

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

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## URSULA BLOOM DISCUSSES "SPIRITUALISM AND THE NEW WORLD."



IT OCCURS TO ME THAT SPIRITUALISM supplies the need of the new world. The war with its death, and its carnage, and its bitter suffering set the scythe to the old dogmas and doctrines. The God of Vengeance was not enough; the Father who chastened those whom He loved was too hard. We could not 'only believe'; we wanted knowledge, closer, more intimate knowledge, of the life after death. I was of the generation brought up with the old dogma. I saw it fade and fail me. I knew that many of its insinuations were merely allegorical. I knew that much in which I had been taught to believe was merely a fable; that it was not true, that it never had been true. I suffered a period of intense and morbid unbelief. The bottom dropped out of my world, and I saw no God, no hope, no future. For years I struggled in that abyss, longing to believe, wanting to believe, yet always with doubt curling about my heart. Spiritualism supplied a sane and reasonable basis for greater faith. Thank heaven that I found it.

But my son who is nearly fifteen is of the new world. He has never suffered any of the old dogmas, he has never had any doubts. I wanted to cut out that wretched period of groping in the darkness in vain for the torch whereby to light the pathway to eternal life. I have never impressed any set faith upon his little youth, but have told him what I believed, and he has formed a religion of his own. He has never any

doubts about the future. He cannot understand how I have ever suffered in this way. At eleven years old I allowed him to sit with Mrs. Hester Dowden in automatic writing, and to talk to his grandmother. There was nothing to upset his nervous system, I saw to that. It had instead a very stabilising, supremely interesting effect. He believed implicitly, and it made him very happy.

To the new generation brought up with true knowledge, there is no bitterness, that can be no doubts. Death has lost its sting. It just does not happen. We do not lose our dear ones, they are still with us, they are so close that we can still talk to them if we wish to. Spiritualism makes for a happier life, and by this I do not speak of the spiritualism which is morbid and eerie, which craves materialisation and which goes too far, but the spiritualism which is a religion.

For there is a complete and a satisfying religion in the true knowledge of life after death. There is a contentment which nothing else can give, an urge to do better in this world, an effort to please those who having passed on still watch us with loving pride. It is easier to walk when you are certain of your foothold. It is easier to believe when you have proof to back that belief. That is the immense benefit of spiritualism to this new generation which is stepping out into the world.

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

I am only just commencing to realise that I am a person with a reputation. According to several of our contemporary journals, I possess "keen critical abilities, an excellent literary style, and a marked gift for public speaking." Again I am told that I am "A young man of great initiative and with excellent gifts." I feel it a very pleasant duty to thank the Editors of the "Two Worlds" and "Survival" for these friendly remarks and only hope that I can successfully live up to the standard that they have apparently established for me in their own minds. One of the tragedies of this world is that graven images do tend to tumble off their pedestals—don't you think so?

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We have recently heard a strange rumour concerning Mr. Gibson, the Transfiguration medium. It is that he has become a candidate in the ranks of the Salvation Army. We do not know whether this statement is correct or not, of course, but when Mr. Gibson says in the "Greater World" "You ask me whether I accept the Christ teaching. That is just the trouble wherever I go—and I visit many places—for I and my helpers from spirit do accept Jesus Christ, not only as an example but as our Divine Leader, and so many Churches do not accept my teachings. I still go marching on. Christ is my Saviour and Friend." We feel that perhaps after all the rumour is justified.

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Our worthy friend, Mr. James Leigh, had some startling things to say in last month's "Survival," in which he makes requests for the plain truth about Spiritualism. He says, "Oh! let us have the truth, the whole truth! Surely the philosophy of Spiritualism grows out of its facts, and if the facts are not true, then the whole superstructure must crumble into the dust and ashes of dogmatic theory. Surely Spiritualism can, if it is true, support its own claims without any bolstering fiction on the part of Spiritualists." Socrates died rather than betray the truth he had lived to discover. Jesus was crucified when he refused to deny the new revelation that had in him come to birth. And so down the ages the truth-seekers have been the sinners of one age and the saints of the next. Perhaps if Mr. Leigh continues to ask such blunt questions he may get the answer that all sincere men have been doomed to receive. We hope that some day James Leigh will tell us the truth about himself?

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Great things are stirring at the Britten Memorial in Manchester. The untiring energies of Mr. John Jackson are at last being rewarded in the only way that will satisfy his desire of many years. At last the "School for Prophets" is emerging out of the foundations that he has so steadfastly been establishing. Already the full swing of winter activities has commenced—several very successful seances have been held—many private sittings have been arranged which have given every satisfaction—and we have heard a whisper that Miss Peterson is rapidly becoming one of the favourite mediums at the Britten Memorial. Every success to this new-old venture. Its Secretary deserves all that can be achieved as a reward for his freely given labours of over a quarter of a century.

I recently received an intriguing little book entitled "The Unextinguishable Light," by Richard King, published by Hodder & Stoughton. It ranks with the 13th Chapter of Corinthians and Henry Drummond's masterpiece. "The Greatest Thing in the World" for sheer simplicity and loveliness. Mr. King talks to us about love and he tells us that "If the world stopped to think clearly for ten minutes the Millenium would dawn to-morrow." I think he is right, because if we pause to consider just how many things go wrong in the world because of lack of love we simply would stop doing all the things that divide us from ourselves and our fellows. He very gently reminds us that to-day "Religion has outgrown the Churches . . . every fact and facet of human life requires no theology to prove its truth nor any ritual or church service to make it a living manifestation of Christ—the ideal."

How wonderfully true these words are. I can go on quoting the whole of this little book but must satisfy myself by once more quoting Mr. King's conclusions in which he tells us love "is a wonderful 'Light' with which alone individuals, collectively and separately, can illumine their way through the bewildering mazes of human life, and ultimately no man shall put it out."

JUPITER.

## REPLICA.

O who in Life can gauge the light  
In Life the true reward who knows?  
The meaning of sorrow, the madness of dreams,  
The truth of God—who knows?

O look, my friend, through your soul's shuttered  
windows,  
Shuttered by bitterness, wrong, and tears,  
At the message, the meaning of God all around you  
Inevitable as the years.  
See, see the shadows of twilight descending,  
Soft as the touch of a holy caress,  
See all the world filled with soft soothing stillness,  
Shadowy starlit peacefulness.

For God is an artist who painted to lighten  
The grayness of life, so familiar, alas!  
But there's green and gold, and the wonder of wood-  
lands  
Which often, unseeing, we pass.  
He painted, in beauty, the stars silver glory,  
The magic of sunset and dawn's wondrous flame,  
That we should all live, breathing in this dear wonder,  
Should live to bless His name.

The delicate beauty of each growing rose bloom,  
The song of a small brook lifting above,  
The haunting whisper of trees in a forest  
Are echoes of His Love.  
For God is a Lover who loves his world deeply,  
The singing birds are His songs left behind,  
They sing in their gladness, shall sing on forever  
If only, my friend, to remind.

Eternal seas, blue skies, dear country  
His image all are flouting;  
God gave you eyes, hands, heart and mind  
And yet—you stand here doubting.

SYDNEY JEAN BARNES.

"IN THE BEGINNING." I.

## YOUR DEBT TO THE PAST

BY JAMES LEIGH

THE Spiritualist of to-day is very lucky—very lucky indeed. "Spiritualism means sacrifice. You cannot be associated with Spiritualism without risking a great deal. We have to make a big sacrifice, you know."

... One of the most original of the Younger School of Spiritualist Writers, who will contribute an article to the LYCEUM BANNER every month.

So said a young man to me the other day, speaking with such emphasis that I could not doubt his sincerity. His was typical of a class of mind which is labouring under a grave misapprehension.

He knew nothing, I suppose, of Spiritualism's eventful past—of the ceaseless struggle of the pioneers, the hardships which were endured, and the opposition which was faced, so that the cause of Truth might move forward.

He only knew that he had inherited a philosophy from the void—a truth which was still slightly unpopular, because it was still misunderstood, but he apparently did not know of the labour which had been expended in its discovery and the terrible task which had been borne in preserving it.

Yes, youth is inclined to forget the past and in so doing misses, I suppose, one of the greatest lessons in life. It is from the past that we have obtained all that goes to make present-day civilisation. If someone had not laboured and sweated in bygone days, we should have had no modern transport. There would be no telephones, no electric light, no motor cars, no comforts.

In his evolution man has, of course, committed many blunders and fallen into many errors, from all of which much can be learned. But youth will not listen. It must commit the mistakes all over again and thus impede the march of progress.

NOW, compared with the opposition and unpopularity endured in the past, the slight ridicule to which Spiritualism is exposed to-day is as nothing.

Was your house stoned last night because on Sunday, you attended a Lyceum? Were you laughed at as you passed along the street because, during the week, you went to a seance?

People are so tolerant now that Spiritualists rarely lose their friends because of an interest in psychic phenomena, but in the early days it was not so. Homes were broken up and life-long friendships severed because someone suddenly discovered he had psychic powers and worked for the spirit people in spite of the consequences.

Often, their material possessions suffered. They went out of business, because their "friends" refused to trade with them.

You should thank God, you Lyceumists of to-day, that you were not the Fox sisters, whose lives were almost ruined by the terrible intolerance of the world.

You older Spiritualists should be grateful that you were not Judge Edmonds, whose name was scorned when he announced his conviction to Spiritualism.

Formerly a judge in the Supreme Court of New York, he was so bitterly persecuted on becoming a Spiritualist that he had to relinquish his appointment, and was largely ostracised by society.

Hundreds of cases of personal sacrifice could be cited. I will not bore you by printing them here, but they are on record in the early Spiritualist journals and magazines.

Alas! The way of Truth is always difficult, and great must be the burdens of those who are first called upon to prepare its course.

SPIRITUALISM today benefits from a wonderful and glamorous and glorious past—a history of heroism and suffering which, in many cases, did not far fall short of what is known as martyrdom.

It stands on the labours of early workers, usually very humble persons with little education and no money, who, in the hands of the Spirit World, became great spiritual leaders.

They mapped out your philosophy for you, established your facts, laid down a system to which to-day you have only to conform.

All the hard, difficult work they did—they, or rather, the spirit people who used them.

Why, six years after the outbreak at Hydesville, so well had they worked that a Memorial was drawn up and submitted to the United States Congress, describing the score of forms of mediumship—and you have added little to the knowledge which they collated. The Memorial was presented by the Hon. James Shields, and had no fewer than thirteen thousand signatures appended.

Even the various forms of psychic phenomena were enumerated, long before you came on the scene.

Hundreds of thousands of seances were given free by mediums. Thousands of books, supporting the cause, were written by writers who had everything to lose. Think of the struggles of the hundred and one small Spiritualist Societies—the long nights of discussion, the public debates, and the world wide propaganda tours.

You talk about sacrifices! Well, what have you done? Where are the modern "sacrifices" which can compare with those made by the brave men and women who fought for Spiritualism in its earlier days?

They simply do not exist.

THE truth is that Spiritualism to-day is secretly respected (because of the labours of the past), and the moral is that you should work on in unity, grateful for the work of those who came and went before you.

It is the only way you can repay those pioneers, whose perseverance in days of strife and difficulty has made it possible for you and I to worship as Spiritualists without persecution and with a great and growing sense of religious freedom.

## WHAT HAPPENED AT GLASGOW.

### SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL UNION CONFERENCE.

#### B.S.L.U. DELEGATES' REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The thirtieth A.G.M. of the S.N.U. was held at Glasgow on Saturday, 2nd July, Mr. J. B. McIndoe, Dipl., S.N.U., presiding over a conference of eighty-seven delegates, representatives and Subscribing Members. We were invited to the platform, along with our educational co-workers, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Webb, of Wellington, New Zealand.

The Conference was welcomed to Glasgow by Mr. J. Shields, President of the Glasgow Association—who gave an interesting account of his Society's recent work and progress—and Mr. Newton responded.

The President's address was one of the best it has been our good fortune to hear, and dealt with Spiritualism as a living force in World advancement. Mr. McIndoe insisted that clearness of thought was a necessity of the present and the future, and that we must consider carefully the influence of present-day conditions—unemployment, war, and the cheap press, among others—on the mental outlook of those who came into contact with them. Spiritualism must ever be a propaganda movement, and must not allow itself to be tainted by sectarianism in our thoughts or teachings—or absorbed into any other religious system. The speaker ended by urging thoroughness in studying not only our own phenomena and philosophy, but the power of the spiritual forces which could make the world a better place for those who live in it.

Mr. Connor led a long discussion, and suggested that the address should be issued in pamphlet form as a guide to policy for the affiliated Churches. The address has been printed in *The National Spiritualist* for August, and should be studied by every thoughtful Lyceumist.

The Minutes and the various reports were adopted with very little discussion, Mr. Stewart's financial statement and budget being once again a lucid and informative statement of the Union's financial position and prospects. One of the results was that, after full discussion, the National Council was instructed to cease publication of *The National Spiritualist* at its discretion.

The College report was again the one of most interest to Lyceumists. But it did not come forward until Mr. McIndoe had presented two S.N.U. Diplomas—one for healing to Mr. F. T. Blake and one for physical mediumship to Mrs. Duncan. He spoke very strongly about the attacks made on Mrs. Duncan and declared that the Union, as an official body, had complete confidence in her honesty and the genuineness of her mediumship. And we think that everyone present agreed with him.

Mr. Connor opened the College report by giving the results of the 1932 Examinations, and stating that Spiritualist organisations outside our two Unions were using the B.S.L.U. Handbooks for educational work. He pointed out the serious drop in the number of entries, and suggested that part of the drop was due to the pressure of economic conditions. But part of it

also was due to the action of the S.N.U. Council in removing from the College announcement in the S.N.U. Diary the paragraph announcing that the College awarded Degrees. Advantage of this had been taken by the opponents of our Education Scheme, who had said, in various districts, that the College Degrees were of no value and the College had ceased awarding them. This must have had its intended effect in discouraging students, who thought that the College was breaking faith with them, and the entries for the "Degree" Grades were the lowest on record. He appealed to the Council to remove this obstacle to our work and to restore the paragraph.

Mr. McIndoe claimed that people who sat at examinations for the purpose of winning Degrees deserved no consideration. He opposed the Degrees because they brought ridicule on the Movement, and were deterring intellectual people from identifying themselves with the Union. The Degrees were not recognised outside the two Unions and were therefore valueless. The Advanced Scheme was not so bad, but a child of 13, with three months' preparation, could pass the B.S.L.U. Grade V. (Our reply to this was given in last month's Education Department). This gave rise to a chorus of "Oh's," and Mr. McIndoe told us that we did not realise the high standard of education in Scotland.

Mr. McIndoe further alleged that the College had been forced on the Movement, and that he and Mr. Keeling had protested. To our amazement, Mr. Keeling assented to this statement—though, as a matter of fact, Mr. Keeling seconded the proposal for the establishment of the College at our Dewsbury Conference in 1926, and supported and voted for it at the succeeding S.N.U. Conference, in July, 1926.

Mrs. Paling and Messrs. Bogue, Rawlinson, Wright, and others supported the restoration, and it was proposed by Mr. Connor and seconded by Mr. Rawlinson "That the paragraph announcing the award of College Degrees be restored to the College announcement in the S.N.U. Diary." Then ensued another unseemly wrangle. Mr. Keeling proposed a rider—"Always provided that the College constitution is subject to revision by the two Unions it represents"—and asked Mr. Connor to accept it. Mr. Connor refused, on the grounds that, first, the rider was irrelevant to the motion; and second, that it was unnecessary, as all regulations approved or adopted by Conference were open to revision. The President accepted Mr. Keeling's rider and added it to the motion. A point of order was raised that a vote should be taken (as is laid down in Palgrave) as to whether the rider should be added or not. But this was disregarded, and the motion was put to the meeting with the rider added (as an amendment) and carried by 31 votes to 15. As a substantive motion it was carried *nem. con.* So the paragraph is to be restored in the 1933 Diary.

The S.N.U. Education Committee was re-elected—Mrs. E. Paling and Messrs. G. F. Berry and W. G. Gush.

The Officers for next year are as last year, Messrs. McIndoe, Newton and Stewart being re-elected President, Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively, without opposition.

A. T. CONNOR }  
J. SHUTTLEWORTH } Delegates.

## SPIRITUALISM AND THE NEW WORLD. II.

## SPIRITUALISM AND THE CHILD.

BY MRS. PHILIP CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY.

To say the future lies in the hands of the future generations may be trite, but like many other sayings that are trite, and therefore have a trick of passing in at one ear and out at the other, is true. But the building of the foundations upon which that future is to be raised lies in the hands of the present generations, those of us who have arrived at varying degrees of maturity. Moreover, in these days of unrest and revolution new forms of foundations must be evolved to take the place of the old, crumbling into dust under the stress of world-conditions and the growth of knowledge.

"As a man thinketh so he becometh" has been an essential note in eastern philosophy throughout the ages, and to the Jesuits is attributed—rightly or wrongly—the saying that give them charge of a child until the age of eight years, and it is of little moment under what other influences he may fall during the rest of his life. This shows a lively appreciation of the importance of the preconceived idea, implying that into the grooves and channels engraved upon the growing brain all future ideas and mental tendencies will inevitably drift, and much time and trouble will have to be expended in getting rid of them.

The world into which the child of to-day is born is necessarily a vastly more complex and difficult problem than any world at any previous time. It is an essential part of evolution that this should be so. The new generations are aptly called the heirs of all the ages. The modern child finds himself launched into a world of wonders, taking for granted marvels which have been the outcome at almost miraculous speed, of the advanced knowledge and scientific discovery of the last hundred years; he accepts as a matter of course, the telephone, motors, aeroplanes, that have filled his forebears with wonder and amazement. He is born into a ready-made world of ingenious invention and the fruits of science, accepting it without a full appreciation of this inheritance to which he is heir.

But there is another side to the shield. The blessings and advantages of such a heritage must inevitably bring with them a greater responsibility, open a wider field of temptation through greater freedom of action, and the expansion of opportunities for experience. Nor does this expansion relate only to the conditions around him; his own powers of understanding and of making contacts have also expanded, senses are more alert, and his response to environment, to the influences good or bad which surround him is more ready. With an intellect which tells him to accept nothing that is not founded either on fact or logic he has lost hold of sheets anchors that in the old days were accepted without question.

The youth of to-day is up against difficult problems in a difficult world, not knowing what to believe or what not to believe yet still seeking as man must ever seek, a guiding star outside the radius of the material universe. For this reason we should be ready to extend to child-

hood to-day sympathy and encouragement on the threshold of his road through life.

And in no way can we more effectively help him on that road than by impressing upon him from the very earliest years the truths of spiritualism. The brain still unformed and elastic will run easily into any mould that may be imposed upon it. Let the preconceived idea that will prove so tenacious a companion through life be the great fact of survival, of a hereafter worth striving for; that death is not the end—nor the beginning of a fantastic existence entirely alien to his commensense or desire. That labour commenced here will be finished there, so no labour is in vain, that as we sow, here we shall—invariably—reap there; that these things are demonstrable facts and no longer pious hypotheses with faith and hope only to support them.

As there is nothing so hard to jolt out of its grooves as the pre-conceived idea so has it stood in more or less degree in the way of every step forward. In the fight for spiritualism waged during the last eighty years, more than half the battle has been the breaking up of old opinions before brains that were no longer malleable could accept the new.

When the children of fifty years ago or more, were taught to visualise a heaven of flowing robes and golden crowns where hymns were sung eternally round glassy seas, the conception grew with them, became impressed upon their brains with such steady insistence that after a few years it became a part of themselves; and if it be possible for the immature brain to receive such fantastical concepts and allow them to crystallise until it requires little less than a sledge-hammer to break them up, how much easier for them to accept the Common-sense, logical teaching that is spiritualism, founded on practical demonstration and certain knowledge.

No child will arrive at maturity without preconceived ideas of some sort, to which it will cling tenaciously whether good or ill. It is for us to see that those ideas have sound foundations, that the soil in which they are sown will make for sturdy growth; above all that it is free from the weeds of dogma and prejudice. The child born to-day, to a heritage of the knowledge that there is no death, that survival is a demonstrable fact, is indeed fortunate, and should make something greater and grander of this training ground we call the World than has ever been before.

## THANK YOU.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—*Special Appeal Fund for Office Furnishing*: Belper 10s., Macclesfield 5s, Accrington and Dist. Joint Committee 10s. *Patron Fund*: Heaton Norris 2s. 6d., Hyde Lyceumists 2s. 6d., Mr. & Mrs. Coleman 3s., Whitley Bay 7s. 6d., Attercliffe 9s. 6d., Fulham 11s. *General Fund*: Daulby Hall, Liverpool, £2.

# OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

HINTS, NOTES AND NEWS ITEMS.

Conducted by the EDUCATION SECRETARY.

## Our September Circular.

The Winter Session Classes should now be in full swing, and the usual circulars to Lyceums, with a copy of the Syllabus of Work and of *How to Prepare for the Examinations*, have been sent out, with a request to Lyceum Committees that they should be read in the Lyceum Session. If the circulars have not been read at your Lyceum, will you please help us by asking your Conductor to have them read.

We are hoping for a record entry for the 1933 examinations, and we advise all our students to begin at once on their study of the handbook of their Grade and the selections set from the *Manual*.

The *Psychic News* has paid our Scheme the compliment of using extensive extracts from "Advent" as the first article in a series on Spiritualism. If non-Lyceumists think our handbooks worth quoting from, surely Lyceumists will think them worth studying. Every Tutor should insist on his students being supplied with a copy of the handbook of the Grade for which they are being prepared.

## Our Examiners' Reports.

This month I am at last able to keep my promise to deal with some of our Examiners' comments on the papers marked by them. For obvious reasons I am not giving the Examiners' names, and space dictates that I confine myself to summaries and occasional quotations.

Let me begin by stating that this year the proportion of passes to sitters was higher than ever before, and the standard of passes was satisfactorily high. As one Examiner remarked, "the standard is very good this year; some papers show profound study;" and another says "I gather an improvement all round." More than half the students obtained 70 per cent or more of the total marks, and only 75 out of 633 sitters in the written examinations (less than 12 per cent) failed to pass.

But the Examiners' reports are intended to be of assistance to our Tutors and students, and so their comments deal more with those who failed or obtained less than 70 per cent. With regard to these, the examiner who mentioned our high standard added—"There are one or two, who, I should imagine, had never read the handbook and knew very little about the *Manual*." Another says—"The students who have failed have done so *either* because they have not read the questions and found out what was wanted, *or* because they have not even a nodding acquaintance with the *Manual* Readings and the handbook." And several others make the same comment.

Some Examiners find fault with the tutoring. One says "there is a decided lack of study and more particularly of good tutoring" but here I must add that many of our candidates had no tutors, and had to do the best they could by themselves. Another says: "Locally, I have found tutors with the required knowledge of the

handbook and *Manual*, but who seem to lack the ability to present it to the students in such a manner as to arouse interest in the work—with the result that it is looked upon as a task' . . ."

May I draw the attention of tutors and solitary students to our pamphlet on "How to Prepare." Teaching is a profession for which special training is required, and a tutor cannot hope to *guess* how tutoring should be done. The pamphlet has been drawn up by practical teachers, and can be obtained from the General Office by sending an application and a stamped addressed envelope.

## Connective Readings and "Notes for Lessons."

One Examiner comments on the Grade III Connective Reading, that the students seem to confuse it with an explanation of the verse. One answer began "Brother Conductor, this means to me." Had the students used *How to Prepare for the Examinations*, they would have known that Connective Readings usually (a) give the *Lesson* contained in the verse; (b) suggest how we may carry the teachings of the verse into effect; (c) show how our lives would be the better and happier for putting the teachings into practice; or (d) link up the teachings of the verses. Which kind of Reading is used will depend on the verse.

We recommend Grade III students to examine the Readings of M.R. 223, 236, and 238, as samples of what may be done. They might even try writing Readings for these, and then compare them with those written by Mr. Kitson. Then turn to S.C.'s 4, 51, and 93 (set for the examination), decide which kind of Reading is required, and start on practice in writing them.

A Grade IV Examiner points out that many candidates give *explanations* of the Readings in the question on a Lyceum Session, instead of *linking up* the Readings, as requested. All that is required is that the candidate should show how the S.C.R. leads to the M.R. and on to the G.C.R., with a brief statement of the *lesson* of the three—and it should not take up more than 60 to 100 words.

The Invocation and Benediction should be suitable to the lesson of the chosen Session, and should be brief—about 150 words (about 10 lines) for the Invocation, and 30 to 50 for the Benediction.

Hints on these matters, and on Notes on Lessons, etc., are given in "How to Prepare," pages 14, 15 and 22.

Every Grade IV student should possess a No. 2 Handbook, a copy of *Summaries and Glossaries*, an *Oral Grade Reader* and a *Manual*, as the proper equipment for preparing for the examination. A Price List of our Education Scheme Handbooks will be found on page iii of the cover of the BANNER.

## The Handbooks must be Studied.

It must be realised by both Tutors and students that the questions set from the handbooks cannot be answered from the *Manual*. Take "Children in Spirit Life," for instance. G.C.R. 139 does not contain many facts that are recorded in the article in No. 1 Handbook; and when students are asked to give an account of child life in the Summerland, if all they know is what is given in the G.C.R., they are dooming themselves to losing at least half the marks allowed for their answer. The same holds good regarding many other questions

set in Grades II and III, for which No. 2 Handbook is used.

A good way of studying the handbooks (which could also be used for the *Manual* selections) is suggested by two Examiners. "We would suggest," they say, "that students are urged to underline and memorise the chief points in all lessons, and then practise weaving the stories or their own ideas around them. If this is carried out frequently, and in writing, the great lack of expression so obvious in many papers would be remedied and the students be able to make full use of the knowledge they have gained by study." This method would pay particularly well in studying the brief history of our Lyceum Movement given in No. 2 Handbook, and set for Grades III and IV.

These Examiners have introduced a new system of marking—they make copies of good answers they find amongst the papers, and gum them on to papers where poor answers have been given.

### Lack of Originality in Answering.

Several Examiners comment on carelessness in reading questions, which leads to the candidate giving information which was not asked for, and leaving out information that *was* asked for. Another fault is that the candidate, when asked for (*say*) the story told by Lucretia Pulver—or to tell what happened to Catherine and Margaretta Fox up to the time of the public meetings in Rochester—tell the whole of the information supplied in the first article in No. 1 Handbook. All that is wanted in the first case is what Lucretia Pulver told Mr. Lewis in April, 1848; in the second, only the parts of the story where the two girls took part—NOT including the story of the meetings. Those who told more than they were asked for lost marks.

Another criticism was against the using of a word or phrase they were asked to explain *as part of the explanation*. As an example, "*temple, shrine, creed and ritual* were not explained, but merely used in the explanation."

And the following is on the same lines. "There is mere repetition of the *Manual* handbook or Glossary phrases, instead of the ideas expressed their being taken as suggestions for independent thought and illustration."

### A Testimonial to our Scheme.

This Examiner ends with a comment which is worth preserving: "As I have told one of the candidates, three months' routine of lessons, with the Handbook and Glossary, will teach more than can be learned in three years of ordinary Sessions." Not because the Sessions are no good, mind you, but because studying in the Scheme is so much better.

### SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

ALL the text books needed for the B.S.L.U. Scheme are supplied from the General Offices, 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. Education Handbooks, copies of Examination Questions, etc., apply to:—

THE GENERAL SECRETARY, Hollins Chambers, 64A, Bridge Street, Deansgate, Manchester.

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.

## OUR £2000 EFFORT FUND.

Dear Lyceumists All,

I acknowledge with thanks the following amounts:—

**MILE OF PENNIES.**—Nuneaton per Mrs. Hill, 8s. 4d.; Tredegar, per Mrs. S. A. Halestrap, 7s. 6d.; Craghead, per Mr. T. Collingwood, 7s.; Daulby Hall, per Mr. E. A. Keeling, 15s.; Whitley Bay, per Miss M. Gardener, 6s. 8d.; Liverpool L.D.C., per Mrs. George, 8d.; Mrs. Chadwick, Wigan, 2s. Total: £2 7s. 2d.

Manchester friends may call upon the Gen. Sec. for further supply of cards.

**SOCIAL EVENING SCHEME.**—Individual Effort, Mrs. Wright, Daulby Hall, 12s. 7d.

**DONATIONS.**—Mr. R. Robb, Birkenhead, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. L. George, Sale of Candy, 2s.

**LIMERICK.**—Thirty-three efforts were sent in, the total amount received, 5s. 8d. The prize for the September Limerick has been awarded to Miss M. Gardener, of Whitley Bay Lyceum. Congratulations! The Completed Limerick is as follows:—

My appeal for your pennies is strong,  
To build up our cause against wrong;  
So please do not fail,  
To send yours by mail,  
We deserve help, for waiting so long.

**Greetings.**—I hope you will all join with me in extending your thoughts and best wishes for many happy birthdays to the following Lyceumists:—

Mrs. L. Tweedale, of Wakefield, on Oct. 13th; Miss Carrie Haworth, of Rawtenstall, Oct. 31st; From Liverpool (Daulby Hall), Mr. H. Owen, Oct. 9th; Frank C. George, Oct. 18th; Mr. R. A. Owen (Dublin), Oct. 27th; and Nicholas Echevarria, Oct. 31st; Mr. G. A. Dixon (Auditor, B.S.L.U.), Oct. 29th. We have to greet Mr. and Mrs. Cheadle, of Southport Lyceum, on their first Wedding Anniversary, Oct. 24th. Also to Daulby Hall on their anniversary services on Oct. 23rd. This Lyceum is over 43 years old. To the Liverpool L.D.C. who are holding their Annual Massed Session at Daulby Hall on the afternoon of Oct. 23rd. This is their seventh anniversary. The total amount received for greetings is 5s.

The collective amount received this month is £3 13s. 11d.

Only two suggestions were sent *re* "the best scheme for raising money for the £2,000 Fund," and while they are quite good, are not practicable unless a certain amount of capital is used, and that is not desirous at present.

Would Lyceums please consider taking a retiring collection in aid of our Fund, at any Lyceum function, such as a Massed Session or any particular gathering in connection with Lyceum work.

**October Limerick.**—A prize will be awarded to the competitor who sends in the most suitable last line.

For £2,000 we are striving,  
An attainment which takes some hard driving;  
We'll ne'er say defeat,  
But when its complete,

Rules for entry. Please send your efforts, together with your name, address, age if under 21, Lyceum, and a donation of 2d. not later than OCT. 18TH. A competitor may send as many efforts as desired, but 2d. must accompany each effort.

With best thanks and greetings to all from

(MRS.) LILLIE GEORGE.

85, Queen's Road,  
Everton, Liverpool.

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

EDITOR: JAMES NORBURY.

Terms to Lyceums and Societies:

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

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All correspondence to be addressed to the Editor.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for any views stated unless same are signed or endorsed by him. Visitors by appointment only.

OCTOBER, 1932.

## TREMENDOUS TRIFLES.

I have recently been pondering over a few of the criticisms that are constantly being levelled at those of us who speak on the Spiritualist platform about the evidence we obtain of survival, and the phenomena that occurs in the seance room. One of the most general comments of the cynical sceptic is: "How trivial many of the conversations are in their context that occur between those who have passed on to the higher life and those who are still walking the narrow ways of earth."

I wonder do those people ever pause to consider that the essential elements which go to the make up of personality are just those trivial factors in our relationship with each other which make us essentially what we are? If personality persists after death as we believe, and if the bonds of love are strengthened rather than weakened as we pass into that wider view of things, then surely we shall take an interest in the little daily sacrament of common things that has meant so much to us in our earthly life. From time to time in our evidence we meet cases where the wife who has passed onwards reminds her husband of a little nick-nack that has been knocked over and broken in the home in the last few days. How trifling you say. But to the husband it was a tremendous trifle, for it proved to him as nothing else could have done, that his beloved one was still near to him, vitally interested in little things, insignificant in themselves, and yet significant to both of them because they belonged to old associations and old friendships, the fragrance of which still lingers after the wrench of physical parting.

Another of the generalisations that I have often had hurled at me when speaking from the platform is, "How undignified it is to rap upon the table and bang on the wall." And yet, we never think it undignified when the telephone bell rings in our office. We do not rise in righteous indignation when the postman knocks on the door, and this is really just what happens in the seance room. The rap is merely the signal of a presence that desires to communicate with us and gives the glad

tidings of survival. I do not think, when we pass over, to the other side of life, we shall really worry very much about the manner of our return, or really question the dignity of the mode in which we re-create the links that have been temporarily severed. I know that, speaking personally, I shall be quite willing to rap on a table, or a wall, or a picture, or anything else that happens to be handy, as long as I can signal back to the sorrowing ones I have left behind, the clarion call that all is well.

I am rapidly arriving at the conclusion that the people who so fondly imagine they are dealing a death-blow at Spiritualism by such careless criticism of psychic phenomena, are actually only revealing to us how incapable they are of clear thinking. How is it that some of the most rational people are generally speaking the most irrational when it comes to a detailed and careful consideration of the facts of the seance room? Do they really think that they have explained the rap away because they have laughed at it? Do they proudly boast that because they consider a thing trivial it is not important enough for serious consideration among those who are genuine seekers after truth? One of the most significant factors that the new view of the Universe has revealed to us in the light of modern physics is that the scientifically trained mind is daily recognising more and more how essential it is that it shall take into account the most trivial deviation from any theoretical law, in order that it may correctly evaluate the meaning and purpose of life itself. So in an age when science is rapidly awakening to the challenge of tremendous trifles need we wonder that Spiritualism recognises it dare not trifle with such a tremendous thing as evidence of the survival of human personality no matter how insignificant such evidence may appear to the outsider.

In this, then, lies the real value of Spiritualism. It teaches us that nothing is too trivial to be unimportant. The smile of a friend; the laughter of a little child; a mother's lullaby at eventide; are not these the real things we value in life and will they not still hold our interest if it is true there is no death? One day we shall all have to face the sorrow of parting and the loneliness of separation. In that hour we shall reverence and respect the noble truths that Spiritualism has proclaimed because they will steal away from us any sense of despair or desolation. We shall know that they who have gone before us have merely passed into the next room of life to learn a new lesson, to finish the tasks commenced here. We shall wait anxiously for their familiar tap, and upon hearing it give to them a word of cheery welcome. We shall listen eagerly for that well-known voice to echo back its greeting, and we shall smile in contentment when we hear those sweet familiar tones telling us of safe landing on the Further Shore.

Small things these. Yet as Evelyn Underhill so wisely reminds us

"I come in little things," Saith the Lord,  
My starry wings I do forsake,  
Life's highway of humility to take."

Some day we shall all grow more humble, we shall all learn to have a deeper reverence for the simple joy of life. Perhaps when that hour comes we shall have the precious privilege of hearing still lovelier voices echo back to us, "For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

THE EDITOR.

## OUR LYCEUM GUILD.

MOTTO:—"We live to learn and learn to live."

Dear Guildites.

First of all I would like to give a very cordial welcome to all who have already become Guild members—a welcome from Nellie Kitson, the Guild Leader in Spirit, as well as from myself.

Here is the first list of members.

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. M. E. Kitson.               | 22. D. G. Willoughby, Rotherham.  |
| 2. Alfred Kitson, Dewsbury.    |                                   |
| 3. J. Shuttleworth, Darwen.    | J.23. F. Bold, Rotherham.         |
| 4. A. T. Connor, London.       | J.24. W. B. Bold, Rotherham.      |
| 5. E. Connor, London.          | 25. R. Temple, Collyhurst.        |
| 6. M. E. Lawton, Barrow.       | 26. E. Temple, Collyhurst.        |
| 7. E. Lawton, Barrow.          | 27. J. S. Barnett, Collyhurst.    |
| 8. E. Elliott, Moston.         | 28. Mrs. Burrows, Alma St.        |
| 9. J. Taylor, Newton Heath.    | 29. R. Robb, Birkenhead.          |
| 10. D. Taylor, Newton Heath.   | J.30. K. Chapman, Alma St.        |
| 11. W. Burrows, Alma St., Hx.  | 31. Mrs. Barwell, Alma St.        |
| 12. G. Halliday, Alma St. Hx.  | J.32. E. Thorpe, Alma St.         |
| 13. B. Fawthrop, Alma St. Hx.  | J.33. A. Thorpe, Alma St.         |
| 14. Mrs. Wilby, Alma St. Hx.   | J.34. C. Thorpe, Alma St.         |
| 15. E. M. Irons, Warrington.   | 35. E. Nellist, Middlesbrough.    |
| 16. C. W. Dixon, Daulby Hall.  | 36. E. Pierson, Middlesbrough.    |
| 17. G. H. Morgan, Daulby Hall. | 37. D. Cartwright, Middlesbrough. |
| 18. A. Bruce, Rotherham.       |                                   |
| 19. A. B. Hollis, Rotherham.   | 38. M. Bonney, Middlesbrough.     |
| 20. I. C. Maude, Rotherham.    | J.39. R. Mattock, Redcar.         |
| 21. J. Maude, Rotherham.       | 40. Mrs. George, Daulby Hall.     |

Welcome to Our Guild. May you all put forth your best efforts for its success.

I am well pleased with this list. Sincere thanks to all who have helped with donations, and to all those who intend to send along to me this next month. For Our Guild is still in need of further donations, as we have not yet paid all our debts.

### Donations.

Already acknowledged 10s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. A. Chapman 1s.; Mrs. Wilby 6d.; Miss Irons 1s.; Mr. C. W. Dixon 2s.; Alfred Kitson, 5s.; Mr. Nellist, 9d.; Total £1 0s. 9d.

### Our Guild Week-night Classes.

I don't know whether you are suffering from excessive shyness or whether you are all naturally modest, but only *one* person has written to me about the Guild Class they used to have. So I shall have to put aside my own modesty and talk about the Guild Class I have helped to run in my own Lyceum. I do this as an attempt to help some of our members who are desirous of meeting kindred Guild spirits during the week.

The first thing to do, of course, is to select a night suitable for the majority of members, and arrange a time for meeting; e.g. 7 p.m.—9 p.m. Then a responsible person must be appointed Guild Leader.

Having done this, the next step is to draw up a plan of campaign or, in other words, a time-table. We usually give half an hour each to games, handwork, study for B.S.L.U. exams., ten minutes for Callisthenics, and spend the rest of the time at the Leader's discretion. We find it a good plan to have games first, as latecomers do not then interfere with the work. Different kinds of handwork have been attempted at various times. We have done leather work, raffia

work, rug making, knitting and sewing. This winter (we had our first Guild meeting last Tuesday) the boys are going to do Toy making in wood, using fretsaws, while the girls are going to be busy knitting and sewing. When study time comes along, we divide into classes for the different Grades. Of course, this can only be done when there are sufficient capable people to act as teachers. Those taking the written examinations are given homework each week. The best plan is for each student to have two exercise books; so that work need not be marked on the Guild night. If the cost prohibits this, sheets of paper will answer the purpose just as well.

In Callisthenics' time we try to do the exercises correctly—each one separately first of all without music, and then later with music.

If you are fortunate enough to have a good pianist at your Guild meeting you could indulge in Community Singing, or even in Folk Dancing.

At the close of our Guild Meeting we all pay our Guild pennies—one penny per week, the privilege of elders being that they pay whether present or not. It is surprising how these pennies mount up in a year's time, for even in the summer time when we had week-night rambles or visits to the Parks we paid our Guild pennies just the same.

Here, very briefly, I have tried to show how we carried on our Guild Class at Alma St., Halifax, from 1919-1931 when we discontinued our meetings for the winter. As I have already said, we have begun again and hope that Our Guild will flourish as it did before.

Mr. Nellist of Middlesbrough writes to tell me that he ran a Guild Class there for 2 years under Miss Kitson's leadership. The class was held at his own home, and their members paid one penny each per week which covered cost of Handbooks, Banner, Guild Fees, Examination Fees, etc. He had Oral Graders from 5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m., and while some studied others read books provided, or played quiet games. Thus he was able to give individual attention to them. Then from 7-30 p.m. Grade I people were taken for an hour and after that Grade II people for an hour.

In summer they had rambles or met in the park—so that the Guild was an all the year round activity. The Guild Class at Middlesbrough lapsed when Mr. Nellist left the town.

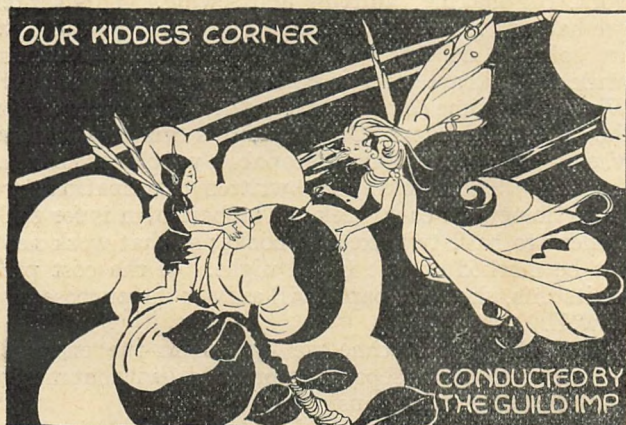
Let me give you one word of advice—don't think *too long* about your Guild Class, but begin it straight away. Don't wait for large numbers, begin with a small class; it is much easier to feel your way and experiment with a few than with a crowd. Remember the work you put into such a class will bring you much pleasure and lasting happiness.

If you are worried, puzzled or perplexed about anything regarding the Guild do not hesitate to write to me—I shall be only too pleased to help you, if I can. Remember, *that* is my job.

### To All Lyceums.

Is your Lyceum represented in the list of Guild Members? If not, why not? Look out for December BANNER for competitions.

The best of wishes to all of you, from  
The Guild Leader,  
28, Moorlands Place, G. M. HALLIDAY,  
Free School Lane, Halifax.



Dear Little Imps,

Mr. Merryweather must surely have been playing at shop, for he has given us samples of all the sorts of weather that lay in his store. Cold, windy days have made us ask for an extra blanket at bedtime, and then warmer days have made us wonder why we troubled. Drenching days have suddenly had sunny patches that laughed at our umbrellas. But, in amongst it all, I wonder how many Imps remembered how to blow bubbles when they couldn't fly kites, and make fairy balls when they couldn't gather blackberries?

### BABY RAINBOWS.

Jack looked out of the window. The wind seemed ever so strong, and he watched the clouds sail across the grey sky, and saw the leaves scurry from the trees. Then, Jack saw his first rainbow, and he cried out in delight to his sister, "Oh, Madge, come quickly and see the sky!" Madge rushed to his side and he pointed to the many coloured arch that showed across the sky. "What can it be?" asked Madge. "I didn't know there could be ribbon in the sky." "It's too big to be ribbon," answered Jack. "Besides, I have never seen ribbon with all those colours in before. Let us ask Mum."

Mum came from the kitchen in answer to their call, and laughed as they pointed to the rainbow and asked lots of questions about it. "That is a rainbow, dears," she said, "It comes to tell us that the storm will pass. Isn't it lovely?" "Yes, Mum," said Jack, "But where does it end?" "Ah, I wish I knew that, too," said Mum, "I think it ends in Fairyland, but it is too far off for us to go and see." "I wish we could keep some of that rainbow," said Madge, "It is pretty."

Mum thought for a moment before she answered Madge, and then said. "We can't keep any of that rainbow, but I think I know how to make little rainbows. It is too wild for you to play out of doors tonight. Watch the big rainbow just a little longer, whilst I go to buy you something, and then I will show you this new game."

By the time Mum returned, the rainbow had disappeared from the sky, and the children greeted her

eagerly. She had brought in two new, clay pipes, and very soon Mum had covered the table with a towel, and had put on it two basins of soapy water. "It looks nearly like washing day," said Madge. "Yes," said Mum "I often find rainbows amongst my washing. Now, watch!"

The children watched closely as Mum dipped the bowl of a pipe into the soapsuds, and then gave a little puff as tho' she was smoking. From the pipe there rose a tiny, fairy, ball, which grew and grew, and then sailed up into the air. In the ball, were all the rainbow colours. "A baby rainbow!" cried Madge. "I can keep that one!" She grasped at the bubble, and found her hand empty, but wet. Mum shook her head. "No, Madge, we cannot keep the rainbows, but we can always make them when we want them. Now you two try to make bubbles."

An hour seemed to fly by as the children blew bubble after bubble from their pipes. Sometimes they could only make tiny ones; but other bubbles grew and grew, and grew—and then burst; yet every bubble held its rainbow. Most of the bubbles left the pipes and sailed away, like dancing fairies, only to disappear as they neared the ceiling. Madge liked the little ones best, they seemed to hold such dainty baby rainbows, but Jack puffed hard to make the biggest bubble. He didn't mind their bursting. It was such fun to make them grow.

Bedtime came all too soon, and pipes were washed and dried, and the soapsuds thrown away. "That big rainbow was lovely," said Jack. "I wonder when it will come again?" "I liked that one too," said Madge; "But it wasn't half so much fun as making baby rainbows, and Mum says we can make them any rainy day." "I know," said her brother, "It is a great game, but I wonder why they always burst, and I wonder how the colours get inside?" "Yes," cried Madge, "And I wonder why I can go on making rainbows, and yet never be able to keep one, and I wonder who does live near the foot of the rainbow and can really visit Fairyland?" On and on the children wondered, until, at last, sleep led them into the Wonderland of dreams. Can you wonder that, that night, Wonderland seemed full of the baby rainbows that had escaped from their bubbles?

A big Imp has sent me the story of some Sheffield sparrows. Let me share it with you. It is quite true.

Two little girls heard a commotion amongst some sparrows. This is what they saw. A number of sparrows were stood near to an air grate in a wall, and each bird had brought some food in its beak. Some had worms, others had bread, but each one pushed the food through the grating, and then flew off for more. Sometimes they dare not go to the grating for a cat lay there watching and waiting. When that happened, the birds would fly to a nearby tree, and wait until the cat walked away, when they could return to the grating with their gifts of food. One of the girls grew curious, and took a poker to the grating and bent back the bars. Much to her surprise, out flew two sparrows to be welcomed by their friends in the tree. Somehow these sparrows had fallen down a space in the wall, and had become imprisoned in the grating: but weren't they lucky to have such good friends and weren't their friends wise birds?

My love to all Imps,

MEG.



My Dear Boys and Girls,

I concluded my last month's letter to you with a Pearl :

"We cannot expect our ship to come in if we have never set one sailing on the seas of life."

There is a very common saying which can be associated with this, "Wait until my ship comes home" usually suggesting that one day some good fortune will come to us. I want to try and show you the truth of these gems of thought by considering a few of the lessons connected with ships. I never think about ships without associating a trip I had many years ago to the Dogger Bank in the North Sea. It was a wonderful voyage and full of experiences. The outstanding one was my first two meals on board; dinner, a plate of the fattest pork you ever saw; tea, a good supply of bread and butter and black currant jam; result, my little Mary feeling very unsettled. I must confess my second day was mainly spent looking overboard fully alive to the fact that there were many ups and downs to a would be seaman.

After this I really spent a delightful time amongst those who spend most of their life at sea in order to provide the country with fish.

In our Pearl we are reminded of an incoming ship. Suppose you had a Uncle or Auntie who had been in Australia for many years, and they wrote and said they were arriving in England by a certain ship on a particular day. Wouldn't you be excited to see them. Further suppose you had the good fortune to be taken to the Docks where they were to arrive; what a great moment it would be in your life when you saw that majestic ship coming in sight. I am certain you would just jump for joy when it sailed up along the quayside and you saw your relative descending the gangway.

You would rush to greet them with a great hug and kiss and life would be full of happiness.

This is the sort of experience I want you all to gain concerning the ship which is referred to in our pearl. To gain this we see there are conditions to be considered. It would certainly be useless to say "Wait until my ship comes home" if we have not sent one out. Most of you, boys especially, have sailed boats on the lake in your park or at the seaside; if you want them to do all you expect you have to adjust their sails so that the wind will carry them to where you want them to go; or if a clockwork boat it has to be wound up and set in the right direction. You set them sailing and are ready to meet them, because you have done your part. The ship in question is our character sailing the sea of life.

Let me put it very simply to you. We set sail early in the morning from what we will call the quayside, which in reality is the bedside; our first part of the journey is to school.

Even on this early stage of our voyage we may hit up against some rocks. We might be tempted to throw a stone at a cat or call a school chum an unwelcome nickname. If we fall into this temptation we have struck the rock of unkindness and our ship is at once damaged. Whereas if we find a chance of doing a good deed on the way to school all goes well with our sailing. Then we come to our lessons, if we pay due attention to those who teach us we steer our ship to the port of success; but if we are careless and say "Oh! I don't care" we find ourselves drifting into a thick fog and are in danger of running on a sandbank, through our own carelessness. Thus we continue sailing upon life's sea. At times we may run into stormy weather, but if we have done a good turn wherever we had the opportunity: endeavouring to help our school pals and all we meet then we can be certain that our ship will return to that port which we will call success, because we have steered it correctly.

I am sure you all intend to become useful men and women in the world, although you have only just set sail. I am confident that by taking the Lyceum teaching as your compass, you will see the fulfilment of this Pearl.

Next month I hope to give you a true story of a Lyceumist who sailed overseas. You will be delighted when you here all about her, I am just waiting for details of her story. This is going to interest my oversea boys and girls too.

#### ANSWER TO PUZZLE 187.

- |               |               |                |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Stockport  | 2. Winnington | 3. Littleton   |
| 4. Earby      | 5. Newport    | 6. Bolton      |
| 7. Guildford  | 8. Runcorn    | 9. Parkgate    |
| 10. Oldham    | 11. Windhill  | 12. Stapleford |
| 13. Devonport | 14. Stockton  | 15. Cornsay.   |
| 16. Longton   |               |                |

On going to press the most correct answers were from Mrs. Dean, Bury Lyceum (Thirteen).

PUZZLE No. 188. A further list of words if joined together correctly will give you the names of eighteen Lyceums.

Black, Wood, Head, South, Castle, Field, Borough, Wake, Ham, An, End, Bees, Peter, Burn, Ton, Gates, Pool, Clap, Forth, East, New, Shields, Liver, Wig, Black, Stain, Peck, South, Port.

I shall look for at least one letter from each of the Lyceums discovered.

In closing I want to give you a word of hope from Nature. At this period of the year we often hear the remark that winter will soon be here.

Such a statement suggest long dark cold days, but I saw a beautiful ray of hope given in my newspaper a few days ago.

It was "Now is the time to put in crocus bulbs." What a beautiful lesson in these few words, something we can do to break up winter's gloom with colour and beauty.

In the same way now is the time to sow seeds of kindness which will bring forth sunshine during the winter months.

With love,  
UNCLE BERT.

Ruberrondo,  
126, Woodlands Rd.,  
Isleworth, Middx.

## THE THINGS WE HEAR.

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

In reference to the statement regarding Mr. Hart's non-attendance at the Selection Committee meeting we understand that although Mr. Shuttleworth posted the letter convening the same to Mr. Hart, Mr. Hart never received the said letter, and quite naturally did not attend the meeting.

JAMES NORBURY, Editor.

### THE SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL UNION, LTD. FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

I have pleasure to report the following income for June, July and August (1932).

June.—Glasgow Association £5, Southern District Council Picnic Collection £2 12s. 9d., 'Meols' 5s., A grateful friend 14s., Mrs. C. M. Fisher, 10s., Mrs. H. M. Underwood 10s., Fred J. Maundrelle 2s. 6d., from 'H' £5, Mrs. McLaughlan 10s., J. W. Turner £1. Total £16 4s. 3d.

July.—S.N.U., A.G.M., Glasgow Conference Retiring Collection £8 10s., Plymouth, Morley St. Church Collecting Box £2, Yorkshire District Council Collection, Hull, Holborn Hall, 6s.; Marsden Church 10s., Mr. and Mrs. George 10s. 6d., J. M., 2s. 6d., Miss M. H. Newman 2s. 6d., A. Topping 10s., Meols 5s., Northern Area, collected by Mr. W. Dornell Todd, Bedlington N.S.C. 15s., N.D.C., Whitley Bay Conference Retiring Collection 10s., Mr. J. Ridley 2s. 6d., Anon 6d., Mrs. Martin Dodds, 2s. 6d., Mrs. A. M. Wood, 1s. Total £14 8s.

August.—Juliette's Thankofferings £10, Bonus from War Loan Contributor £1, Meols 5s., Mrs. Christie's part fee, Hebden Bridge Church 10s. 6d., Mrs. Griffiths, Barrow Home Circle, 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Hare, Balance of Seances held at 39, Africa Gardens, Cardiff, 12s.; Southern Counties Lyceum District Council 6s. Total £12 18s.

Yours gratefully,

Mary L. STAIR, Hon. Sec.

### SOUTHERN COUNTIES LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Quarterly Meeting was held at Portsmouth Temple, on Saturday, August 27th, at 3-30, Mrs. E. Taylor, the President, occupying the chair.

The President opened the Meeting with an invocation.

Adoption of the minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting.

Correspondence, dealing upon the answers received to the circular letters issued to the Secretaries of the Churches relative to invitations for 1933. Apologies from Brighton.

Treasurer's Report given by Mrs. Hart showing a balance in hand of £3 2s. 9d., a decrease on last Quarter's Report.

Secretary's report. Representatives present from Portsmouth, Southampton and Ryde. Our Associate Members have decreased in number as compared to last year, but all Affiliation Fees are paid to date.

The outing to Lee on the Solent was a great success, 153 sitting to tea. All Lyceums who took part donated towards the prizes for the sports, and personal gifts from Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Harwood were wisely used. The credit balance to the D.C. funds on this venture amounted to 13s. 9d.

The list of successful Students in the B.S.L.U. Exam. were read and congratulations offered.

The Secretary made mention of the attitude of the S.N.U. President to the Education Scheme, and it was agreed to report the opposition of the Council to the same, in the BANNER.

Open Council. It was agreed to immediately affiliate to the U.D.C. Mr. H. C. Guy being elected the accredited delegate to attend the meetings upon instruction from the Council. The question of an amalgamated outing for 1933 was discussed and it was agreed to raise the matter at the A.G.M. of this Council.

Congratulations to be forwarded to Miss Briggs for her recent success in the Advanced Course of the Education Scheme, and to Miss Joan Hole in having had an original poem published in the LYCEUM BANNER.

An invitation to hold the next Council Meeting at Ryde, on Saturday, November 12th, was accepted with thanks.

Mrs. Hart offered the Votes of Thanks on behalf of the Council, and Mrs. Moule, of Portsmouth Temple, suitably responded. Meeting terminated at 5-0 p.m.

H. C. GUY, G.N.S.C., Hon. Sec.

### BOLTON DISTRICT.

The quarterly meeting was held at Westhoughton Lyceum on Aug. 27th. Mr. J. R. Charnley, President, was in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Correspondence was accepted and confirmed.

The President gave a short but interesting address. He spoke of the spirit of co-operation that had been engendered between the N.E. Lancs. D.C. and ourselves, and hoped that this would continue. The D.V. moved a resolution that the Council try to raise £10 to be equally divided between the Council Funds and the National Appeal Fund, which was unanimously agreed upon.

The Secretary in his report expressed regret that one Lyceum in the district had unavoidably had to close. We are putting every effort forward to recommence this Lyceum and hope to be successful. Out of the Treasurer's report it was found that our finance was very low, but we feel sure that this will be reversed before long. The District Visitor reported visits to Bolton, Bradford St. and Deane Rd.

Mr. Charnley and Mr. Liles, Conference delegates, gave a precis of the Conference. This report was confirmed after several questions had been answered.

A letter from the U.D.C. created a deal of discussion and various opinions were expressed. It was moved, seconded and carried 'that the U.D.C. in our opinion had outlived its purpose' and steps should be taken to disband same.

Our Council had decided that we form a Concert Party for a concert at Radcliffe on Nov. 27th. Bradford St. have organised a select dance in their Lyceum on Nov. 12th. These efforts are being organised with a view to raising £10, half of which goes towards the President's, Mr. J. Shuttleworth's National Appeal.

We were very glad to receive from Mr. Jones and Mr. Robinson offers of articles towards these funds. Lyceumists in the District please make a note of the special dates mentioned so that you may help the National Appeal and incidentally help the Council.

The £2,000 Effort is receiving attention and before long I hope to be able to send along the result in cash.

T. LILES, Sec.

### TEE-SIDE'S GREAT DRIVE.

The Quarterly Conference of this Council was held at the Middlesbrough (Grange Rd.) Lyceum on Sunday, 14th August, 1932. In addition to the usual routine business the following items of interest were dealt with:—

It was decided to inaugurate a "2,000 Membership Campaign." In this connection a large majority stood to signify their intention to work hard for this object, and recited the Lyceumists' Pledge, "With the help of God and the Angels we will ever try to realise by our devotion to Love, Truth and Justice, the Divine ideal here upon earth."

Mr. A. H. Colbourne (Middlesbrough) was elected to the office of Treasurer.

Redcar and Durham Lyceums were accepted into affiliation and applications to B.S.L.U. endorsed.

Mrs. Graham (D.V.) was appointed to convey "Fraternal Greetings" to the Wilson Street Lyceum.

The President welcomed Mr. Etherington (Northern D.C., S.N.U.), Mr. Ward (Durham) and Mr. E. V. Adams (Redcar) to the E.C.

There was a good attendance at the Lyceum Session in the afternoon. Various members of the Council assisted by taking the Manual Selections. Owing to lack of time it was only possible for Mr. Etherington (N.D.C.) and Mrs. Ainsworth (President) to address the Lyceum. Mrs. Graham (District Visitor) presented certificates to Grange Rd. Lyceum's successful students. Mr. S. Ingham (Middlesbrough) read an interesting paper on "Has the Lyceum Movement Progressed?"

Will all Lyceum Secretaries please note that the next Conference is to be held at the Durham Lyceum, on Sunday 20th November, 1932.

E. NELLIST, G.N.S.C., Sec.

### NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The District Council Meeting was held on Aug. 26th, at Moor Lane Lyceum, Preston. Mr. C. T. Batley presided, supported by Miss M. E. Lawton, Mr. T. Wood, Mr. J. Shuttleworth. Miss M. E. Lawton and T. Wood were appointed Credential Officers. The Secretary read the Minutes of the last meeting. After the question of Christian Spiritualist Lyceums being discussed, the Minutes were adopted.

The correspondence was referred back to reports. The

Treasurer's report showed a debit balance of 4s. 7d. Cottage Fund owing, £11 15s. 6d. The Secretary, reporting on National matters, asked all to pull their weight, and pointed out that the B.S.L.U. relied on sale of its publications for its main profit.

Miss Lawton and J. W. Simmonds in moving the acceptance of the Secretary's report also moved that the Secretary be congratulated on attaining to the office of President of the B.S.L.U. The Secretary then spoke of the financial position of the Union. A report was read from Mr. Latham *re* Clitheroe Lyceum. The District Visitors report was accepted, and it was moved, seconded and carried that the attention of the D.V. be drawn to the motion that he shall visit each Lyceum once per annum. The Adjudicator asked for a ruling as to whether Clitheroe Lyceum was to be again visited. The suggestion was moved, seconded and carried.

*Re Earby.* The secretary reported on the question of Earby, arising out of correspondence, and stated that he had been in touch with both Lyceums and as a result had paid a visit to the village. He found that 'Onward' had been closed for some weeks. He next visited Greenend Avenue Lyceum and as the outcome of a discussion with them he recommended that the application was not endorsed. Mr. Burrows, Treasurer, B.S.L.U., supporting the Secretary's remarks, stated he was of the opinion that the best thing to do was to allow the matter to die naturally. It was then moved, seconded, and carried, that the question of Earby lie on the table, *sine die*.

Conference report was presented by E. Holding, who gave a general résumé of the business transactions. This report was accepted. Questions were asked *re* N.E. Cheshire motion and the Education Scheme ages, and E. Thompson spoke on the matter. He thought fee raising was of no use and that we start a campaign to bring new members into the movement. We require something to create increased interest in our movement, more in tune with the age in which we live. Mr. Dickinson spoke against the ideas outlined above. The Secretary stressed the necessity for the increased circulation of our literature and agreed with Mr. Thompson that increased fees were of little use. Mr. Burrows emphasised how much the Union relied upon the sale of its publications, and relied upon Lyceumists for the use of our books and pamphlets. Miss Lawton said that an idea was abroad that the Education handbooks were only for students, and pointed out how valuable they were in group work in Lyceums to give Lyceumists a sound grounding in the fundamental facts of our Union.

The Credential Report was,—E.C.4, B.S.L.U. 1. Delegates 16, representing 9 Lyceums. Lyceums not represented 16. Associates 3. Visitors 3. Total 27. Pool 6s. 1d. per Lyceum.

Vote of Thanks was given to local friends and it was moved, seconded, and carried that the next meeting be at Lancaster on Nov. 26th, 1932. The President appealed for the support of the Lyceum Guild. The Secretary drew attention to the "Lyceum Banner" and invited all present to look forward to the next number with interest as he thought it would be well worth their while. The President closed the meeting at 7-40 p.m. Unfinished business is to be dealt with at Lancaster.

J.S., Sec.

#### INTERESTING EVENTS AT NORTH LONDON.

Two interesting events took place in connection with our Lyceum during August, one being the naming of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brooke on Sunday, 21st. The happy ceremony was performed by the Conductor, Mr. W. W. Drinkwater, assisted by Mrs. Drinkwater, and our youngest Lyceumist, Irene Florence, spirit name Faith, was accorded a loving welcome. Our prayer is that she and those who are dear to her may long remain with us to assist in the wonderful work with her fellow members.

The other is that the Loyalty League had their Annual Outing to Whipsnade on Saturday, 27th 20 members having a most enjoyable time in perfect weather. Four were absent, two being on holidays, and two unfortunately away through sickness. It is interesting to record that the Loyalty League is now five years old.

N. C. WHORLOW.

#### LIVERPOOL LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting was held at Crompton St., Wigan on Sept. 10th commencing at 3 p.m. The President, Mrs. Clitheroe, presided over delegates from: Chester, Wigan, Daulby Hall, Boaler St., Southport and Runcorn; Officers 4, Total 13. Arising out of the minutes it was decided that the Council send a letter of welcome to our General Secretary Mr. Norbury, and assure him of our full co-operation in any work

he may take up for the benefit of the Union. Arising out of Correspondence it was agreed to accept with regret the resignations of Mrs. Watson as District Visitor, and Mr. W. Roberts was appointed for that position.

*Reports. Secretary.* The Eisteddfod this year was more successful both in number of entries and standard of marks,—also in finance. It brought in a profit of £1 4s. 8d. Some of this was due to the kindness of the Adjudicators in giving their services, and to several prizes being left over from last year. Arising out of this report it was decided that a small gift be given to Mrs. Williams, the Adjudicator, for having helped us three successive years.

It was suggested that the prize winners give their items at the Massed Session in October.

Mr. Keeling expressed his regret at not being able, owing to a Council Meeting, to attend the Massed Session.

*Adjudicator of the Session Competition.* Mr. Dixon stated the general improvement of the Lyceums, and gave some very valuable suggestions. Many questions were asked *re* his interpretation of the different headings which aroused interesting discussion. A very hearty vote of thanks and appreciation was accorded for his services and presence amongst us.

*Conference Report.* Mrs. Clitheroe and Mrs. George gave a lengthy report, which was received without any questions or discussion.

*Treasurer.* Mr. Jones stated that after all expenses had been met up to the end of the meeting, there would remain a balance of £2 14s. 6d.

*Definite Policy.* "The Internal Education Scheme" has been concentrated upon by all Lyceumists and the general report is that they are adopting it, as far as circumstances and opportunities permit. The subject this quarter is "B.S.L.U. Finance." Delegates are requested to impress serious consideration of this, and ask Lyceums if possible to help in a practical way by sending a donation forward. Great expense has been incurred by the removal of the new offices to Manchester.

*£2,000 Effort.* The Council's Effort is lying in abeyance. Lyceums are concentrating upon the "Mile of Pennies," but the scheme is open till February 1933, when all monies are to be handed in.

*The Pooling Scheme for delegates to the B.S.L.U. Conference.*

It was decided to put this into operation immediately, and that the drafting of rules be referred to the E.C. for ratification at the November Meeting.

*Button Badges.* The Council have decided to purchase these in six plain colours, and five corresponding colours with Leader printed on. Price to Lyceums, 10d. per doz plain colours, 1s. 9d. per doz. with Leader.

*Open Council.* Mr. Jones reported on having attended the opening session of Wrexham Lyceum and believes that the enthusiasm shown was indicative of success.

*Suggested Invitation to the B.S.L.U. for 1933 Conference.* It was suggested that representatives from Boaler St., Daulby Hall and Birkenhead Lyceums meet to discuss the possibilities of this invitation to our District.

A vote of thanks was heartily accorded to Wigan friends for their hospitality.

Will all Lyceums requesting tea at the Massed Session to be held in Daulby Hall on Oct. 23rd, 2-30 p.m., please apply to Miss M. Keeling, 8, Knocloid Road, Tue Brook, Liverpool, not later than Oct. 15th. LILLIE GEORGE, Hon. Sec.

#### MANOR PARK MASS SESSION.

On Sept. 4th we held a Mass Session at which many Lyceums in the district were well represented. Several representatives from the London L.D.C. visited us and exchanged fraternal greetings. An interesting event was the presentation of 17 B.S.L.U. Certificates to the successful candidates by Mr. Sarfas. We all enjoyed a really live session.

A. E. TRUMBLE, Sec.

#### UNITED DISTRICTS COUNCIL.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Council will be held in the Church and Lyceum, Alma St., Halifax, on Sat. and Sun., October 15th and 16th. A good attendance of delegates is desired as business is very important.

Delegates arriving by train will proceed along Horton St., turn right along Commercial St., to Crown St., thence to Alma St., via St. James Rd.

Please notify Miss G. Halliday, 28, Moorland Place, Free School Lane, Halifax, before Oct. 9th, of your requirements.

A. S. D., Sec.

TYNESIDE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Tyneside Lyceum District Council is celebrating its 21st birthday on October 16th in the Heaton and Byker Church, which has been generously granted to us for this occasion. Lyceums outside a six mile radius from Heaton will receive 50% of the travelling expenses, for all Lyceumists up to 14 years of age who attend the celebration. The maximum amount allowed will be 7s. 6d. All Lyceumists up to 14 years of age will be provided with tea free. Adults teas, 9d. per head. There will be a Massed Session and Rally in the afternoon at 2-30. Roll Call and reply by each Lyceum. At 6-30 there will be a Service at which anthems will be rendered by the Heaton and Byker Church Choir. Representatives will be present from the Northern District Council of the S.N.U. and Teeside L.D.C. Chairman, Mr. Martin Dodds. President of Tyneside L.D.C. We are hoping for a representative meeting of Lyceum and Church activities in the Tyneside district. A hearty welcome is extended to all who would like to celebrate with us.

GEO. P. ROBSON.

THE ACCRINGTON AND DISTRICT JOINT LYCEUM'S COMMITTEE.

At the A.G.M. on the 8th of Jan. this year Gt. Harwood Lyceum resigned from the Joint Committee, and Burnley, North St. and Hammerton St. Lyceums were invited to join. Hammerton St. declined the invitation but North St. accepted.

The latest function of the Joint Committee was in co-operating with Burnley, Hammerton St., Bacup, Todmorden, and Brierfield and other Lyceums, in holding a Massed Procession and Demonstration at Burnley, on Sat., August 20th, when close upon 400 marched in procession headed by Nelson Lyceum Morris Dancers. North St.'s splendid Banner followed the Band, and then came the "Rose Queen" and other children suitably dressed for the occasion.

A good display of Marching and Callisthenics was given on the field which North St. Lyceum had engaged for their Field Day.

Later in the evening an exciting day was brought to a close by a social effort in the Church and Lyceum at North St., Burnley. The A. & D.J.L.C. is helping to keep the Lyceum flag flying.

WALTER TAYLOR, A.N.S.C.

THE FATHER OF OUR MOVEMENT.

We regret to hear that Alfred Kitson, F.N.S.C., is suffering from nervous exhaustion and wish him, in the name of the Union and all readers, a speedy recovery to health.

TRANSITION OF MRS. HEY.

As we go to press we hear with great regret of the passing of Mrs. Ruth Hey, of Darwen, after many months of suffering. To a very wide circle she will be remembered as the widow of the late Hanson G. Hey, in his day one of the foremost workers in the Spiritualist movement and at one time Secretary of the Spiritualists' National Union. Our deepest sympathies go out to the near and dear ones who are left to mourn her earthly loss. May they be comforted by the knowledge that their loss is the Spirit World's gain.

IN MEMORIAM.

BEGG.—In loving memory of Arthur, dearly loved husband of Emily Begg, Scunthorpe, passed higher life, October 17th, 1931. "Memories Cling." Ivy Sprakes, Sec.

AROUND OUR LYCEUMS.

**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 September 21st.

**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 26th 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.—Open Session held Sept. 4th. Conducted by Miss Janey Keneford. Recitations by Miss Phyllis Edwards, Master Billie Edwards, Miss Jean Farnworth. Solos were rendered by Mr. William Crabtree, Miss Nellie Laycock, Frances Laycock, Stanley Laycock. Duets by Masters Walter E. Swift and Billie Edwards. Trio by Mrs. Houlker, Walter E. Swift, Billie Edwards.—Mrs. Crabtree, Sec.

ACCRINGTON, Argyle St.—Open Session on Sept 11th, 1932, conducted by Mr. W. Taylor. Organist, E. Tabiner, Recitation, P. Glover, B. Bartlett, N. Woodhead. Solos, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Taylor, M. Bradshaw, B. Bartlett. Duet, Miss F. Holgate and W. White.—J. Jameson, Sec.

BACUP.—At our Open Session on Sept 4th we greatly enjoyed readings by Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Halsall, Dorothy Halsall, A. Wright, Mrs. Halsall, Jean Patchett. Solos by Mr. Harris, Mrs. Halsall, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Wright. Duets by Mrs. Wright and Mary McKenna; Dorothy Halsall and A. Wright. A quartette was pleasingly rendered by Harry Salts, James Cleman, Doris Clayburn, Mary McKenna. Conductor, Mrs. Carter.—S. Carter, A.N.S.C., Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—The Open Session on Sept. 4th was conducted by Mr. Thompson. Pearls, recitations and solos were rendered by Gwennie and Muriel Watson, Elizabeth and Ernie Saunders, Mr. Williams, Miss E. Thompson, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Harper, A visitor, Florrie Watson, Mrs. Mars, Lily Harding, Mr. Grove, Ernest Kneale, Wm. A. Kneale, Mrs. Harding. Pianoforte solos by Eileen Edwards and Mr. Whiteley. Violin solo by Albert Thompson.—Wm. KNEALE, Sec.

BRIERFIELD.—Open Session held Sept. 4th. Recitations by Margaret James and Peggy Schofield. Piano solo by Miss Wiseman. Duet by Peggy Schofield and Ethel Kershaw. An enjoyable afternoon was spent —Miss E. Miller, Sec.

BRISTOL.—The chief feature at our Open Session on Sept. 18th was the presentation of an attache case to Willie Baker, who leaves us to take up his studies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Bristol City School, having won a scholarship. Examination Certificates were presented by our Conductor, Mrs. Bowen. The Session was taken by the Leader, Mrs. Baker. Miss Thompson, Secretary, was in the chair. Four incidental prizes for essay and choir work were presented to Jim Cottle, Willie Baker, Iris Pain and Willie Eaglestone.—Mildred Thompson, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sept. 4th our Open Session was conducted by Mr. Heath. The following Lyceumists rendered various items, Audrey, Kathleen, and Evelyn Clements, Mervyn, Glynn and Irene Cowell, Jimmy and Vera Rippon, Irene and Harold Hobster, Shirley Widdowson, Ivy Hall, Sidney Hobster, Mr. Campbell and Mrs. Briggs. Marching and callisthenics were enjoyed by all. The Session was brought to a close by an invocation by Mr. Campbell.—Avis Bown, Session Sec.

CLECKHEATON.—Our Open Session, Sept. 4th, was conducted by Miss A. Thornton. Silver Chain 75, Musical Reading 242, connective readings being read by H. Horsley, Miss M. B. Robinson and Mrs. Wright, on which good explanations were given by the readers. Pearls by Miss E. Tate, Herbert Horsley (2), Norah Frear, and Mrs. Wright. Solo by Herbert Horsley.—(Miss) M. B. Robinson, Sec.

DEWSBURY.—On Sunday, Aug. 28th, we held our Open Session. Conductor Mr. J. Whittles. Student Conductor, Hilda Bennett. Pearls were given by Margaret Greenwood, Etye Day, Elsie Badley, Clarissa Phillips, Edwin Stott, Dorothy Dunn, Elizabeth Badley, Annie Johnson, Phyllis Dunn, Miss E. Stott, Miss Pennock, Elsie Roebuck, Miss A. Bentley, Miss M. Johnson, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. E. Whitworth, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Hartley, Mrs. Whitworth, Mrs. Shackleton, Mrs. V. Phillips, Mrs. G. Oakes, Mr. C. Phillips, Mr. G.

Oakes, Mr. R. Phillips, Mr. Cooper, Gerald Hey, George Badley, Walter Bennett, Walter Oakes, Harry Oakes, James Badley, Jack Stott, Hilda Bennett, Mr. J. Whittles, also our Speaker on Saturday night, Mrs. Bullock, from Manchester. Recitations by Cissie Greenwood, Ettie Day, Fred Johnson, Cyril Oakes, Gladys Townend. Solos by Mrs. C. Phillips. Duet, Mr. E. Wilson, Mrs. J. Whittles.

Our Conductor handed out the Education Certificates to the students in the Lyceum. There was about 120 present, and we had a very good Session.—V. R. Phillips, Sec.

DONCASTER, Catherine St.—We held our Open Session Sept. 4th., conducted by Miss Johnson. The following Lyceumists took part, L. Middleton, J. Mottram, D. Middleton, D. Mottram, V. Soan, A. Ball, and Master Crossland.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

EARBY, Greenend Avenue.—On Sept. 4th we held a delightful Open Session at which songs and recitations were given by E. Greenhalgh, E. Hancock, I. Cryer, E. Cryer, E. Barker, D. Lea, M. Lea, G. Hancock, C. Eaton, R. Hancock, G. Blackburn, D. Clough, H. Etherington, I. Hancock, W. Hancock, F. Clarke, N. Hodgkinson, O. Wilkins, G. Morby, D. Eaton, H. Holden. These were followed by a trio by W. Wintersgill, A. G. Morby and W. Millican.—A. G. Morby, Sec.

EASTLEIGH.—Our Harvest Festival was held on Sept. 18th. Pearls and songs were rendered by Lyceumists. Fruit and vegetables were given to sick friends and hospitals.—R. L. Harwood, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—On Aug. 28th we held our Open Session, when the following Lyceumists contributed to a very pleasing programme. Recitations by Marie Dews, Mona Hague, Bertha, Benjamin and Tom Wright. Duets by Jessie Woods and Margaret Gibson, Kathleen Hague and Irene Hutt, Irene Watkins and Lily Frith, Irene Roscow and Laura Mather, Ruth and Dorothy Harris, Eric Horan and John Reeve. Trios by Doris Parkinson, Ruth and Dorothy Harris, Eric Horan, Willie Gibson and Fred Williams. Solos by Mrs. Parkinson. Piano-forte solo by Doris Parkinson.—L. Vollans, Sec.

LANCASTER, Britten Hall, Bulk Road.—At our Open Session on Sept. 4th, items were rendered by S. Dobson, E. Stephenson, D. Bleadale, M. Dodding. The speaker for the day was Miss Turner, of Blackburn, and we also had the pleasure of a visit from our D.V.—M. Bowskill, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—At our Open Session on Sept. 4th recitations were given by Lily Jayes, Mrs. Manton, Mdm. Dehoux, Horace Jayes. Solos by Mrs. Sanders. Duet by Joan Whitbread and Lily Jayes. A novel feature was chorus singing by several Lyceumists.

On Sept. 18th we held our Harvest Festival. A very delightful day was spent. Mrs. Wass was the speaker.—T. Kenney, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Maskell St.—At our Open Session on Sept. 4th recitations were given by Misses Dorothy and Alma Sharp, Clara Brannar, Doris and Marian Ford, Master Roy Street. Piano-forte solos by Misses M. Bell, M. Hart, A. Pinson. Master R. Hart sang a solo. Fraternal greetings were exchanged with eleven Lyceums.

On Sept. 18th our Liberty Group was conducted by Mr. J. Barnett. A very interesting time was spent.

It is with regret we report the passing to the Higher Life on Sept. 15th of one of our Lyceumists, Mr. J. Henshaw, esteemed brother of our Conductor.—S. Sharp, Sec.

MOSTON Progressive Lyceum.—On Sept. 4th Mr. Hart (Pres., M.&S.L.D.C.) presented the Certificates won in the recent examinations to the candidates before a packed audience at the Harvest Festival. The Lyceum had a special corner. The Church and Lyceum spent a very happy day together.—J. R. Parker, Sec.

NEWTON HEATH.—We have had a busy month during September. On Sept 4th Miss Watson named two babies in a very pleasing manner. Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves' son was given the earthly name of "Neville," spirit name, "Conqueror." Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Froggart's son was given the earthly names of "Harry Fairfax," spirit name "Victor." The latter name was given on the request of an uncle of the baby who had been a Lyceumist and who was in spirit. Madonna Lillies, Pink Carnations and Red Roses were used and were afterwards left on the Lyceum table.

On Sept. 11th Miss Watson named the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stopford. Earthly names "Gladys Rita," spirit name "Primrose."

On Sept. 18th our Liberty Group was conducted by Mr. Baker of Droylsden. Subject, "Witchcraft, the Law, and Spiritualism." We are re-opening our Free and Easy Tuesday nights for the winter months, as this is a means of keeping our adult members in touch with each other.—Miss Fannie Shaw, Sec.

PRESTON.—Our Open Session on Sept. was conducted by Mr. Margerison. There was a good response from the children.

We had recitations by Mavis Holt, Connie and Agnes Tallon, Ronald Holt and Harold Kilner. Mr. Pollard, of Burnely, recited, and greetings were exchanged. A number of pearls were given.—Helen Kilner, Sec.

PRESTON, Tenterfield St.—We held our Open Session on Sept. 4th. Lyceumists entertained us with various items, we had a very pleasant session.—Evelyn Curtis, Sec.

Redcar.—Sept. 4th, Open Session. Pearls were given by R. Wells A. Baird, Miss Wardle, B. Baird, G. Wells, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Adams and Mrs. Oates. Recitations, B. Baird. Solos, Miss Wardle, G. Wells, Baird, and Ronald Wells.—Mr. A. E. Wells, Sec.

ROTHERHAM, —Anniversary, Sept. 18th. Afternoon, Massed Session. Conductor, Miss Hollis. Mr. Webb, president S.D.C., presented 16 Examination Certificates. Numerous visitors. Evening Service, speaker, Mr. Webb. Lyceumists rendered solos and recitations. Monday, successful Tea and Social.—A. Bruce, G.N.S.C., Sec.

RYDE, Newport St. (sponsored by Portsmouth Temple), Sept. 18th, Harvest Festival. Amid a beautiful array of fruit and flowers the Lyceum rendered their Service of Song "Harvest Praise." Recitations, solos and readings by adults and children. Every one present gave a Harvest Pearl. Our Conductor, Miss Reeves, A.N.S.C., called on Mrs. Annie Patterson (late Conductor, South Shields) to present the Education Certificates to five successful students in the B.S.L.U. Examinations.—E. Oak, Sec.

SCUNTHORPE.—A memorial service was held for Mrs. Martin, church being well filled. One of our Lyceumists, Mrs. Begg, took the church service for week-end Sept. 4th, and gave an inspiring address. Several more children have joined our school.—Ivy Sprakes, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—We are again extremely fortunate in having the greater part of our Anniversary words and music entirely original. For this we are indebted to Mr. R. H. Hales, our Honorary Musical Director. These services will be held on October the 2nd and 3rd, when the Lyceum Officers will be the speakers.—James Le Noury, A.N.S.C., Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley, Gifford Rd.—Our Open Session on Aug. 7th was conducted by Mr. G. Hill. Individual efforts by Connie Higginbottom, Mary and Dennis Fox, Theresa, Jessie and Alfred Beetson, Hilda Atkin, Leonard Cook, Eric and Edna Barber, Olive Nutt, Doreen Fisher, and Vincent Porter.

On Monday, Aug. 1st, a goodly number of Lyceumists gathered together for a Ramble and we had a good day's outing.—H. Truelove, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley.—Open Session, Sept. 4th, was conducted by Mr. Hopkins. Individual items by Theresa, Jessie, and Alfred Beetson, Mary and Dennis Fox, C. Higginbottom, Leonard Cook, Hilda Atkin, Vincent and Irene Porter, Jean Hawley, Lydia Field, Mrs. Middleton, Edna and Eric Barber, Wm., Albert and Olive Nutt.

On Sept. 11th we held our Harvest Festival.—(Mr.) H. Truelove, Sec.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—On Sept. 11th we held our Harvest Festival. The open Session in the afternoon was conducted by our Vice-President, Miss Edith Elliott, who read an article entitled "The Harvest" which the Guild Imp had sent along. Recitations were given by Mary Holt and Cyril Pearson, followed by a reading by Mr. Fred Dean. Duets were sung by Connie Smith, Bessie Holt, Misses A. Holt and C. Thorpe. Pearls by Mr. F. Sutcliffe, Mr. Ball and Mrs. Hardy. Miss Elliott gave the greetings of the B.S.L.U. and also the fraternal greetings from the Moston Lyceum.—Miss F. M. Lees, Sec.

TOTTENHAM and EDMONTON.—Our Lyceum is still progressing. Pearls and items are well rendered, and we always have a happy and instructive session.—Gladys Dorling, Sec.

WALSALL.—On Sept. 4th our Open Session was conducted by Miss Wadsworth. A varied selection of recitations were given by Lyceumists. We spent a very delightful time together, the good attendance contributing to fine session.—W. Hollinshead, Sec.

## THE BATTLE OF WORDS.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND MODERN PROBLEMS, W. R. Inge, K.C.V.O., D.D. (Hodder & Stoughton. 5s.)

Some time ago, while writing a brilliant essay on Dean Inge, Mr. Desmond McCarthy ended up by wittily remarking "No Dean's, no dogmas." He probably forgot for a moment that the dogmas of the Dean of St. Paul's are in many ways the high lights of modern Christian theology. We might disagree with the Dean, but we cannot afford to ignore him, for he is undoubtedly one of the leaders of progressive philosophical thought in this modern age. He is the pessimistical optimist par excellence—whose hopes for the future are always darkened by the doubts for to-day.

In the present work the Dean has attempted to unravel the tangled skein of Christian orthodoxies and produces from its variegated colours an ethical conception of life which, while being in perfect harmony with the highest elements of Christian tradition, is at the same time progressive enough to recognise the dangers of the wholehearted acceptance of any tradition. He reminds us that "the idea of moral obligation is a constant, and the ultimate values on which the Christian revelation rest, belong to the eternal world." At the same time he realises that the very nature of human life is change and hence there arises continually the need for a careful examination of existing ideas that they may be re-valued in the light of new truths as they arise. He candidly tells us "I shall not maintain that the Church has ever been infallible, supernaturally protected from error. On the contrary, the history of Christianity, like that of Buddhism, has been very largely the history of decline and perversion." He fully appreciates the weakness of the Church as an organised section of society and frankly admits that from time to time it has kept out of touch with the historical conditions prevalent in that particular age, and he tells us "No branch of Christendom was ready to face the problems of the age of industrialism and of rapidly advancing science." He clearly warns us "that by the Ethics of Christianity, I mean the Ethics of the New Testament, and especially of the gospels. After this date I have no confidence that the Church remained true to its marching orders." Then the Dean very wisely forgets that he himself is primarily a Platonist and only secondarily a Christian. Yet here again he can of course claim the authority of the Pauline Epistles, for all critical students are agreed that without Plato there would have been no Paul, and Paul's philosophy was to a large extent the bastard product of prophetic Judaism allied to Platonic Idealism.

In separate chapters of the book he deals with "Asceticism," "Theocratic Imperialism," "Problems of Social Ethics" and "Problems of Personal Ethics," and although these headings suggest a tone of social philosophy, they are actually the guise under which the Dean presents an eloquent plea for mysticism. For W. R. Inge is a modern philosopher with the simplicity of a child. We may disagree with him, but we must admire him, for his mysticism never peters out into a metaphysical nothingness, but always expresses itself in terms to meet the practical needs of the present age. I admire the tremendous frankness with which he faces up to problems of sex, divorce, and suicide. In each case he gives due consideration to the modern outlook but never loses sight of the realm of eternal values in which his spirit finds its home. "Goodness, truth, and beauty, are the three attributes in which God has revealed His nature to man" and in regard to these things and their relationship to our individual life he tells us that "the right view is that since our bodies are 'Temples of the Holy Spirit' we ought to keep them as pure and healthy as possible. The old notion that the 'Corruptible body presseth down the Soul' is bad science and doubtful philosophy . . . the service of beauty is the service of God, if we know what beauty means. We must prepare hopefully for the next flowering time of the arts, and make up our minds that when the radiance of the divine loveliness once more shines upon the minds of men, we will not leave this precious gift to be snatched by the world, the flesh, or the devil."

I have enjoyed this book immensely. It is full of helpful suggestions that should aid us to live out the Good Life. I agree wholeheartedly with the Dean when he tells us "It is through the divine life in men, the Christ in us, that Ethics belong to the eternal or spiritual world, and that moral conduct becomes as it were the sacrament, the outward and visible sign of faith, hope and love directed to a Being who in His nature sits above the conflict between right and wrong. What is relative and subjective in morality is thus anchored to absolute truth and goodness."

## WHAT THE WORLD IS SAYING ABOUT THE "LYCEUM BANNER."

Dear Mr. Norbury,

I have just looked at the LYCEUM BANNER for this month and although I have not read it right through, I must congratulate you on the way the new LYCEUM BANNER is made up. In my opinion, under its new auspices, it should be a great success. The new form and make up, and display generally, deserves a great deal of praise.

Yours sincerely,

MAURICE BARBANELL.

Ursula Bloom, *Novelist.*

Dear Mr. Norbury,

It was nice of you to send the Magazine. I shall read it and appreciate it, I can assure you.

URSULA BLOOM.

W. H. EVANS, Editor, *Beyond.*

Dear Editor,

I see you have made some changes in the BANNER, which I think are an improvement.

All good wishes,

W. H. EVANS, Editor, *Beyond.*

A. T. Connor, A.N.S.C.

Dear Mr. Norbury,

You have already produced a journal that can be offered to Church Members—and if you can continue to get the same class of stuff as is in the September issue, you will soon establish the BANNER as the best monthly in the Movement. Everywhere I go I am advocating the BANNER in its new form and with its new interests and I'm hoping to get the London Council to take it up officially, and to initiate an agitation to have it placed on Church bookstalls.

A. T. CONNOR, A.N.S.C.

Dear Editor,

I am pleased with the tone of your article. People in our movement still regard the intelligence of youth on the same plane as they had in their youth, 20 years ago. The truth is this, youth is not sitting on the fence. They are watching the stage play of their elders, disgusted at the mere pretence of things. This is the age of pretence and sham in which false values appear to be real ones. The actor has even deluded himself that things give satisfaction.

The only thing to maintain a good circulation is to provide sound knowledge and that rests with you, Mr. Editor. If the present BANNER is a sample of what is going to come, you will be able to say what could seldom be said before, "Here is a monthly paper that appeals to the intelligence of all ages."

Yours respectfully,

J. R. PARKER, Moston.

*Birkenhead Lyceum.*

Dear Mr. Norbury,

May I offer you my humble appreciation on the wonderful improvement in the BANNER. It is certainly improved beyond all recognition, and is most interesting and entertaining.

EDWARD EDWARDS, Treasurer.

*Heeley, Woodseats, Lyceum.*

Dear Sir,

The opinion of my fellow Lyceumists is that the September issue of the LYCEUM BANNER is a big improvement on previous ones.

L. GRANT, Secretary.

## THEOSOPHY AND SPIRITUALISM.

Among the forthcoming publications from the House of Rider we are to have the "Complete Works of H. P. Blavatsky." They are to be edited by A. Trevor Barker, one of the leading lights in the Theosophical Movement of to-day.

After having had a glance at the preliminary index of volume one and finding within it many references to Spiritualism in its early days, I feel that this authoritative work will throw many interesting sidelights on to the relationship between Theosophy and Spiritualism.

We intend to review this work immediately upon publication as we feel it will contain many matters of vital interest to all of us in the Spiritualist Movement.

EDITOR.