets 4s. 6d. per 100, Recitation Leaflets 2d. per copy, odd copies 3d. each.

I have also a number of Collecting Cards. Will you have one? Here is an opportunity for an enthusiastic worker to collect 6s. in pennies, or, if you can in other ways assist the Fund by the proceeds of a Social or Entertainment it will be very acceptable.

Do please help; surely out of all the Lyceums we have in the Union we ought to have more than two respond to our appeal in one month. At each Conference which comes round we are agreed that the object is a worthy one: if that is true, why do we not get more support?

Lyceumists, may I remind you "Deeds, Not Words." The Fund requires your assistance. What are you prepared to do?

Best wishes,

VICTORIA G. REYNOLDS, Hon. Sec.

118, Cremorne Street,
Nottingham.

CHANGE OF SECRETARIES, etc.

BIRMINGHAM, Stinchley.—Miss A. E. Jervis, 56, Holly Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Lyceum meets at 2-45 p.m.

RUGBY.—Lyceum now meets at Little Pennington Street.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD L.D.C.—District Visitor, Mr. W. Burrows, 29, Kliffen Place, Coronation Road, Halifax.

BRIGHOUSE.—Miss M. Gough, 22, Thornhill Road, Raistrick, Brighouse.

HUDDERSFIELD, Ramsden Street.—The Secretary is Mr. L. Saxon.

LIVERPOOL L.D.C.—District Visitor, Mrs. Clitheroe, 69, Lime Street, Wigan.

BIRKENHEAD and ST. HELENS.—Place a dash before the name to show D.C. Fees have been paid.

ACCRINGTON.—Miss H. Swift, 12, Busk Meadow Street, Oswaldthistle, Lancs.

MANCHESTER, Droylsden.—Mr. J. Eccles, 28, Ferris Street, Higher Openshaw, Manchester.

NOTTINGHAM L.D.C.—District Visitor, Mr. L. Orrell, 249, Nottingham Road, Hill Top, Eastwood, Nottingham.

G. STAPLEFORD, Toton Lane.—Mrs. Feates, 11, Chapel Street, Stapleford.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—Mr. J. LeNoury, 153, Blackburn, Meadow Hill, Sheffield.

HEATON and BYKER.—Miss N. Wardle, 166, Trehitt Road, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NOTICE OF U.D.C. MEETING.

The United Lyceums District Council will hold the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday and Sunday, 17th and 18th October, in the Cumberland Street Church, Macclesfield.

Will all Delegates to the meeting please write to Mrs. Rushton, Rose Cottage, Upton, Macclesfield, stating their requirements. Open Session and Service on the Sunday.

Teas provided for Delegates on the Saturday afternoon from 4-30 to 6 p.m. Meeting to commence at 6-30. Agendas will be sent out with the official notices of the meeting.

J.S., Sec.

PATRON-MEMBERS.

An easy way to provide for the maintenance of the B.S.L.U.

Is the B.S.L.U. worthy of a penny per week from you?

At the Annual B.S.L.U. Conference held in Barrow-in-Furness on May 23rd and 24th the General Secretary introduced a proposal which provides an opportunity for Lyceumists to become direct financial supporters of the B.S.L.U. through a "Penny Fund."

The membership fees are paid to the Union by the Lyceums in affiliation. Only a few Lyceumists have made any direct financial contributions to the Union's funds.

A scheme is now introduced whereby individual Lyceumists may contribute to the funds of the Union by becoming Patrons. It is possible, at the moment, that an adult Lyceumist could be a member of a Lyceum without contributing a single penny to the welfare of the Lyceum or the Union.

We are sure there are thousands of Lyceumists who will be grateful if they have the opportunity of contributing a penny a week—more or less—to the support of the Lyceum Cause.

How it Works.

The proposals of the Scheme are that Lyceum Secretaries, or some other appointed person, shall collect the donations from the Patron-members and forward the names and receipts to the General Secretary—25 per cent. will be retained by the Collector. The 25 per cent. will meet the cost of collection and remittance, and leave a balance for the Collector or the Lyceum.

The monies can be sent quarterly with the BANNER payments.

We hope all Lyceumists who can afford to become Patrons will assist the Union by supporting this scheme.

The help from the Special funds has almost completely ceased. We are very grateful for the support which has been so generously given.

What we Need.

The B.S.L.U. needs a minimum income of £800 to meet the ordinary liabilities. The only guaranteed income is about £200 from the membership fees. The remaining £600 has to be raised by donations, conference payments and the balance arising from our Publishing Department.

If we can get sufficient Patrons to contribute to the weekly payment scheme, the financial position of the Union is assured and we shall be able to extend our work and organisation. If half the total number of Lyceumists contribute one penny a week we shall have an income of £1000 per annum.

To Every Lyceumist.

Finally we address a personal note to every Lyceumist who can afford to support this scheme to become a financial supporter of the Union's progress. This form of patronage will not give any added voting power to any Lyceumist, but a national outlook will have been attained. The success of the scheme will make it unnecessary to be eternally begging for funds to carry on our work. Individual or collective donations may be sent at any time to the General Secretary, G. F. KNOTT, 20, Toad Lane, Rochdale, Lancs.

“Lyceum” Education

AN ESSAY

Written at the request of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union for presentation to the Triennial Congress of the International Spiritualist Federation, held at the Hague, September 5th to 10th, 1931.

By A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C.,
Honorary Secretary of The National Spiritualist College, and of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Education Committee.

Mr. President and Fellow Students,

I bring you fraternal greetings from the Annual Conference of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, by whom I have been appointed to place before you our Lyceumist Ideal of education and of the mental development and advancement which every earnest student of Spiritualism should seek. At present Britain and the United States of America are the only nations, amongst the many progressive nations represented at this Congress, with a Spiritualist organisation whose normal policy includes the proper instruction, and the mental and spiritual training, of the children of Spiritualists. We hope to attract you to a frank and free discussion of the suggestions put forward in this paper, and that, as a result, every National Organisation affiliated to the International Federation will assume the duty of providing educational opportunities for those who will, or should, be the Spiritualist leaders and workers of the future. Let us assist them to avoid the errors which have handicapped us.

Perhaps it would be as well if we first considered briefly the history of the Lyceum Idea and its adoption and development in the British Isles. Andrew Jackson Davis, during his sojourns in the Spirit Spheres, was very strongly impressed by his observation of how children are trained and taught in the schools of the Summerland. He described this Spirit World system to a meeting of New York Spiritualists held on Sunday, 25th January, 1863—and that very day they formed the first Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum, with Dr. Davis himself as its Conductor. By 1866 the Idea had spread to England, and in 1871 our own great pioneer, Alfred Kitson, began as co-Conductor of Gawthorpe Lyceum the great life-work which has resulted in the Lyceum Movement having become—in the opinion of unbiassed educationists—the most vitally important activity of the Movement of Modern Spiritualism.

The new Idea did not become popular nearly so rapidly as might have been expected, and it was only by slow degrees that one Spiritualist Church after another was induced to allow enthusiasts amongst its members to establish a Lyceum. But steadily the number grew, until at the present time about three hundred British Churches are the “Parent Bodies” of Progressive Lyceums with a total membership of about fifteen thousand students. These totals do not apply to the British Isles only, for Lyceumists who have emigrated to the various Dominions of the Empire have taken the Lyceum Idea with them and established Progressive Lyceums in their new homes. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa all have Lyceums affiliated with the “Home” Lyceum Union—and Canada and New Zealand are also represented by Lyceums taking part in the Education Courses of the National Spiritualist College.

In 1886 the British Lyceums then in existence met in conference to consider ways and means of assisting each other to procure standard lesson books for use in the Sunday Lyceum Sessions. This problem was solved by the publication of the LYCEUM MANUAL; but the consultative conferences continued until in 1890 the Lyceum Union was formed with Mr. Kersey as President, and Alfred Kitson as its Honorary Secretary. Since then the Union has grown into a powerful and prosperous national organisation. It publishes its own monthly educational journal, *The Lyceum Banner*, and the text-books needed for its Education Scheme, and is now generally recognised as the only specifically educational organisation in British Spiritualism. Its activities and membership have been adversely affected by the economic conditions now prevailing in every country, but the ideals of its adherents are just as lofty, and the hearts of its workers are just as courageous, as at any time in its history. They still continue to work for healthy minds in healthy bodies.

Many earnest and sincere Spiritualist workers take very little interest in Lyceum work, mainly because they mistakenly regard the Lyceum as being only a Spiritualist version of the ordinary Christian Sunday School. But nothing could be farther from the truth. The Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum is not at all like a Sunday School, even though its Study Sessions are held on Sunday; neither is its membership confined to children—in fact, in some Lyceums children form a very small proportion of the total membership. The members assemble with the idea of helping each other to study, and therefore a large part of the Session is devoted to discussion of the various items of the Session Programme. The officers are the servants, and not the masters, of the other members, and are elected annually by the Lyceumists of twelve years old and upward. The Conductor fills the place of the Sunday School Superintendent, and it is his duty to see that the Lyceumists get the greatest possible benefit from each lesson. The other officers have each an appointed task, and the success of the Lyceum and its Sessions depends on how these realise the importance of their duties. For purposes of particular studies the Lyceum is, where possible, divided into Groups according to age, and these Groups are each in charge of a Leader. When these Leaders give a lesson on any subject, they are liable to be called upon to answer any questions that may be asked by the other Lyceumists—for in the Lyceum authority does not come from official position but from knowledge; and although in most Movements those who are not born great may have greatness thrust upon them, in the Lyceum Movement those who climb to acknowledged leadership have in each case achieved greatness. From this it will be understood that in a properly conducted Lyceum there is nothing whatever in the nature of arbitrary teaching or dogmatic authority.

Andrew Jackson Davis's ideal was a Lyceum of twelve Groups, each with twelve students; but in practice Groups are formed according to the membership of the Lyceum concerned, and the Leaders of these Groups are appointed—as set out in Article 6, section 8, of the Union's Constitution for Spiritualist Lyceums—to “superintend the studies of their respective Groups and endeavour to widen the outlook, and develop the thinking powers, of the minds under their

charge." Their work is to see that education does not deteriorate into mere instruction, as it is realised that (to quote Lord Avebury) "it is far more important to cultivate the mind than to store the memory. Instruction is only a part of education. . . . Studies are a means not an end."

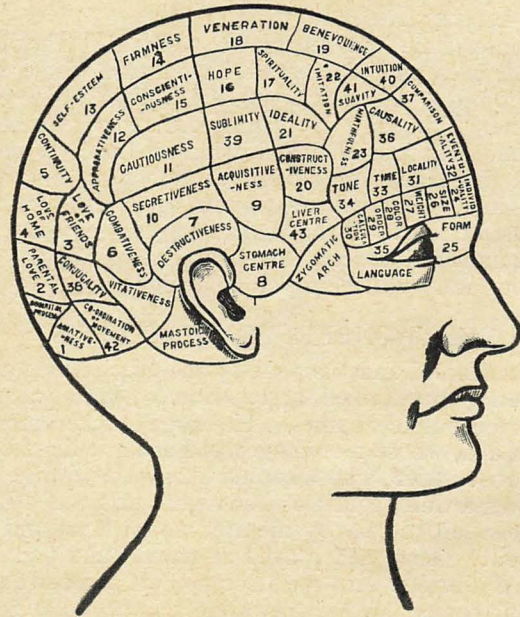
The Lyceum Manual, which was compiled from world-wide sources by Mrs. Britten and Messrs. Kitson and Kersey—and first published by Mr. Kersey's financial generosity—is the accepted text-book of the Lyceum Session, and is used by all Lyceums. In addition to the usual religious exercises the Session consists of a Silver Chain—a short poem of which a set number of lines is read alternately by the Conductor and the Lyceum. Next a Musical (or Connective) Reading—a poem such as "Natural Worship," "Hand in Hand with Angels," "The Voyage of Life," etc.,—the verses sung by the whole Lyceum, and appointed "conductors" reading the prose or metrical selections printed between the verses, which connect the verse sung with the verse about to be sung and point out or emphasise the lesson of the poem, or a lesson suggested by it. Then a Golden Chain—a series of paragraphs or sentences read alternately by the Conductor (or an appointed substitute) and the Lyceumists. The rule is that one or all of these should be fully discussed—anything in the nature of debate being forbidden. As the Silver Chains teach ethical lessons, and the Golden Chains deal with such subjects as "The Teachings of Spiritualism"; "Spiritual Gifts"; "The Family of Nations"; "Death and the After Life"; "The Religion of Humanity"; "Our Duties," etc., it will be realised what a power the Lyceums could be for the promotion of good national and international citizenship. In most Lyceums the Golden Chain is followed by marching and calisthenics. The marches all have a psychic meaning, and similar marches are performed by the Summerland Lyceumists. After the marching the Lyceumists go to their various Groups for a stated period of study; and when the Groups have broken up a Lyceum Song and a benediction bring the Session to a close.

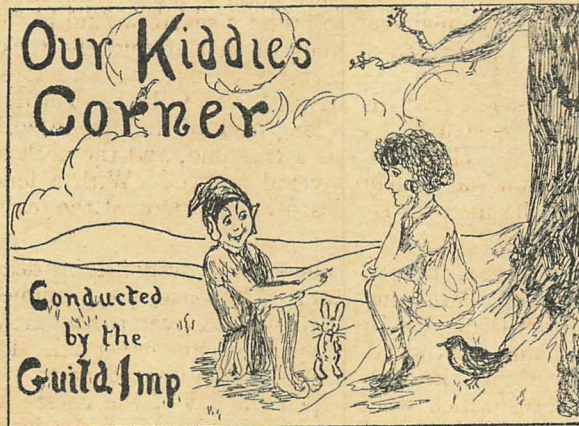
A Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum, then, is a school in which Spiritualists and inquirers into Spiritualism, both old and young, are trained to think for themselves in every department of life and its problems. Its purpose is not merely to teach the accepted tenets of Spiritualism, but rather to provide for its members a training that will enable them to find for themselves tenets which they feel they can accept. Therefore theology, or sectarian teaching of any sort, is not allowed in a Spiritualist Lyceum. The teaching is designed to be broad and harmonious, and to impart true education to all earnest students. I say true education, for the Lyceumist definition of that term is in strict accordance with the Summerland practice, and education is understood and attempted as the process of drawing out and building up the student's mental powers. The system of education is adapted to the needs and capacities of the students, and learning is made pleasant and easy. But, as will readily be appreciated, the mingling of old and young in the Lyceum brings its own problems, and consideration of our methods of teaching must be approached from two different view-points dictated by the interests of the adult and those of the child.

Dealing first with the child, we find that the declared aim of Lyceum teaching is to make the lessons not only

instructive but interesting—and that the aim of the lessons is to awaken and develop the latent powers of the mind, to keep the child spiritually and mentally healthy, and to train and encourage its powers of observation and reasoning. But every care has to be taken that nothing is taught that will influence the child towards any sectarian form of belief or activity. A child, we are told, is the repository of infinite possibilities, and we must not atrophy any of these by poisoning the child's mind with sectarian bias. The Lyceum method starts with the expanding intelligence of the child, and is designed to give its latent powers and qualities an opportunity of expression and development.

(To be concluded).





DEAR LITTLE IMPS,

"Winter-time" has returned to us again! The clocks have all been altered, and we have had a whole extra hour in bed. All that happened whilst we were in dreamland; but isn't everything different? At breakfast time it is just a little bit lighter than yesterday. At tea-time, instead of being afternoon, it is already night-time. No more playing out after tea. Instead, we must hunt out all the books and toys that have had their summer-time rest. Are you glad or sorry? Perhaps our story will help you to decide.

THE WONDERFUL SPECTACLES.

Alec, Harold and Babs sat by the fire, talking about the games they liked best. Harold, who was ten, voted for outside games. He liked cricket most of all. Babs, whose real name was Barbara, liked books and dolls. Alec, who was only six, wasn't quite sure.

It was a dull, cold October night, and the children had been left to play by the fire, whilst Mum and Dad went out. They had played at trains, and had tried to build a bridge with the Meccano Set, and had looked at their books. Now, they didn't know what to do, and so just grumbled, and very nearly quarrelled. Harold wished it was summer, so that he could play in the park. Babs longed for new books and another doll, whilst Alec could only wish it was his birthday, so that he might have more toys.

They were becoming quite cross with each other, when a quiet voice said, "*You must have lost your spectacles.*" The children turned in amazement, and saw a quaint little old lady walk into the room. She looked just like Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, only she carried a black case, instead of a wand, and she wore spectacles. As she came towards them, the children could not help but notice those spectacles. They were of pretty rose-coloured glass, and were not a bit like ordinary ones.

The old lady sat on a low stool by the fire, and unlocked her case. It was full of spectacles, just like her own, and she handed a pair to each child. "Put them on, my dears," she said. "We shall soon be happy again. How lucky that I should come your way just as you had lost your spectacles."

"Thank you very much," said Harold. "But, you know, we haven't really lost our spectacles. Alec and I don't wear any, and Babs has hers on now." "I knew you would say that," chuckled the little lady. "Everybody does, when I give them the spectacles, but that is just because they don't know any-

thing about them. Granny Bright's spectacles cannot be bought in shops. I always give them away when I find folks who need them."

"We are very glad you have come, Granny Bright," said Babs. "Will you tell us why we need your spectacles, please? I can see very well with mine, and Harold and Alec have good eyesight, I've heard Dad say that."

"That is quite true, child!" answered Granny, "but my spectacles are not a bit like yours. Spectacles bought in shops are just for seeing things. Mine are to let people look at things in the right way. Don't you know that everything we look at is just the colour of our spectacles? Most people forget about that, and such a lot of people who are old enough to know better always wear grey spectacles. That is why they are always grumpy. You three were just going to put on your grey spectacles when I came in. Now, try mine instead."

Harold, Babs and Alec put on Granny Bright's rose-coloured spectacles, and then looked about the room. Somehow, everything seemed different. The room and everything in it looked brighter, prettier, and far more interesting. Harold looked at the dark sky, and then drew the curtains to shut it out, and turned to the fire again. "It is a treat to stay by the fire," he said. "Isn't this room cosy? and, Alec, I've just remembered how to build a topping crane. Let us make one to use on our railway station." Alec and Harold knelt on the rug, and were soon busily at work. "I do like my trains, they are such fun!" murmured Alec. Babs gave a delighted cry, as she rummaged amongst her books. "Oh! look! here is our old nursery rhyme book. Let us see how many we can remember now. I haven't looked at this book for ages, and I did used to love it."

Granny Bright sat watching the children for a few minutes, and smiled happily. "I must go now," she said. "I can see you like my spectacles. Keep them, and every time the sky is grey, think of Granny Bright, and put on the rose-coloured spectacles. Now I'm off to find other folks who need them too."

The children smiled their thanks to Granny Bright, and watched her go. They tried to wave to her in the street, but somehow they couldn't find her. She had just disappeared. Very soon they were busy with toys and books again, and didn't hear Dad and Mum when they arrived home. "Well, the Imps sound happy enough now, Mum," said Dad, as he hung up his coat. "They do," answered Mum, with a sigh of relief. "I was so afraid they would quarrel whilst we were out. They seemed so grumpy when we left them. Let us see what they are doing."

As they went into the room, the children looked up with a cry of "Back already? You haven't been out long. We've been too busy to look at the clock since Granny Bright gave us our rose-coloured spectacles." Dad looked at Mum, as though he was very puzzled, and Mum seemed just as surprised as he was. "I didn't know we had a nice Granny like that," said Alec, "and she said she wouldn't need to come again, now that we have our pretty spectacles." "Yes!" said Babs, "and I didn't know that everything we look at is just the colour of our spectacles, before." "Well, I'm taking care not to lose mine," said Harold. "I think Granny Bright is great!" Dad could only scratch his head, but he was too wise to ask any more questions. He just pretended he knew.

A little later, the children went to bed, and somehow they never thought about taking off their spectacles. They were such fairy ones that only the children knew they were wearing them, and they never thought about wearing grey spectacles any more.

When the children were in bed, Dad and Mum sat by the fire talking.—“I’d like to know what happened whilst we were out,” he said. “I couldn’t see those rose-coloured spectacles the children talked about, and I’m sure I don’t know Granny Bright, do you?” “I’ve never heard of her before,” said Mum, “but she made the children happy, and I like what she taught them. What was it?” “Everything we look at is the colour of our spectacles,” answered Dad. “Funny, I’d never thought of that before.”

Had you, Imps? I hadn’t until the fairies told me this story about it.

My love to you all.

MEG.

The Magic Stones: or Peter in Fairyland.

BY UNCLE FRED.

Peter re-read the instructions carefully, before replacing them in his haversack. He congratulated himself on having found the Grimm Caverns, and picking up his stick, began his search of the walls, for the mark of the cross.

After some searching, Peter discovered the sign. Turning around, he took twenty paces towards the centre of the cavern, and arrived at the foot of a large rock marked with a cross. A careful search soon showed the brass knob, which Peter pressed. The rock swung to one side, revealing the stairway beneath it. Peter proceeded down the steps, which numbered sixty, and found the pathway, to which the message alluded.

Just as he was about to go forward, to his horror, in the gloom before him, he saw those two fearful green eyes, which had frightened him out of the first cave. Peter was terribly scared, but he realised that so far, he had come safely. Now, that he was so near to the magic stones, he would not give up the great quest without a struggle.

Summoning up his courage, Peter proceeded along the path, holding his magic stick in readiness, should he require its aid. As he progressed along the path, the eyes retired before him, and then, suddenly vanished. Peter found the pathway blocked by a large portion of rocky roof which had fallen and filled up the pathway for several yards. Finding that it was impossible to climb over the debris, touched the rock with his magic stick as he cried “Oh! stick, do your duty.”

As he said the words the obstruction began to crumble into powder, and, in a few moments, the pathway was cleared. The dog continued on his way, and at last reached another large, underground cave. As he gazed around, he saw, on a large stone slab in the centre of the cave, the chest for which he was seeking. He was about to rush forward with a joyful shout, when, out of the darkness emerged an enormous green dragon. With a cry of terror, Peter dodged behind a large rock and just avoided being seized in the monster’s jaws. Round and round the rock went Peter, with the dragon rushing after him, its roars echoing through the cave. Again the dog used the magic stick, and it immediately changed into a long sharp sword.

Armed with this weapon, Peter’s courage began to return, and he managed to inflict a severe wound in the body of the dragon as they circled around the rock. The wound made the monster even more ferocious, and Peter felt that his strength was failing. Turning quickly, he struck at the long neck of the dragon with the sword. The blow was a true one, and the neck of the dragon was nearly severed in two. With a loud groan, the monster collapsed on the floor of the cave and died.

Peter gave a cheer when he saw the dragon lying dead at his feet, whilst the magic stick once more resumed its normal shape. He then walked over to the great chest, and, taking the key from his haversack, inserted it into the lock. Just as he was about to say the words which would open the lid of the chest, he looked up, and saw before him, emerging from the darkness, those two mysterious eyes, glaring at him.

CHAPTER VIII.

Peter determined to attack this new enemy, the possessor of the green eyes, at once. Again he called on the stick for help. From the head of the stick there came a large ball of light, which flew over Peter’s head, towards the approaching eyes. The eyes seemed to hesitate, and then they commenced to recede into the darkness of the cavern, as though to escape from the ball of light. The light rapidly disappeared into the blackness of the cavern in pursuit of those eyes. After some anxious moments, Peter suddenly heard a rumbling noise, as if a mighty explosion had taken place deep in the earth. The ground of the cave in which Peter stood rocked and trembled, and he feared lest the roof might fall in upon him. In a little while, the rocking ceased, and Peter saw the ball of light returning, and he felt cheered that another of his foes had been vanquished.

When the ball of light had vanished into the magic stick, Peter again turned to the magic chest. After satisfying himself that the key was correctly placed in the lock, he repeated, three times, the magic words which would cause the lid to open. “Karma! Lamady! Open!” cried Peter, and, as the words died from his lips, he heard the lock click, and, turning the key, he lifted up the lid.

To his amazement, Peter discovered that the chest was empty, and at first he could hardly realise his misfortune. “Surely,” thought he, “if I have found the right chest, where are the magic stones?” He was so certain that this was the right chest, that he clambered into it, so that he could examine it more closely. As he felt along its side, his paw touched a small button, fixed into the wood. Peter pressed the button with his paw, and suddenly the bottom of the chest opened, and threw him down a small flight of stone steps. He landed with a big bump on the floor of a small cave.

(To be concluded.)

There is always some love in esteem, and some esteem in love.

Be kind to your friends that they may continue such; and to your enemies, that they may become your friends.

Some Questions and Answers.

The Liverpool Lyceum District Council is promoting discussion among the Lyceumists within the district on subjects which concern the welfare of the Lyceum movement. We print some of the queries with an introduction for the discussions. Some other Lyceums may find the subjects will be of interest to their members.

The Improvement of the Lyceum Session.

ARTICLE 2.—OBJECTS.

The objects of this Lyceum are:—To promote the study of Spiritualism as a science, a philosophy, and a religion, by the Physical and Social Improvement, as well as the Intellectual, Moral and Spiritual Progress of its members, and to impart a knowledge of the facts pertaining to our personal immortality, spirit communion, and the naturalness of mediumship; and for the inculcation of a morality based on right doing, and a religion free from creed; and to assist in ascertaining some higher mode of work-a-day life in which the ideals of the spiritual life may be better lived than is at present possible.

The Lyceum has its own form of callisthenic drill. A display of other forms of physical exercise by one or more people (not necessarily Lyceumists) could be wisely introduced. These movements could be prefaced by a physiological description of the muscular movements and the utility of using muscles not generally brought into action.

An occasional practical demonstration by a visiting clairvoyant, during which the medium could briefly explain the process of his or her development, is always interesting to children. 15 to 20 minutes is quite long enough for young people to listen to clairvoyance.

A Lyceum may take each of the "objects" as the lesson for one Sunday. With one or two revision Sundays a three-months course will be occupied by such a plan.

Instrumental music and other concerted items are always pleasing and often instructive. Teaching by material objects and the microscope is always interesting to young people.

What is a Lyceum?

The fore part of the Lyceum Manual gives the details for conducting a Lyceum. Readers are requested to study the methods outlined after the preface and also the Practical Suggestions which follow the Programme of the Session. There is also the Officers' Section of the Manual to guide any student who wishes to become thoroughly conversant with the many aspects of Lyceum Education.

What Constitutes an Ideal Lyceum?

An ideal Lyceum is one which has mastered the official routine, links with other Lyceums in the district, affiliated with the B.S.L.U., takes an interest, through attendance or by representation, in the church, the district, and public demonstrations. There must also be an interest shown in the national work and improved initiation of the various branches of Lyceum work.

A question sometimes arises:—What is the minimum

number of Lyceumists which is required to form a Lyceum? There is no number stated in the B.S.L.U. Constitution or its bye-laws. Each affiliation is accepted on its merits. Prior to 1917 a Lyceum had to have at least seven members. It requires ten members to form a Lyceum which can adequately perform the minimum programme as printed in the Lyceum Manual:—A Conductor and Musical Director, with eight other members, from whom the other officers are chosen. We have, at the moment, one Lyceum with only six members, but as there is every reason to expect that Lyceum to recover its former membership, it would be very unjust to cancel such a Lyceum from membership, particularly as a few visiting Lyceumists are making attendances there to encourage continuance and popularity. Our next lowest Lyceum has 15 members.

There is a growing tendency to provide a sports section in some Lyceums, and this fills a gap and a want. The social section is also receiving attention. Some Lyceumists have regretted the closure or suspension of the Guild. In fact there are some Lyceums who still carry on very successfully with a local Guild of their own. We need a research department and a healing section.

Our members have been falling away and we certainly need to explore all possible channels to interest the young and old spiritualists who feel the Lyceum provides a useful opportunity for an education and fellowship that the revelation of our truths demands.

G. F. KNOTT.

He that governs his life by caprice will never be rich.

Sad sighs write the woes of the heart, and kind speeches comfort the oppressed soul.

Births, Marriages, and Transitions.

Ordinary Intimations will be inserted as follows:—Not exceeding twenty-four words free. 6d. will be charged for every additional nine words. Poetry 6d. per line. Payment must accompany all intimations of more than 24 words, or they cannot be inserted. In Memoriam for any previous year will be charged 1/- for 24 words, and 6d. for additional 9 words. Poetry 6d. per line.

BIRTH.

LILES.—On Sept. 14th, 24, Hurst Street, Bolton, to Alice (nee Cliff), wife of Mr. T. Liles, a son. Both well.
J. Walker, Sec.

TRANSITION.

BARROW, Dalkeith Street.—We regret to report the passing to the higher life on Sept. 1st, 1931, of a promising Lyceumist, John Wheatlands, aged 14 years. Our sympathy goes out to his parents in their sad loss.—A. Taft, Sec.

District Visitors' Reports.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

Following upon the last D.C. meeting and upon the report that Elland was passing through a bad time, I visited Elland Lyceum on the 10th of May. There were 17 present. The usual session was gone through, conducted by Mr. E. Smith. Marching was good, as also was the callisthenics. I spoke to them and urged them to try and become united once again and to work for the common good.

On June 21st I visited West Vale. There were 26 present. Mrs. Mitchell conducted a good session, although the marching and callisthenics could be improved with greater attention to time and rhythm. No groups were taken.

W. BURROWS, D.V.

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.

Lincoln, Midland Hall, Aug. 30th. Morning. 22 present. Very nice, bright session. Cheerful singing. Explanations sound. Marching good and callisthenics very good. Solos by Phillip Dobby, Violet Dobby and Agnes Meggett. Recitations by Dorothy Dobby and Mrs. Bailey.

Lincoln, Progressive Hall, Aug. 30th. 18 present. The Conductor away on duty and many members holidaying. Silver chain recitation No. 15 was taken by Walter Needham. Secretary apologised for absences and sent fraternal greetings to all Lyceums. I must visit them again soon.

Nottingham, Beaconsfield Street, Sept. 13th. Morning. I visited this Lyceum in company with the Council Secretary (Mr. Farnath), who was asked to conduct the session. A bright and helpful morning. This young Lyceum is very keen, and we expect them to go far in the Shield Competition. Marching and callisthenics are good. Individual efforts are scarce. Time will improve this Lyceum.

Eastwood, Hill Top, Sept. 13th. Prompt start. S.C.R. 71 led by Mr. E. Sissons. Very fine explanations on this and on M.R. 230, were given by the Lyceum, commendation to Miss Allen in particular. Marching and callisthenics were excellently done, and Miss A. Price deserves praise for the time she kept whilst playing for these items. Recitation by Miss A. Price. A fine session and 100% efficient. 38 Lyceumists were present and six visitors.

Derby, Charnwood Street, Sept. 20th. Useful session and some good work done. Chain recitations keenly followed; many questions asked. Marching and callisthenics good. Singing pure in tone, lacked feeling. No special items were given as the time was taken up with points concerning the Shield Competition.

L. JOHNSON, D.V.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

I visited Birmingham, Corporation Street, Lyceum Sept. 13th, 1931. Mr. Clark conducted the session. 15 present. This was the first opportunity of visiting the Lyceum since they joined the D.C. and I was delighted to meet more Lyceumists. I hope that each will try to get more friends to join the Lyceum. The reading of G.C. and S.C. recitations and the singing all went to make an interesting session.

G. H. WARRILOW, D.V.

District Council Reports.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above D.C. was held at Ramsden Street on Aug. 23rd, 18 people being present, including Mr. Aked, our newly-elected Area Representative.

The Financial Statement showed that the total balance of money was £3 8s. 7d. It was decided to order 100 copies of the pamphlet, "Lyceum Education." The Secretary gave a report of B.S.L.U. Conference and also of Leeds L.D.C. Field Day, which she had attended. The returns from the various Lyceums showed a total decrease of 17 on roll. Mr. Barnes, Adjudicator, wrote asking for his expenses to be sent to B.S.L.U. It was decided to hold Presentation of Shield and Bell at Alma Street on Dec. 5th, 1931. A committee of three was chosen to study the Constitution and report to D.C.

Next Meeting, Nov. 1st, at Hebden Bridge. Will all Lyceums please send delegates prepared to discuss, criticise, amend or otherwise deal with adjudication scheme?

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Ramsden Street for their hospitality.

G. HALLIDAY, Sec.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

The Quarterly Meeting was held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Spiritualists' National Church, Boaler Street, Liverpool, when delegates from Wigan, Chester, Boaler Street, Daulby, Runcorn, Warrington, Southport and Birkenhead Lyceums were present; officers, associate and visitors. Total 20. The Minutes and Correspondence were dealt with in the usual way.

Arising out of the correspondence, the Council decided to

procure 100 pamphlets on "Lyceum Education." These to be sold at the earliest opportunity.

REPORTS. *Secretary.* The main points dealt with were:— (a) The Eisteddfod, which included the balance sheet, showing a profit of 5s. 1d. The number of entries and attendance was disappointing. (b) The Session Competition: only seven out of a possible nine Lyceums entered for the Shield. (c) The three suggested schemes: the appeal to the Lyceums has not been as unanimous in support as was anticipated.

District Visitor. Mrs. Clitheroe reported on having visited Runcorn on June 14th, Daulby on June 28th and Boaler Street on June 28th.

Conference. Mrs. George and Mr. G. Burns gave a joint report. Arising out of same it was decided that delegates present be requested to press the 1d. a week fund to the B.S.L.U. upon their Lyceumists; also the question of ways and means by which the Council can help the £2,000 Effort Fund.

S. West Lancs. Group. Owing to the absence of the appointed delegate to the May Meeting, Mrs. George gave a brief report. Items touched upon were Suggested Propaganda; Visit of Mrs. Donohoe to the District; Good Friday Celebration, 1932, at Warrington, and a Skeleton Scheme of the Fellowship to be presented at the Lancashire District Council Meeting in October.

Mr. Jones reported on the Sept. Meeting in similar items.

Definite Policy. There was a general opinion that the decrease in Lyceumists was due in some measure to the lack of the social side in our Lyceums. The introduction of sports might encourage attendance and add to the numbers. An interesting discussion took place with a uniformity of this idea.

The subject decided upon for concentration this quarter was "The Improvement of the Lyceum Session; what is a Lyceum and what constitutes an Ideal Lyceum."

Revision of Marks for the Session Competition. This is to be referred back to Lyceums and is to be placed on the Agenda for November Meeting.

Eisteddfod. It was decided that Church members be invited to take part in any "one" item set for Lyceumists of 18 and over.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance in hand of £1 3s. 10d.

The Suggested Draw. Owing to the Lyceums not being unanimous in support of this suggestion, it was decided to discontinue collecting for it, but appeal to the Lyceums to consider making a donation to the Council Funds of any monies which have been sent forward for this effort.

Speakers for Massed Session. It was agreed that the Council offer to defray the expenses of same.

A vote of thanks was given to our Boaler Street friends for their splendid hospitality.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14th, at S.N. Church, Academy Street, Warrington, at 3 p.m.

LILLIE K. GEORGE, Hon. Sec.

NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

A Mass Session was held at Ashton on 30th Aug. Invocation by Mr. E. Lloyd, followed by "Open the Door for the Children."

The President addressed the gathering and gave a welcome to friends and visitors, and then S.C. 43, "What is Noble." "Stand Firm" was read by Mrs. Plevin, of Hyde, and Mrs. Deptitch, of Heaton Norris, who gave their expressions of thought very fittingly. Marching and callisthenics are always enjoyed and were well done. Greetings from Stockport, Macclesfield, Elliott Street, Oldham, Heaton Norris and Hyde. Pearls, recitations, etc., were all well given.

The Evening Session opened with "Spirit Voices." Invocation by the Vice-President, Mrs. Edwards, made a strong appeal for unity, love and concord. 382, "Angel Care," then a welcome was given to the visitor and friend, along with an introduction of the officers. "Death and the after life" brought out interesting questions. Is life continuous, then why a Second Birth? Space will not permit further comment. The M.R., "Voyage of Life," was conducted by Mr. H. Ennion, District Visitor. Mr. Hill, of Stockport Central, and Mr. Lloyd, of Ashton, who each expressed thoughts on their portion. We received further greetings from Allen Street, Newton Heath and Byrom Street, Hollinwood.

Time is a thief on these occasions, so we had to forgo individual efforts, and closed all too soon for many. We would so much have liked to carry on to gain more knowledge and also give help to others for our Cause and Lyceum.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

The Council will meet on Sunday, Oct. 25th, in the Dinning-

ton Spiritualist Church. Business as Agenda, will commence at 10-30 a.m. Usual catering arrangements. The Council will conduct the Afternoon Session and Evening Service.

H. HEATH, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The third Quarterly Meeting of the N.E.L. L.D.C. was held at Accrington, in the Pearl Street Church, on Saturday, Sept. 19th.

Mr. C. T. Batley, the President, was in the Chair. Miss M. E. Lawton offered an invocation.

During the discussion on the Minutes it was suggested that Propaganda Meetings should be held, as a means of putting Lyceum ideals before the Church members. It was decided to discuss the subject at our next meeting.

The Correspondence was read and accepted.

It was carried that the date of the September Meeting of the L.D.C. be changed to the last Saturday in August.

After a discussion on Early (Onward) Lyceum, it was decided to accept that Lyceum in membership with the D.C. It was also agreed to table a motion that no Lyceum be opened within a radius of any Lyceum now in operation.

The Secretary's Report was adopted. The Secretary visited Pearl Street Lyceum and had a good reception. The Lyceum stated they would do all they could to help the Council.

Treasurer's Statement: Income, £4 16s. 3½d.; expenses, £2 13s. 0½d.; balance, £2 3s. 3d. Cottage Fund, £11 15s. 6d.

A report of visits to Lancaster (Alliance) and Morecambe was given by the Northern D.V. Visits had been paid by the Southern D.V. to Great Harwood, Padiham, Accrington (Pearl Street), Accrington (Argyle Street). Details of the judging of the Accrington and District Silver Bell Competition.

Mr. Dickinson gave the B.S.L.U. Conference Report and stated that a precedent had been made by giving the Education Committee a definite portion of the Conference time. Other items reported were:—The psychology tests; the poor financial position of the Union; dual credentials; the clearing of expenses by the Barrow friends.

It was decided to move an amendment to abolish the three-years rule concerning the nomination of the principal officers of the Union.

The Secretary upheld the proposal to appoint a Committee to consider the revision of the Constitution of the B.S.L.U. and said there was a precedent for the appointment of a Conference Committee for such a purpose. It would be a useful thing if we could close the £2,000 Effort Fund and use the money.

The Secretary's Report was adopted.

Credential Roll: E.C. 5, Delegates 21, Associates 2, Visitors 69; total 37. Lyceums 12, not represented 13. Pool expenses 6s. 8d.

The meeting accepted Blackburn as the place of meeting on 28th Nov., 1931.

The President's address paid tribute to many years' work by the China Street Lyceumists, now meeting in Pearl Street. The social side of the movement is needed to keep Lyceumists together. He proposed some attempts to unite the district; revival of the Lyceum Guild, the Education Scheme, etc., etc.

The Secretary offered to tutor a composite Grade V. class if one could be formed.

It was agreed that we send only one delegate, Mr. A. S. Dickinson, to the U.D.C. meeting at Macclesfield. Mr. C. T. Batley was nominated for U.D.C. President and Mr. A. S. Dickinson for Secretary-Treasurer.

It was decided to discuss, at the U.D.C., the reduction of B.S.L.U. representation on the S.N.U. E.C.

Our thanks were tendered to Accrington friends for their hospitality.

All Lyceums in the district were requested to take the Constitution of the B.S.L.U. and the last five years' balance sheets into the Liberty Groups for discussion, the findings to be sent to the L.D.C. Secretary.

All Lyceums are also requested to fill the forms *re* fares, fees, etc., with a view to a scheme being submitted to the November meeting.

been set aside for an annual outing to take place at Hadley Woods. The day at last dawned, but not very pleasantly, as there was a raging storm. At 10 a.m. it subsided a little and a few optimists arrived at the arranged place of meeting, but, as the weather was anything but good and the ground naturally would be wet, we decided to pay a visit to the Zoo instead of the woods. This was heartily agreed to, and we wended our way there. There were about 21 in the first party, who spent the morning in looking round various houses of interest, and were afterwards joined at tea by about seven more. We spent a very enjoyable day, despite the very indifferent weather. We are still steadily progressing and anticipating more activities socially this coming autumn and winter.—Doris M. Jordan, Sec.

NEWCASTLE, Rye Hill.—On Sept. 13th a large congregation attended to witness our Anniversary Service and the naming of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cowe, who received the earthly name of Gladys Railton, spirit name "Sunbeam." The ceremony was performed with white carnations by Mrs. Price, who also presented her with a Lyceum badge. We hope that our new Lyceumist will indeed grow up and be a "sunbeam" in the lives of all who come in contact with her. Recitations and callisthenics were ably rendered by the children. Solos by Mrs. Proud and Mrs. Finley. Duet by Misses Hayles and Cosgrove. Trio by Masters Bilton, Hayles and Richardson.

Sept. 20th, Massed Session, when we had representatives from Benwell, Whitley Bay, Wallsend and Sunderland (Derwent Street) Lyceums. T.L.D.C. represented by Mr. Slimin, A.N.S.C. Responses from our visitors with pearls, recitations, solos, etc., were excellent.—A. Richardson, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—It is with much regret we report the transition of our brother and President, Mr. Standish, at his home, 29, Hill Street, Oldham. He passed away peacefully on the 9th Sept. All Lyceumists went to the house on the 12th Sept., where our Conductor, Mr. J. Woods, gave a very nice service, after which the remains were taken to Greenacres Cemetery. All Lyceumists walked and a large crowd had gathered to witness the interment at the graveside. The body was then committed by our Conductor. For twenty-two years Mr. Standish has been our trusted Treasurer and President. He will be sadly missed. Only those who knew him well understood his true worth. He has been connected with Spiritualism for over 40 years. A memorial was conducted by Mrs. Burns, of Mossley, on Sept. 13th. The Church was full and the service was very impressive. Mr. J. Woods sang a solo, "Remember me, O Mighty One."—Mrs. H. Clegg, Sec.

PRESTON, Moor Lane.—We held a farewell party, Aug. 29th for Miss Cooke, Church secretary and children's group leader who sailed for S. Africa Sept. 4th.

Several parting gifts were presented including a birthday ring and brooch from the Church and Lyceum.

We held our Open Session Aug. 30th and had a wonderful evening. The little ones each said a few parting words to Miss Cooke. We are all sorry to part with such a valuable and much-loved worker but we know the Angels have work for her in her new home.

HELEN KILNER, Sec.

SOUTHEND AND WESTCLIFF.—We held an Open Session on September 6th being Birthday Anniversary. Mrs. Connor distributed prizes to those who had made regular attendance during the year, and medals and certificates to the successful candidates in the B.S.L.U. examinations. The individual Effort prize was won by Veine Kemp. Mr. Connor gave a very interesting and instructive address on the Education Scheme. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers given by Miss Pilgrim. Young Lyceumists presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Connor and one to Miss E. Habgood, our Conductor, and a buttonhole to Mr. Connor. The collection was given to the Education Scheme Funds. A most harmonious and instructive afternoon was brought to a close with the benediction by Mr. Connor and the singing of the "Closing Hymn."

N. F. PARKINSON, Sec.

SOUTH SHIELDS UNITED LYCEUM WORKERS.—The Annual Meeting of the above, comprised of four Delegates from each of the following Lyceums, Fowler St., Cambridge St. and Barnes Road, was held in the Cambridge St. National Spiritualist Church on Sat. Sept. 12th. The election of Officers for 1931-32 are as follows:—President Mr. N. E. Ainley, A.N.S.C.; Vice-President, Mr. A. Reaburn, and Mrs. Parker;

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.

LONDON, Rochester Square.—For weeks we had been anticipating July 25th with some pleasure, which date had

Treasurer, Mr. J. Massey; Secretary, Mr. R. Smith; Auditor and Lyceum Visitor, Mr. J. Curry.

R. SMITH, Sec.

WINNIPEG, Polson Avenue.—On September 6th we held our Lyceum Open Session, and enjoyed a short but interesting programme which consisted of songs by Mr. and Mrs. H. Forrest; reading by Miss M. Anderson; pearls by Gordon Fairbairn, Harry Forrest, Mr. J. Hargreaves, Miss M. Anderson and Mrs. J. Hargreaves.

OLIVE FORREST, Sec.

LEWISHAM.—On 30th August our Church President visited the Lyceum to present the certificates to the successful candidates in the B.S.L.U. Educational Exams. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Progress is being steadily maintained.—Wm. A. Hurrell.

LINCOLN, Coultham Street.—Sessions every Sunday, at 2-30, during the last month. We have had a visit from Mr. Johnson, our D.V.—N. Willey, Sec.

MIDDLESBOROUGH, Grange Road.—On Sunday, Sept. 6th, a musical recital, entitled "The Reality of God," was ably rendered by our Lyceumists, under the leadership of our Conductor, Mr. Nellist, G.N.S.C. Education Sunday, Sept. 20th. Certificates were presented to our students, all of whom were successful in the B.S.L.U. Exams.—M. Harrison, A.N.S.C., Sec.

NELSON, Vernon Street.—Open Session, Sept. 6th. Recitations by Richard Gallagher, Margery Atherton, Mrs. Parkinson; Lyceum songs by Doris Higgins, Bertha Robinson, Margery Atherton, Mary E. Jackson, Violet Forrest and Margaret Hopkinson, with Miss K. Smoother at the piano. All enjoyed the session. The children had their annual trip on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Our Conductor took them to Bracewell Hall. All enjoyed the outing.—Miss B. Robinson, Assist. 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 Sept. 23rd.

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

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

RULE 4.—All Reports must reach this Office not later than October 21st to ensure insertion in the November issue.

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

ACCRINGTON, Argyle St.—On Aug. 15th we held our Open Session. Recitations and solos were well rendered.

On Saturday August 29th we held our annual picnic to Southport, and we all spent an enjoyable time.—Miss F. Holgate, Sec.

ACCRINGTON, Pearl St.—Open Session Sept. 6th. Recitations and solos were well rendered by many Lyceumists. One of our Lyceum Leaders gave a photograph and Mr. Swift, one of our Trustees spoke a few words about the photo. Mrs. Houliker sang "Dream of Heaven," in memory of one of the oldest members Mrs. Fox. We had a very good session throughout.—Miss Hilda Swift, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—Open Session, Sept 6th. conducted by Mr. Thompson. Pearls by Mr. Taylor, Elsie and Albert Thompson, Wm. Kneale, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Harding. Recitations by Annie, Gertie, and Gwen. Watson, Wm. Berry, Leslie and Vera Hamilton, Mr. Edwards. Solos and duets by Lillian Harding, Florrie Watson, Mr. Groves, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Harding. Piano solos by Eileen Edwards, Nancy Hollingworth.

Naming ceremonies took place on Aug. 23rd. and Sept. 13th. Both the children named have Lyceumist parents.—Wm. Kneale, Sec.

BACUP.—Sept 6th Lyceum Day and Open Session. A number of Lyceumists came from Todmorden. There was a good attendance. Pearls were given by Mr. Potts, Mrs. Halsall, Mrs. Lord, M. Pockett, G. Ormerod, L. Lord, Mrs. Carter,

C. Taylor. Recitations by M. and D. Halsall, A. Wright, N. Taylor, M. Patchett. Pianoforte solos by J. Patchett. Songs by A. Harriss, Mrs. Halsall, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Carter, a Group of Lyceumists, M. Patchett, Mr. Crossley and Mr. Potts.—A. Halsall, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter St.—Aug. 30th Open Session. Mr. W. Edwards of Oswaldthistle was our speaker for the day, as one of our old Lyceumists he unveiled and dedicated our New Banner. He brought back past memories of our Lyceum and was very impressive. The following helped to make a bright session:—Recitations by Iris and Jean Enturette. Solo by Miss E. Hopper. Duet by Clara Railton and Doris Parker. The Session was greatly enjoyed by about 250 Lyceumists and Friends.

On Saturday Aug 29th an interesting event took place the occasion being the celebrations of the Silver Wedding of our Church President, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. S. Moorey; about 80 relations and friends partook of a splendid tea after which an enjoyable time was spent.

On Saturday Sept. 19th another interesting event took place the occasion being the wedding of our Conductor and Assistant Conductor Mr. J. N. Railton and Miss E. Hopper. Mr. G. F. Knott of Rochdale officiated. About 60 partook of a splendid tea after which an enjoyable time was spent together. Later Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Railton left for Blackpool, for their honeymoon. We offer hearty congratulations to them both and hope they may enjoy health and happiness.—Mr. T. Wood, Hon. Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford St.—Sept 5th was Pearl Sunday when pearls, recitations and solos, were ably rendered by Lyceumists and friends.

We regret to hear of the passing away of Mr. Batten, in Canada, a very earnest worker in the Cause of Lyceumism, and Spiritualism, a man well beloved when at Bradford St.

We are also looking forward to seeing Mr. Cliff in our midst again. He has been absent through sickness.—J. Walker, Sec.

BRISTOL UNITED.—Lyceum Sunday, Sept. 13th Mrs. Taylor, Southern District Area Representative, officiated at all services, Lyceumists taking prominent parts. Certificates having been framed as an incentive to greater efforts were presented by our President at the Open Session. An interesting programme was also carried out, consisting of Silver Chain recitations and solos. On the following day a successful concert was given by the Lyceumists.—Mrs. K. Baker, Sec.

CLECKHEATON.—Open Session held September 6th, conducted by Miss E. Thornton. Golden Chain Recitation No. 125 produced several questions. Pearls by Herbert Horsley (4), Jack Wilson. Solos by Herbert Horsley, Irene Wilson. Hymns No. 303 and 410 were sung together by request.—Miss M. B. Robinson, Sec.

DEWSBURY.—Open Session, Aug. 30th. Conductor, Miss F. Senior. Invocation by Mr. A. Kitson. Pearls by Mr. H. Gregory, Louie Gregory, Lillie Wightman, Phyllis Dunn, Cyril Hey, Margaret Greenwood, Miss A. Bentley, Clarissa Phillips, Mrs. Hartley, Mrs. Dunn, Mona Hey, William Newby, Mr. C. Phillips. Recitations by Ettie Day, Mr. H. Gregory, Cyril Hey, Lillie Thomas. Solo by Louie Gregory. Duets by Margaret Greenwood and Clarissa Phillips, Lillie Wightman and Mona Hey. Mr. A. Kitson distributed the Education Certificates to the candidates. It was a glorious Session.—V. R. Phillips, Sec.

DONCASTER, Catherine Street.—Open Session Sept. 6th. Conductor, Miss Johnson. Invocation by Master Crossland. Marching and Callisthenics were very good. The following Lyceumists took part: M. Alvis, V. Bates, A. Ball, W. Alvis, D. Mottram, D. Mumford, L. Middleton, G. Featherstone and Mrs. Crossland. A very nice session.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

EARBY, Greenend Avenue.—Open Session Sept. 13th. The following Lyceumists took part: R. Hancock, A. Blackburn, H. Etherington, J. Hancock, D. Seddon, E. Hancock, N. Seddon, E. Greenhalgh, O. Hodgson, O. Wilkins, N. Hodgkinson, F. Clarke, G. Morby, D. Seddon, G. Blackburn, K. Hodgkinson, L. Etherington, W. Hancock, E. Fox, and E. Woodhead. A very pleasant time was spent together.—Mrs. D. Dawson, Sec.

EARBY, Onward.—We held our Harvest Festival on Sunday, 20th September, with a good display of Fruit and Flowers. In the afternoon we had the naming of a baby by our speaker, Miss Tabiner, of Church. We had a real spiritual and material success.—Mrs. J. W. Clark, Sec.

GREAT HARWOOD.—Open Session held Sept. 6th. S.C.

by Florence Pickvance, M.R. by Hubert Norris, Greta Johnson, Eileen Shaw, G.C.R. by Mr. P. Doswell, Edna Parkinson. Recitations by Joan Bullen, Walter Haworth, Edna Parkinson, Greta Johnson. Solo by Mrs. P. Doswell. Duet by Florence Pickvance and Eileen Shaw. Quartette by Joan Bullen, Greta Johnson, Edna Parkinson and May Pickvance. We had a very good session, which was enjoyed by everyone.—W. Doswell, Sec.

HALIFAX, Alma St.—Anniversary Services, Sept. 13th. Afternoon, Open Session. Recitations by E. Thorpe, C. Thorpe, K. Chapman, E. Burrows, E. Dayntey. Song by the Infant Class. Pianoforte solo by N. Ambler. Readings by L. Mitchell, Miss Holroyd, W. Burrows, all very well rendered. Speaker for the day, Mrs. Whitley, of Bradford.—A most enjoyable day.—P. Chapman, Sec.

HALIFAX, Queen's Road.—Open Session, Sept. 6th, conducted by Mr. Baldwin. The Musical Reading was taken by Mr. Aked, of Shipley, who gave comments on the same. The G.C.R. taken by Mr. Ridgway, of Southport, our Speaker for the day. Marching and Callisthenics were well rendered. Conductor, Miss Stark. Pianoforte solos, Miss B. M. Anderton, C. Midgley, A. Siddal. Recitations, Master N. W. Anderton, Miss M. Dawson, Master J. Ross. Song by Master T. Matthews. A good number of friends were present, and we had a very happy session.—George Anderton, Sec.

HORWICH, Chorley New Road.—Childrens' Field Day, Saturday, Sept. 12th. In the afternoon about 30 Lyceumists and friends had a delightful ramble through Rivington, and afterwards returned to school for tea. In the evening we indulged in a variety of social games, races and other festivities. It was a great day, and enjoyed by all.—Mr. J. Sherrington, Sec.

LANCASTER, Gt. John St.—The Open Session on Sept. 6th was enjoyed by all. Mr. Bleasdale, our Treasurer, very ably conducted same. E. Law, K. Wright, M. Bleasdale and C. W. Partridge contributed recitations. Greetings to all.—M. Bouskill, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, Sept. 6th, and the following items were rendered:—Recitations by Jacky Whitbread, Sylva Garratt and Mrs. Hurst. Solos by Lily Jayes and Joan Whitbread. Duets by Mrs. F. M. Thwaites and Mr. Jayes, Mrs. Russell and Miss P. Ashby, Irene Ashby and Elsie Clements, Doris Garratt and Elsie Garratt, Doris Jayes and Lavinia Garratt. Trio T. Kerney, H. Jayes, H. Outram.—T. Kerney, Sec.

LEICESTER, Rupert St.—Sept. 6th, Open Session. The following Lyceumists took part:—Misses E. Wicks, Lily Jayes, Evan Delane, Betty Hancock, Mary Coysh, Mrs. I. Wicks and Mr. W. Coysh.—Mr. J. Wicks, Sec.

LONDON, Brixton.—We have had good attendances for the month of August. Our sports on Wednesday evening are well attended, and are enjoyed very much.—F. B. Gross, Sec.

LONDON, Hackney.—Our lady Conductor, Mrs. Chiplin, after a few opening remarks, left our session for Sunday, Sept. 13th, in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth, who had so kindly come along to present our B.S.L.U. Certificates. Our Session was conducted in the usual way, after we had our pearls, which several young Lyceumists explained. We had individual efforts. Mrs. Coote recited "Immortality." Then came the exciting moment, the presentation of Certificates. Thirteen students sat for the examination, and we had twelve passes. Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth were given a warm welcome, and it was said, "Who says Hackney Progressive Lyceum is dead?" We are very much alive. Thus ended a happy and harmonious session.—M. Moring, Session Sec.

LONDON, Plaistow.—On Sept 13th the L.L.D.C. paid us a visit. Mrs. Calway, the L.L.D.C. Secretary, kindly presented us with a beautiful banner, designed by Mr. Sid. Calway. Mr. Knott (Sec., B.S.L.U.), who had just returned from the International Conference, dedicated the Banner in a few well-chosen words. Uncle Bert conducted the session, supported by his council, with Mr. A. T. Connor (College Secretary), Mrs. Irving (District Visitor), Mr. Clegg, and others. An interesting session closed with greetings from many Lyceums.—E. J. Raven, Sec.

LONDON, Stratford, Idmiston Road.—Sept. 6th, Open Session. A bright session was conducted by Mrs. V. West, and many individual efforts by young Lyceumists were given. Enthusiasm is returning after summer slackness, and progress is the watchword for the future. Visitors will receive a warm welcome to the special session on Oct 4th. A Lyceum Kinder-

garten will be inaugurated, and the B.S.L.U. Education Certificates presented to Stratford's successful students. The Lyceum will also conduct the evening service.—R. H. Bates, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham and Edmonton.—We are still having very bright sessions. Pearls and items are plentiful. Marching and Callisthenics are always good. There is always a welcome to you.—Edward Bird, Sessions Sec.

MANCHESTER, Maskell St.—Open Session, Sept 6th. Everyone had quite an enjoyable evening. All our young members did very well. Recitations were given by D. Sharpe, A. Sharpe, D. Forde and M. Forde. We had quite a nice little duologue by Miss M. Hart and Mr. Richard Hart, also two pianoforte solos by H. Vincent and M. Hart. Mr. R. Marks presented Certificates to five of our Lyceumists, who had been successful in the Education Scheme. Eleven Lyceums were represented.—Miss M. Stevens, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Newton Heath.—On Sept. 6th, we had a pleasing ceremony, when Mr. W. H. Marks, Senr., presented a wedding present to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Taylor on the occasion of their marriage, with good wishes from the Lyceum for their future welfare.

On Sept. 20th, the Liberty Group was taken by Mr. W. W. Ely. Subject: Is God a Personality? The paper and discussion was enjoyed by the adult Lyceumists.—Miss Fannie Shaw, Sec.

MANCHESTER, South Manchester.—We held our Open Session in Princess Hall on Sept. 20th, during the afternoon and evening. Several visitors took an active part. The interest was enjoyable. Recitations were given by many of the children, who were praised by the visitors for their efforts.—M. Lamb, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM, Mechanics' Hall.—On September 20th, at a well-attended Lyceum session the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Pearson was named Ian Barrie, spirit name "Forward." Also the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Poynton was named Pamela Mary, spirit name "Light." This was a very impressive service, in which all were very interested. Mrs. Baker officiated at naming ceremony in an able manner.—L. M. Sharp, Sec.

READING.—Open Session July 6th. Mr. A. Lawrence (under the control of Mr. Julian) named the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lawrence, Earthly name, Kenneth Douglas, spirit name, "Victor."

The Oral Grade Certificates (framed) were presented by Mr. Douglas Lawrence to Cissie Seward and Margaret Latter. A very enjoyable session, enjoyed by all, including the youngest Lyceumist, four months', who responded in his usual way. Mrs. Lawrence was the conductor.—Harry Giles, Sec.

RYDE, Belvedere St.—Sept. 6th, Open Session. Miss Taylor, A.N.S.C., D.V., S.D.C., presented the Oral Grade Certificates to three successful Lyceumists. Joan Bell, Allan Gregory, "Distinction," Joan Heapy, "Honours." This we feel is a progressive step for our Lyceum, and next year we hope to enter candidates for the First Grade Exam. Mrs. Hoskins, of Bristol, also was with us, and gave prizes to children for memorising their pearls. Well done, children! "The Workers Win."—E. Oak, Sec.

SCUNTHORPE.—Sept 13th, Harvest Festival. Three Lyceumists sang "Seeds of Promise." We keep plodding along and hoping for better times to come. Let us all pull together.—

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—Our Dramatic Society opened the season with a visit to our Chesterfield colleagues. Two plays were presented, and, we believe, were enjoyed by the audience.

Our "At Homes" still prove to be a real social and financial benefit. We gratefully thank those who have inconvenienced themselves for the Lyceum.—James le Noury, A.N.S.C., Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Gifford Road.—We had a very good session on Sept. 6th. Many children taking part in the Open part of the session.—Muriel Clive, Sec.

WEST PELTON.—Open Session Sept. 6th. The following responded:—J. and J. Hall, J. and N. Abbott, M. Robinson, D. Hornsby, L. Bell, A. and F. Oakes, D. Douglas, W. Hardy, Mrs. Cooper, J. Hornby, L. Abbott, E. Hopson, C. Hornsby.—Mrs. Abbott.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—The August Open Session was conducted by Miss Lilly Dean, assisted by many of her friends, with M. R. explanations, recitations, solos, etc. Miss G. Knights led the callisthenics.—T. McQuoid Weedman, Sec.