

SHAW DESMOND

LOOKS

AT LIFE . . .

by
JAMES
NORBURY.

THE MORE I SEE OF life the more amazed I am at how extraordinary the ordinary things in life are. One passes hundreds of people in the street every day, each with a life story that if written would probably be more surprising than all the novels in our library shelves. Facts are always stranger than fiction, and when they are presented by a conversationalist in whom burns a spark of genius, then they become word pictures whose brilliance the writer finds it hard to re-capture.

To talk to Shaw Desmond about life is to move for a little while in an Arabian Night-like world, ever aglow with some new excitement as he journeys with us through the lights and shadows of the multitude of experiences through which he has passed.

We talked of many things. His writing . . . his travelling . . . his contact with those who practice the black arts . . . his opinions upon the many phases of thought relating to Occultism . . . and upon all those subjects he had something vital to say;—some illuminating fact to discuss, each proving what an amazing life this amazing man has lived.

Shaw Desmond spoke of his early days . . . of his work with the Socialist Movement . . . of the high idealism that pulsed through the Pioneers a quarter of a century ago.

"Our leaders to-day seem to lack the fire and enthusiasm that inspired the Pioneers of Humanism in my younger days," he said.

"When I think of how I used to trudge along night after night to talk about Socialism on the soap box at the street corners, I remember very vividly the real spirit of comradeship we all felt as we worked together in the interests of a Cause which we believed would save humanity."

"Ultimately some form of International Brotherhood is going to save the world. The great thing for the immediate present is to bring to the man in the street the tremendous challenge of Spiritualism, the implications that human survival have in the living out of our daily lives."

"I remember a few weeks ago, when George Hackenschmidt, the former World's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion, and the greatest Athlete for perhaps a thousand years, visited our own little Queen Anne house at Twickenham. You know he has been writing his Philosophy of Life. I said to the 'Russian Lion' as he was known, 'Look here, George, all this physical

fitness does not matter as much to you as it does to me. It doesn't matter whether George Hackenschmidt is a trained athlete or not, it does matter whether Shaw Desmond is. I have got to keep my body iron hard because it is only a healthy body that can serve as the instrument for the spirit of any artist to manifest through. We owe a debt to the real self within us to keep the body strong and vital, particularly when one travels as I do at times, all the world over."

Our conversation drifted round to Shaw Desmond's own work. He talked of his new novel, "The Story of a Light Lady" and told of nights spent in London . . . "for the purpose" as he said, "of studying life at the fountain head . . . of tramping the streets from midnight till dawn . . . of contacting the dregs of humanity in the raw . . . of the splendid heroisms . . . of the spirit of courage that pulses through the outcast men and women of our civilisation . . . and of how it was out of the wealth of these experiences that he had created the characters of his latest novel.

"This novel was, in a way, partly written upon 'inspiration,'" he said. "Again and again I found a character acting in quite an opposite manner to the way I had outlined in my own mind in building up the book. The old lady whom I called Mrs. Meldrum, in this story, for instance, who supplied Florrie, my heroine, and the women of the streets with dresses; I meant her to be a callous and rather brutal individual, a woman for whom one could feel nothing but contempt; instead of that she turned out, in spite of myself, to be quite a loveable old soul, one who had always a warm corner in her heart for the trials that those girls who were her customers had to pass through.

"Never have I failed to find humanity in any human creature, however fallen. Some of the most inhuman people I have met were the 'Unco' guid."

We naturally drifted in our conversation to his now world-famous novel, "Echo," in which Mr. Desmond is convinced he has portrayed vividly certain incidents that happened in one of his previous lives, for I found that Shaw Desmond is an ardent re-incarnationist, though he is quite open-minded and says he is quite ready to yield this belief if another explanation can be given. He told us how he used to lie beneath a great tree out in the wilds of Texas, and how he used to "dream in" the incidents he had passed through as a gladiator in the Roman arena at the time of Nero, and which he had had with him from a baby. "In perhaps three weeks" he said, "I practically wrote nearly the whole of that novel of 100,000 words. After it was written some of the greatest authorities, including Professor Wincenty Lutoslawski, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wilno, Poland, an authority on the period, informed me that my technical details of the facts relating to the gladiatorial shows were absolutely correct, and would take a man half a lifetime to master. I, however, had not studied the period in any way, except to read a short account of the Colliseum for perhaps ten minutes, while waiting to see a doctor in Chicago. When this notable scholar asked permission to broadcast his novel in Polish he said, 'I believe very

fully that it is out of one of your own lives you have been writing." He even came to London to see Desmond.

"This sense of another self of mine has been with me since I was a child and my many experiences in Italy and elsewhere have confirmed for me the idea that the theory of re-incarnation demands our deepest consideration before we reject it. But we must never be stiff-necked about our beliefs. There may be another explanation, though I do not think so."

While discussing his travels he told me a very interesting story of how, recently, during his 7,000 miles through South Africa, sitting round the kraal fire at night in Zululand with native warriors, he had re-told to them some of the fairy stories of his childhood gathered from the folk lore of the Celts, of whom he is rightly a proud descendant. When Desmond told them of the Irish leprechaun, these six and a half foot giants, clad in *isnemi* and *besho*, told him of the Zulu *togoloshi*, which is the Zulu leprechaun, and it presented a strange picture to my mind.

This man with all the culture of western civilisation, this democrat whose tremendous love for humanity is ever present, sitting there in common companionship with a strange people, and finding with them a friendly intimacy through the avenue of the simple stories that had enchanted him in his own childhood. What a marvellous storyteller Shaw Desmond must be.

I do not quite know how black magic entered into the conversation. In fact our talk scintillated so brilliantly from topic to topic that as I sit, the morning after, and think of it, I realise I can only re-capture a gem here and there from the brilliant diadem this great writer presented to me. He re-told a story told to him by Herbert Burrows, that great hearted social reformer, who was also an occultist, of how in a brilliantly lighted Greek Street, London, upper room, weird incantations has been uttered by Burrows and others, hitherto sceptics about the potency of such spells . . . then, how, to the amazement of all present the door suddenly opened, and a huge black bear, seven feet high ambled into the room, its little red tongue lolling out of its jaws from which saliva dripped, its fiery eyes terrifying them. They ran for their lives, and Burrows had his witnesses to the appearance of this elemental."

I asked him had he ever met D. H. Lawrence and if he thought Lawrence was interested in the occult arts, knowing as I did, that in his letters Lawrence had mentioned reading Madame Blavatsky.

"I do not know whether Lawrence was ever actually personally interested in these matters," said Desmond, "He may have been connected with an Occult Society years ago in which Yeats was one of the chief movers.

"Lawrence was an amazing man—but I am sure he was on the wrong track. He was sex-haunted, and, as I think, unconsciously dominated at times by the darker spirits. He immersed himself too much in the animal side of human nature, or rather too much in the wrong way; his own life, I believe, being singularly clean. He was a very good man, one of the most earnest men of our time, and without doubt one of the greatest figures in modern English Letters, and within his limitations, obviously, an extraordinary psychologist. But then, I do not really know much about him.

"I have just read 'Lady Chatterley's Lover.' I find it a strangely stimulating book, yet terribly repul-

sive in parts. When recently I 'signed on' on my wind-jammer I took half a dozen of Lawrence's books with me to read them in the hurricane-seas of the Horn."

On and on we talked, time had ceased to exist. I was reminded of the salons of Queen Anne's days, of the 'Old Cheshire Cheese' and Dr. Johnson, of how marvellous it would be to be a Boswell to Shaw Desmond, for his witty and racy conversation on all topics is well worthy of preservation in any age when we are losing the art of conversation more and more: when self-expression is being enslaved to mechanical expressions of ideas on the wireless, the gramophone, and the talkies.

And Spiritualism, what of that? Mr. Desmond told of his early contact with the Movement, of how he felt he ought to be perfectly sure before coming out into the open and declaring himself with us, and of how, since stating his position he had lectured and written on the subject, both here and in America, from which country he had just returned after a lecture tour upon his novels, etc. He has been trying to bring home to the man in the street the root fact of survival, the realisation that death is an illusion and that life is only real when it is seen from a spiritual angle.

"Spiritualism has yet to come into its own," he said, "but soon, very soon, now, it will be 'news'." The press are becoming more and more interested in our activities. The Churches are gradually accepting our point of view, and, indeed, are sometimes hanging on to our tails in order to keep their congregations, fast diminishing."

"The tragedy is that so many of the intellectuals of our age, while they accept our phenomena and agree with our theories, still sit on the fence when in the public eye. And that other tragedy—the easy credulity and 'demand for signs and wonders' of so many Spiritualists.

"Actually it is the most important thing in the world. You would be surprised how many people write to me upon the subject and how overwhelming has been the response to my articles. My mail sometimes averages over 40 letters a day, and about a thousand letters will reach me sometimes after a book or article, usually upon other subjects, however, than Spiritualism, for my work is that of a novelist and my creative work must come first. If people will read such novels of mine as "Gods" and "The Isle of Ghosts," and such short stories as my recent "Tales of the Little Sisters of Saint Francis," they will get a better 'slant' on my mind than from a hundred lectures. But please tell your friends I *can't* answer letters—or but rarely—if I did I should never have time to write my plays and novels."

This one fact alone proves to us how deep and urgent is the need in the modern world for a renewed faith in the greater things that make for the liveableness of life. Was it an illusion, an idle fancy that made me think of one, who, centuries ago, walking on the Damascus road saw a great light and ever after proclaimed the message of that Light and that life to the world. Or was it a realisation that I was in the presence of one who had also trodden the Damascus road who had also dreamed dreams and seen visions, and who was equally determined to bring home to common humanity the Great Truth that had so revitalised his own outlook on life?

But Shaw Desmond, as he says himself, always believed from childhood that there was no death. He did not have to *become* a Spiritualist.

Easter to
Whitsun, A.D. 29.

A 'Human' View of
Jesus. II.

THE TRAGIC TRIANGLE ■ ■

HAVING NOW DECIDED BY
our attitude towards the Gospel narratives, let us consider the three personalities who played such a prominent part in the tragedy that began in Gethsemane and ended on Golgotha.

A. T. CONNOR.

If we regarded Jesus as a partner in the Godhead, or even as in any way superhuman, the drama of that fateful Thursday night in the Jerusalem of A.D. 29 would escape us. But regarding him as a man—intensely human, intensely enthusiastic and intensely sensitive—the full tragedy of the happenings strikes us with all its dramatic force. A god would have been untouched by mere physical happenings, but the man was torn between physical fear and spiritual fervour. The powers of heaven and hell were engaged in combat and this time hell was winning: he occupied the central point in the battle-zone; and his psychic nature made him aware of what was going on and that soon he would be offered up as the sacrifice to man's hatred and self-interest, and man's inhumanity to man. Truly, as he said, the powers of darkness were prevailing.

The son of a Nazarene carpenter, Jesus lived with his parents up to the beginning of his ministry. The account of the miracle at Cana suggests that he had already shown signs of mediumistic powers at home, for his mother seemed quite confident that he could do what she proposed. At first the disciple of John the Baptist, he gradually collected around him a band of followers and eventually broke away from John and began to preach and to teach his own message to mankind. Of a mystical nature, he delighted in talking in parables to the crowds that gathered to hear him. The unfortunate result of this was that his hearers misunderstood him, and put to his symbolic teachings the meanings that appealed to themselves; so that, when he told them "earthly stories with heavenly meanings" they grasped only the earthly stories. Soon, as all men such as Jesus do, he attracted followers who joined him for differing reasons. He spoke of sitting on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel, and the sons of Zebedee saw visions of sitting one on his right hand and the other on his left when he came into his kingdom; and others wondered if he was going to restore at this time the kingdom to Israel. He ministered to the poor, and social workers joined up to help him. He said he brought not peace but a sword, and patriotic Jews saw themselves once more taking the field against the legions of Rome. In this way he attracted followers who entirely misunderstood him and his adopted mission—and amongst them he attracted Peter and Judas.

One of the results of my new view of the Bible was a reversal of my opinion of Peter. He was

a Galilean Jew, and thus belonged to one of the most warlike sections of a martial race. We can understand with what eagerness he would listen to the remarks about the kingdom, and how naturally he would understand them as a hint of throwing off the Roman yoke. His history, apart from the night of Gethsemane, shows that he was a brave man, willing to run any risks and to suffer any punishment. And even in Gethsemane, before his master had seemed to side with the enemy, Peter attempted to defend him against overwhelming numbers. So he was not the type of man to turn coward and disown Jesus through any fear of what might happen to himself—and it took some courage to follow to the High Priest's palace after having cut off the High Priest's servant's ear. Later we may find a more creditable explanation of his denial than fear of bodily suffering.

Judas was attracted to Jesus by the chance of doing social work. He was the communal treasurer, and part of his work was to look after the poor. John says that he stole some of the money—but we have seen that John was a prejudiced witness, so we can place our own value on his charges. It remains that Judas was in charge of the work among the poor, and his interest in the work is evidenced by his protest when Jesus allowed Mary of Magdala to anoint his head with precious ointment (valued at 300 pence—about ten guineas of our money) which he thought should have been sold and the money spent on the poor. His resentment at Jesus' retort that the poor are always with us may be imagined, as also at the further remark that Mary was anointing Jesus for his burial—one would seem callous to his misunderstanding ears, and the other would sound like an attempt to turn his protest into ridicule. He would remember that "the Son of Man came eating and drinking" and had been accused of being a glutton and a wine bibber—and he would regard the prophecy as an offhand excuse for utter selfishness. May the devil that entered his heart not have been a doubt whether his master was sincere? Again, poor Judas?

Thus we have arrived at a realisation of the disastrous clash of three differing personalities—each of them honest, each of them enthusiastic, and each of them too self-centred to be able to see, let alone understand, the other's point of view. There was Jesus the mystic, seemingly unable to utter his spiritual truths other than as parables which his more materially minded followers accepted as literal statements. There was Judas the enthusiastic social worker, who grudged every penny not spent in charity; who considered that the anointing of Jesus' head was a waste of charitable opportunity and regarded his leader's mystical explanation as not only flippant but heartless. And there was Peter the Galilean, who was willing to fight and die, if need be, for his country's freedom; who would have no truck with his country's enemies, and who, almost single-handed, was prepared to fight in his leader's defence until that leader—who not many hours before had advised those who had not a sword to sell their cloak and buy one—reproved him for his action and appeared to go over to the enemy.

What a tragedy! By his inability to state a plain truth in plain words Jesus unconsciously alienated the affection and loyalty of two of his most able supporters. Thus he prepared the way to Calvary.

FOR EIGHT YEARS I have had the pleasure of being the President of the London Lyceum District Council. Several years previous to this I found the Lyceum Movement interesting and helpful,

to-day I am more than ever convinced that my early findings have not betrayed me. Alas! a correspondent writes me and says, "If all you have been able to do in London for a fellow, who does take an interest in the deeper side of things, is to get him discontented and dissatisfied, then surely it is just and proper that we should look to our own house and see where we can put it in order."

This surely is a little body line bowling which I feel I cannot allow to go unchallenged.

Before coming to details let me make it quite clear that during my period of Presidency, Sidney Calway has been one of my energetic helpers, both on the platform and the Sports field, and I have no intentions to injure his spirit of enthusiasm for a higher standard of efficiency to be reached by the method of our Movement as a whole, for we are in full agreement on many points.

Therefore my reply must be on general lines more than personal.

Firstly, regarding the sameness of the Session and the basis of our Movement being the Manual.

The Manual contains one hundred Silver Chain Recitations, forty-nine Golden Chains, forty-one Musical Readings and one hundred and twenty-three songs.

Even if we adhere to the ordinary set session we have herein ample scope for change. The failure lies in the fact of often allowing the few popular ones to take the place of the many.

Then while we might be in agreement that the Manual could be improved by revision, knowing that the lack of funds of the Union has been the cause of delay, for the publishing of the Revised Manual, let us be tolerant on this point, for surely by using other literature, there is a danger of some at least bringing in other doctrines which would not be in accordance with our Seven Principles. Readings which bore adults and disgust children. I have yet to have these pointed out to me before I can accept such a statement, but will willingly agree that some are only suitable for adults and too advanced for children, the choice must be left in the Conductor's hands, who should have a knowledge of psychology.

The tiredness of Conductors is not very justified if we consider all the circumstances under which they labour. Often with little support they carry on week in and week out, endeavouring to carry the Banner of Lyceumism forward.

The Education Movement may not come up to the standard of University methods, but I am convinced that it has met the general need of those who have not had the chance of advanced education in day school.

There are thousands of young people in the Midlands who, the moment they are able to leave school are rushed off into the mills to assist in the maintenance of the family who, owing to circumstances lack much.

I consider the methods adopted have well earned the respect of those who have passed through the

ALBERT E. FRUIN, A.N.S.C.

ASKS

"MAY I REPLY?"

various grades. I personally have found them helpful and instructive, and know I am not alone.

Marching and Calisthenic, I am convinced, play a great part in our Session, the various marches provide an object lesson on the march

of life, and further provide healing qualities as well as bringing vitality to our members during the sessions.

The method of explanation of readings is to my mind a great asset to the student. Immediate responses cultivate an alertness of the thinking powers of our members which although weak at first develops as time goes on. Public nuisances who lack education are few and far between. I fully agree that many who possess psychic faculties are unable to give addresses, yet they bring joy and comfort to the saddened hearts. The commercialisation of their services is a matter for those who employ them to consider.

Sidney's complaints reminds me of an incident of my childhood's day. I had a watch which I valued, it stopped owing to something being wrong inside, my elder brother, convinced that he could put matters right, took it to pieces, but failed to put it together again.

When it comes to polishing the case, we are in full agreement that there is a need, and when my friend says let us make it a full time activity we link arms and go forward. To give my views on improved methods of adding to our present system would require a further page, but I want to say, herein lies one of the problems for youth to consider.

I could get much support from these bright young people if I consented to go rambling on Sundays, and even some have already told me they would not object to Sunday dancing.

I cannot however get the same response when I ask for volunteers for service of a higher character. How can we arrest their enthusiasm and direct it into right channels, must be considered.

I believe it can be accomplished by putting things in their correct order.

The Spiritual, Social and Mental states are all necessary to each other, but each has its place in a well ordered life.

Then I am convinced that a closer co-operation with the parent body is going a very long way to meet the need of our young people.

Churches and Lyceums working as one body will give us more scope for those who have the desire to become platform workers, will assist us in providing accommodation for mid-week meetings for our youth, and enable us to meet the crying need of the present age.

Finally let me say I have been connected with many varied activities with Youth in the past, but I have yet failed to find any cause which is so dear to my heart as the Lyceum Movement.

Where premises permit I am convinced that an Infant, Intermediate and Senior Section, meeting as a whole, only for opening and closing exercises (except on special occasions) would be beneficial to our system.

AND OF COURSE
WE SAY YES

*Next month R. W. Marks,
G.N.S.C. will enter the arena.*

ROBIN SANDERS CLARK

SURVEYS

SPIRITUALISM AND
PSYCHIC RESEARCH

SPIRITUALISM IS A SUBJECT WHICH is growing and expanding in all different parts of the world. At the Hague last year many of the delegates reported on the progress that is being made . . . the truth is gradually being absorbed by the people. You heard there, also, how people who sat in judgment upon a subject they knew nothing about, were being laughed at, and how serious investigation of Psychic Phenomena was everywhere being encouraged. People were talking about this thing quite openly—for the prejudice and the dislike and the ignorance is all being swept away by a wholesome desire for knowledge.

I am always surprised at those people who merely shrug their shoulders when one mentions the word Spiritualism. Can't they realise that this thing is either very important or very silly—it is either true or not true. If it is true it means that Spiritualism has proved beyond all shadow of doubt the fact of Survival—if it is not true, it means that thousands of people are being fooled every day. It means that all the great Scientists of to-day and yesterday, who have pronounced their belief in Spiritualism, were wrong, and it means that every time you go and sit with a medium to try and get evidence of survival, you are wasting your time.

Some people call this thing new and laugh . . . It is very easy to sit on the gate and scoff, but it is the man who sets out in search of truth who gets the prize. The prize in this case is an absolute conviction of survival and the possibility of communication, together with a philosophy which changes one's whole conception of life.

Spiritualism and Psychic Research are often treated as being entirely different subjects, for on the one hand there are the "Psychic Researchers" who certainly would not call themselves Spiritualists, while again the Spiritualists often refuse to accept the conclusions of the "Researchers." The great majority of Spiritualists accept the "Spirit Hypothesis" as being the only explanation that will cover all the phenomena.

You sometimes hear people say that Spirit is the last thing they will give in to—that we must try every other hypothesis first before we consider the Spiritualist explanation. This is obviously quite the wrong frame of mind to start an investigation of any kind. One must start the investigation with a perfectly open mind, and then find an explanation which will cover all the facts. It is merely a waste of time to listen to those who take some isolated case of Psychic Phenomena, and then bring forward the hard-worked 'subconscious mind' theory in an effort to explain away the Spiritualist case. Personal contact with Psychic Phenomena is necessary before an opinion can be formed.

When one discusses Physical phenomena there are always two points that immediately arise. (i) Are they genuine, and (ii) If so, are they to be encouraged, etc. It is impossible for somebody to prove to somebody else the existence of these phenomena, there is only one way of finding out, and that is through personal investigation.

There is only one way of stopping fraud, and that is by making it impossible. In my opinion Test Conditions are essential when the powers of any physical medium are being investigated. Science has again and again examined the physical phenomena of Spiritualism, and while a number of scientists have simply decided against the phenomena without an investigation, a very unscientific attitude to adopt, there are at the same time a great many men of the highest scientific repute who have after years of investigation pronounced these phenomena to be genuine.

It is impossible in this essay to meet every objection—the most common is to the effect that these phenomena are futile and unimportant. The fact is that these phenomena attract a great many people's attention to the teaching that lays behind them—the ringing of the telephone bell is unimportant, our interest lies in the message that follows. The ghost-hunter does not know of the real meaning of the word Spiritualism, he knows nothing of the Philosophy, which as every Spiritualist knows, is the most comforting doctrine that life offers.

Another objection put forward by those dealing to-day with a subject their minds are incapable of understanding, is that these messages of love, of comfort, and of help are all the issues of the Devil. If it is the Devil who is behind all this teaching he has indeed mended his ways. But it is the mental mediumship which is generally called the connecting link between Spiritualism and Psychic Research, because it is on this Phenomena together with materialisation and the direct voice, that the Spiritualists generally base their case. Far fewer people nowadays object to the presence of a medium, as even a smattering of Psychic knowledge reveals the fact that for the purposes of communication between this world and the next the presence of a medium is just as essential as is that of the telephone for a conversation between one man in London and another in Los Angeles, California. In my own experiences with mediums I have often found the communications to be trivial and sometimes absurd, although those trivial messages have been the most evidential—besides a lot of modern conversation to-day is very trivial, yes, and very silly. However, I would say that the messages one hears from Spirits are as a general rule far more intelligent than a lot of the conversation that comes over the telephone receiver.

When we established beyond all shadow of doubt the genuineness of the communicating intelligence we can listen to the Philosophy and learn something of the conditions on the other side, and while we know the results of selfishness and bigotry, we also know of a life where love is the keynote, where harmony is never broken by any discord, where the artist continues to create, the musician to play, where there is literature and work and development, and where love binds us together—as it does here. No longer do we see a life bordered by the horizon of death, but rather a life of eternal progression and development, for when one opens the door of Psychic knowledge, one begins to understand something of a Philosophy which shows us the real meaning of life.

IS MAN FREE?

REGINALD ROBB
DISCUSSES

THE MEANING OF FREEDOM

MANKIND VERY OFTEN declares his belief in freedom. How often do we hear the expression that the country in which we live is a free country. Is it a reality then that mankind is really free and has the unfettered and inexorable right to act just as he pleases to act. We wish to perform some function for ourselves; to give our children a liberal education; to pay a visit to some foreign country; to investigate the claims of Spiritualism and Psychic Phenomena, and we find that we are not entirely free agents in these matters. Since man is a gregarious animal and is living within a community or State he is bound to take into account the actions of other people. It is the taking into account of these actions that forces us to the conclusion that by freedom we mean something social as well as personal. It is, however, difficult to define freedom concisely because of its social and personal implications.

When Robinson Crusoe landed on his uninhabited island and reigned as 'lord of the manor' may we not say that he was free to do exactly as he wished. That he had freedom par excellence. Surely, he was free only in so far as he desired to live or die. Having decided to live he was then conscious that he was not a free agent but had to take into account physical laws. Man, from his early days, has lived some sort of family life. Choosing one of its members to become its leader it had to rely very largely upon him for its support. The family life depending upon its leader had its freedom curtailed. Gradually the younger element broke the tie of dependence and were no longer subject to it unless they desired to be so.

In other words they became free. For where there is dependence there is no freedom and where there is independence there is freedom.

In an endeavour to appreciate the true significance of freedom it is hard not to write in an abstract manner. H. J. Laski in his book, "Liberty in the Modern State," asserts that 'Liberty is essentially an absence of restraint.' This "implies power to expand, the choice by the individual of his own way of life without imposed prohibitions from without. Men cannot, as Rousseau claimed, be forced into freedom. They do not, as Hegel insisted, find their liberty in obedience to the law. They are free when the rules under which they live leave them without a sense of frustration in realms they deem significant. They are unfree whenever the rules to which they have to conform compel them to conduct which they dislike and resent." It must be admitted, we think, that theoretically at least Professor Laski is right. We can only find true liberty, which we take to be synonymous with freedom, when we are

allowed to exercise our own mental, physical, and spiritual faculties free from restraint. The difficulty arises when we attempt to put this into practice. We are often reminded that the only freedom that should be achieved is that freedom in which the individual subordinates himself to the common welfare of the community. That is to say that freedom must be obtained not for ourselves but for something greater which may be termed the common good of society. It is in the striving for this common good wherein our troubles lie. Man cannot agree upon the method of achievement. Here is the opportunity to shew true toleration, without which freedom is impossible.

There are many factors which of necessity must limit freedom in any highly civilised state. Life would be unbearable if all our acts were unrestricted. We must admit some form of standard of conduct in order to obtain a reasonable social order. Power plays a prominent part in any social order. We may think of power either in terms political or economic; temporal or ecclesiastical; and where we find this power confined to a small class there can be but little freedom. Where man is insecure any true sense of freedom is extirpated. For as Professor Laski has put it; "Once and for all, let us agree that property does not make a man free. But those who know the normal life of the poor, its perpetual fear of the morrow, its haunting sense of impending disaster, its fitful search for beauty which perpetually eludes, will realise well enough that 'without economic security, liberty is not worth having.'" It is not to be inferred, however, that the royal road to freedom lies solely in economic emancipation. But, undoubtedly, it is one of the chief aids which enables one to become free. For a right and healthy social order equality must be shared by all, for it is the absence of equality in all its phases that creates strife in life. Hence, in an effort to minimize strife we must aim at equality in order to gain freedom.

Education is of paramount importance to freedom. We may possess healthy bodies and enjoy to some extent economic security, but unless we are educated we cannot be free. For how can a person incapable of summoning up the actions and opinions of other people be free in any sense? To be educated we must be able to receive ideas, summon them before the 'court of the mind' and then pronounce an independent and impartial verdict. This is no easy task for we are constantly surrounded by prejudices and preconceived ideas. We are instructed by our Lyceum Manual to accept the axiom that the greatest wealth of a man is to have a mind that subjects all things to itself. Freedom of the mind is here implied and through this freedom we gain the greatest happiness of mankind.

Whatever our final conclusions on the meaning of freedom may be, one thing is perfectly clear that:—

"Freedom is not the surfeit of greedy maw,
Revel of licence, riot of insolent sway,
Plucking of folly from life's gaudy May,
Or gluttonous of passion of eye or tooth or claw.
These are man's servitudes beneath the paw
Of the brute aeons of his yesterday;
Freedom is when the spirit controls our clay
And orders our being by its inward law.

A duty, yet ever glad with kindling hope,
A birthright, yet it lifts not up with pride,
Rather, a higher world of wider scope,
Where the soul's longing may be satisfied—
An unhorizoned world, whose glories glance
Through this close prison of flesh and circumstance."

OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

HINTS, NOTES AND NEWS ITEMS.
Conducted by the EDUCATION SECRETARY.

EXAMINATION DATES IN 1933.

S.N.U.—INTERMEDIATE, SUBSIDIARY AND FINAL—24th to 27th MARCH.

ENTRANCE—Same dates and times as B.S.L.U. Grade V.

B.S.L.U.—ALL GRADES.—Sunday, 14th MAY, or (by arrangement with the Supervisor) the Saturday or Monday of that week-end.

Entry Forms for the March examinations must be obtained from Mrs. E. Paling, and returned not later than 8th March; and for the May ENTRANCE Examinations not later than the 31st March.

For all the B.S.L.U. examinations, Entry Forms have been sent out to Lyceum Secretaries, and all entries must be made on these Forms, and returned to Mr. A. T. Connor not later than 31st March. Full instructions will be sent with the Forms.

A price-list of Educational Handbooks, issued by the B.S.L.U., will be found on the outside back cover of this issue of the BANNER.

LYCEUM ENTRIES FOR THE MAY EXAM.

Once more I want to appeal for entries to be sent in as early as can be managed. I am carrying on the exams. this year under a handicap, and if entries are sent in now, it will allow me plenty of time to get Lyceum parcels ready a few at a time, and so have all ready for the date of sending out to Supervisors. If entries are held over till the last day of entering, it will make it very hard work for me to get so much work done correctly in such a short time. I mention this, as some may not think of it, and I don't want to be suspected of "driving."

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 information about the S.N.U. Education Scheme, for Entry Forms, or for sets of Question papers, apply to

MRS. E. PALING, F.N.S.C., "Lucknow," Muriel Road, Beeston, Notts.

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, 3.

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,

Again I wish to thank all the Lyceums and Lyceumists who have sent me letters of encouragement and I appreciate very much the good wishes expressed therein. I have not had a large response in honour of Founder's Day, but trust that there are still collections to come in. It would be a tribute to our old workers if each Lyceum donated something, however small. Please consider this suggestion and do your best.

I sincerely thank the contributors for the following amounts.

MILE OF PENNIES.—Stoke Lyceum per Miss F. Sharp, 4s.; Baillie St. per H. Dewhurst, 6s. 8d.; Birmingham, Forward Lyceum, per A. B. Brown, 5s. 3d.; Middlesbrough, per Miss E. Pierson, 5s. 7d.; Exeter, Fore St., per Mr. H. Granger, 5s.; Craghead, per T. Collingwood, 5s. 6d.; Croydon, per P. M. Stewart, 7s.; Bolton L.D.C. per T. Liles, 4s. 6d.; Wakefield Lyceum, per Miss D. Harding, 6s.; Wolverhampton, Drummond St., per P. H. Warrilow, 6s. 8d.; Southampton Lyceum per E. W. Long, 7s. 6d.; Birkenhead per W. Kneale, 6s. 8d.; Warrington, per Mr. O. Jones, 8d. Total £3 11s. 0d.

DONATIONS.—Wimbledon Beacon Lyceum, per Mrs. L. E. Singleton, 3s.; Morecambe Lyceum, per W. H. Moores, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Edwards, 1s.; the Constitution Revision Meeting, birthday Gift, per Mr. E. A. Keeling, 6s.; Liverpool, L.D.C. Lyceums' Effort per O. Jones, £2 7s. 7d. Total £3 0s. 1d. Collection, Peckham Lyceum Farthing Bowl, per Miss Bamber 2s. 6d.

FOUNDER'S DAY COLLECTION.—Armley Lyceum, per G. Parton, 2s. 3½d.; Tyneside, Wallsend, per Miss N. Macdonald, 1s. 7d.; Bowes Park Lyceum, per Miss M. A. Williams, 2s. 8d.; Rawtenstall, per Miss E. Entwistle, 2s. 6d.; Peckham Lyceum, per Miss G. Bamber, 4s.; Birmingham, Forward Lyceum, per A. B. Brown, 3s. 1d.; Middlesbrough per Miss E. Pierson, 3s. 5d.; Croydon, per P. M. Stewart, 2s. 3d.; Chesterfield, per J. J. Hobster, 5s. 6d.; Burnley, North St., per Miss B. Laycock, 2s. 0½d.; Westhoughton, per J. E. L. Towers, 1s.; Southampton, S. Church Lyceum, per E. W. Long, 2s. 6d. Total £1 12s. 10d.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS.—Our sincerest greetings and best wishes for many happy birthdays are extended to the following Lyceumists: From Daulby Hall Lyceum, Mr. A. Cretny and Miss Shaw on March 9th; Doris Pickavance, March 11th; Miss Doreen Spencer and Bernard Nelson, March 20th; Miss Edith Davenport, March 31st. From Hampton Wick Lyceum, Miss Doris Moore, March 12th and Mrs. Shaw, March 13th. The total amount received, 4s. Any Lyceumist who wishes to have a birthday greeting through these columns or any Lyceum or Church wishing to commemorate any event, please forward 6d. and all details, before the 18th of the previous month of the event.

JUMBLED WORDS COMPETITION.—The total for this month is 1/4, and the successful Lyceumist to whom the prize has been awarded is Miss Muriel Lamb, of South Manchester Forward Lyceum. Solution: Acknowledge, Profitable, Belvedere, Rothwell, Forthcoming, Appeal, Awarded, Collection, Founders, Congratulate, Response, Appreciate, Raymond, Recommend, Britten, Penniston, Bumping, Competitors.

The grand total this month is £8 11s. 9d.

In reference to the "Mile of Pennies" cards, a few Lyceums have returned these. I would like to suggest, that although you may not be able to fill them at the moment, there may be a more opportune time in the future, when you would like to fill them. So please retain them and make another effort when possible.

With good wishes to all,

LILLIE GEORGE.

85, Queen's Rd., 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.

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

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

Money, postal orders and cheques should be made payable to the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union. Bankers: Martins Bank, Ltd.

Office address and hours of business: HOLLINS CHAMBERS, 64A, BRIDGE ST., DEANSGATE, MANCHESTER, 3. 9—12-30, 1-45—5-30. Saturdays 9—12-30.

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.

MARCH, 1933.

THE RECOVERY OF TRUTH.

*And so I crossed into another world
shyly and in homage linger for an invitation
from this unknown that I would trespass on.*

*I am very glad, and all alone in the world,
all alone, and very glad, in a new world
where I am disembarked at last.*

—D. H. Lawrence.

The more I contemplate the new views that science is presenting to us of the universe, the more conscious I become of the significance of every pulsing atom of life within the gigantic stellar system of which our planet is such an insignificant fragment. As we gaze out in the darkness of a winter's night we can see, stretching out into infinity, worlds and systems which obey the intrinsic laws of the Greater Universe, which are potentially alive with force and radiating out energy; and as our puny minds try to grasp in finite terms that infinite splendour, we feel within ourselves a great loneliness.

Insignificant creatures, inhabitants of an insignificant little planet, yet so tremendously significant, in that it is through our consciousness of this Greater Universe that we interpret life.

I am convinced that finally the problem of existence is a personal equation between man and the created scheme of things. We may read tomes of philosophy, we may delve into the folk lore and traditions of ancient peoples, we may study great religious ideas and ideals that mankind have upheld from time to time, we may master the difficulties of higher mathematics, until we can understand Einstein and follow Eddington in his carefully calculated trends of thought, but in spite of these things we shall know little or nothing until we are conscious that it is our task to translate our apparently insignificance into the majesty and splendour of our significance as Man the Interpreter.

So many of us live constantly in a death mode rather than a life rhythm. Because we are afraid of annihilation we evolve a theory of survival supported by

attested facts and evidences that is merely a continuation of the time processes and not any in way a solution to life's problems. For, although we may solve to our mental and emotional satisfaction the riddle of existence itself, unless out of our solution we can evolve a technique of living that brings a natural dignity into our lives, then all our carefully thought out theories and elaborately detailed hypotheses are as so much chaff in the wind.

Frankly, I do not believe we can solve the essential problem of life and come to a realisation of our spiritual significance by interpreting our activities as moral and social beings in terms of the time order. Morality and social institutions change as the tide changes. Each age brings its own particular and peculiar notions to bear upon the intrinsic problems it faces at any given moment in history. What is right for one generation is wrong for another. Therefore if we depend for our truth about life upon the environmental influences that surround us, we are building upon foundations that sooner or later will be uprooted as a new order establishes itself and an old order passes away.

"What is Truth?" said Jesting Pilate, "and did not wait for an answer." We most of us adopt Pilate's attitude. We postulate a question and then seek to evade answering it by presenting what is, to us, the greatest probability out of a number of possibilities, and lacking the assurance that would make Truth a vital and self-evident thing within our lives, we become a mass of contradictory re-actions.

When we analyse out the life process as it pulses through our being we shall find that our activities can be classified in three compartments; mental, emotional, and physical, each of them relative to the other to a greater or lesser degree according as we co-ordinate these three factors in our own existence. An answer to the problems of our mental life, unless it also meets our emotional needs and expresses itself in physical activity, is not a sufficient answer to our problem and so many people to-day try to live entirely on the mental plane, forgetting that they are also emotional and physical beings. Again, we can see a tendency, particularly in the realms of Freudian psychology, to over-emphasise and exaggerate the emotional plane of our nature, making that the dominant note in the chord, while among the younger generation there is rapidly springing into being a sense of the importance of physical life, multiplied out of its true proportion.

While I am convinced that we are destined to be enslaved to conflicting elements within our own natures, at the same time I am certain that we can be born into a new freedom, that we can bring about a Recovery of Truth for ourselves, once we see the various elements that go to the make up of that conflict, and built out of our many experiences a sense of the wholesomeness of living.

The spiritual life is not a different thing to the natural life, it is rather a living of our daily lives naturally that makes us spiritual beings, and this in essence, is the basis of Lyceum education. A healthy body, well developed and carefully restrained emotions, a critical and constructive mind: given these things we can walk bravely onward into the light, knowing hourly our Divine Significance.

THE EDITOR.

MUSIC IN CHILDHOOD

THE FIRST OF
A SERIES OF
THREE ARTICLES

AND ADOLESCENCE

BY

F. H. WOOD
MUS. DOC.

IN THESE DAYS when "wireless" threatens to swamp all individual effort in music-making, it is important that people should have proper ideas of the methods of teaching music to children, for they will be the music-makers when the present craze has died out, or been relegated to its proper place as an aid to culture rather than a substitute. The old idea that "anything is good enough for children" was as stupid as the other notion that for young pianists "any instrument is good enough to learn on."

The history of Child-Music is no older than the modern study of the child himself. Before the time of Robert Schumann about a hundred years ago, children learnt the piano by dull "exercises" and "sonatinas." They still use exercises, but we do not call them by that name. Schumann's "Album for the Young" was the first attempt to stimulate the child's imagination by the use of titles the child loved. He wrote a melody for the left hand to play instead of the right, but instead of calling it an "exercise" for that purpose he called it "The Merry Peasant": and every child who has learned it loved it for that reason. I did myself. He wrote another bustling tune for the fingers of the right hand, and called it "The Wild Horseman." Every boy when learning it rides that galloping horse just as I did. And so, by making an appeal to the child's love of picture and story, the modern composer of music for beginners wins their interest at the outset.

Who are the best composers of Children's Music in England to-day? Well, there are many who are doing excellent work in this line. I need mention only three: Alec Rowley, Thomas F. Dunhill, and E. Markham Lee. Everything they write is interesting as music, as well as useful technique. Mr. Dunhill's music is especially good, both for the voice and piano, and if any readers wish to see examples of it, any music dealer will show them.

Another side of Child-Music is connected with the schools. The teachers in our day-schools—especially those who take the singing-classes—have a much wider choice of music to-day than their predecessors. They also know what type of music is best for each grade, for there are many teachers' journals to advise them. Young children are mostly taught by ear, but nowadays the older children are taught to read music for themselves. Once when adjudicating at a musical festival at Mansfield I was amazed at the proficiency shown in sight-reading by the scholars of a certain school where the headmaster had made a special feature of it. In fact, there is no limit to the possibilities of musical culture in the child where the right enthusiasm is shown. In my work as a teacher, lecturer, choirmaster, and

adjudicator, I have been able to observe every side of the child's mind in music, as well as its development in the schools. The outlook is distinctly promising if we can maintain the same high standard reached in this country during the last ten years.

But there are other influences at work which will have to be watched, or the good foundations laid in childhood may be of little use in after-life. There is perhaps too much education

given in childhood, and not enough during the critical years of adolescence and the still more critical period of early manhood and womanhood. Those are the vital years when character is formed. During the present economic depression it is saddening to see the well-educated, eager young fellows who can find no employment; and the capable, intelligent girls who on leaving school drift aimlessly into some "blind-alley job," or spend their evenings watching the manufactured American film-drama with its debasing code of honour—such a poor substitute for the real life for which their own splendid education should have fitted them. Child-life is well looked after—on its musical side as well as its other aspects—thanks to a system of education on which neither brains nor money have been spared. What is needed in this country is an equal interest in the adolescent child, and the young people who are just starting out in life. This is the critical phase where self-culture in music *could* help if it were given a proper chance. Instead of giving it that opportunity and encouraging their children to study music for themselves, many parents (and children too) prefer to have the "wireless" going more or less all day. The claim made by the advocates of this invention that it would raise the standard of musical culture in this country has proved an utter fallacy. There are fewer people practising and studying music for their own self-culture to-day than at any time during the past 50 years, and for this the "wireless" is more to blame than the current economic depression. The same cause has operated to the detriment of choral and orchestral societies, many of whom have closed down finally for lack of interest and support. Theatre-musicians have been driven on to the streets by the selfishness of controlling syndicates, and the indifference of the public who are apparently quite willing to accept the cheaper "canned music," "talkies" and other forms of mechanised clamour. Inventions of this kind, marvellous as they are, can never take the place of individual effort and the joy that is born of such effort: and the principle of relaying the best music in the world to people who have no musical culture and who therefore cannot appreciate, is about as sensible as showing a wonderful painting to a two-year old child who cannot draw, and expecting him to understand it.

To sum up, therefore, it is not Music in Child-life that needs our greatest attention to-day, but rather its promotion and development in youth and early life by means of consistent methods of Adult Education, and the sympathetic interest of parents and friends. Only thus will the coming generation be able to use it properly as one of God's most precious gifts to mankind.

Next month Dr. Wood will contribute an article on Henry Dennis, the pioneer of School Anniversary music.



My Dear Boys and Girls,

Writing letters to you reminds me of a little story of a lady who bought a pot of black currant jam, and when she was using same, complained that there were by far too many stalks in it. "But, Mamma dear," said her little girly, "it says on the label, branches everywhere."

That is just like our Lyceum Movement. We too have branches everywhere, not only in this country but in Canada, New Zealand, Africa, America and Australia.

So when I write you this monthly letter I have to pretend I am standing at the top of a very high tower, from which I can see you all at once.

What a lot of things I fancy I can see you doing. I see those of you who live in the extreme North of England and the Midlands enjoying winter games, even snowballing in some parts. In London and the South where the weather is usually not quite so severe I see you enjoying your usual games. Then when I look through the earth I see my nephews and nieces on the other side of the globe being baked up with a heat wave. I then come back out of my land of pretend and find myself sitting in a room with Auntie Ruth and Cousin Doris at breakfast.

There's a double rap-tat at the door and the postman brings me letters from different parts of the places I have been trying to see from the tower.

Last month he brought me some first timers from Southampton, Oldham and Liverpool. The one from Liverpool contains a happy snapshot of the writers. There was also one from Hampton Wick, containing a very fine Essay on the titles of the Lyceum Manual, but on one I was sorry to see the address was a Hospital, but even this contained a cheery message. Now you see how all the branches linked together form a beautiful tree. I think I will call it an oak tree, because that is the symbol for strength. Now I must tell you about one of my birthday presents which I had in January. I am certain it would take you weeks to guess what it was.

You see my birthday happened to fall on a Sunday when I was taking part in the Anniversary Services of a West London Lyceum.

The boys and girls of the various Lyceums in this area had saved their halfpennies and pennies to give me a present. Have you guessed what it was yet? "It was a very large birthday cake, iced, with as many candles on it as there are years in my age, but there you have another guessing competition, but wasn't it a lovely present?"

Then last month I had the pleasure of meeting many workers at Manchester and taking part in the Open Session at Longsight. I think it must have been from there that I got the idea of being able to see so far, because I am sure they must be long sighted people in this district.

This month I want you to get your box of bricks out

and we'll see if we can do a little building together. I think we will build a house. The first thing we have to do is to decide what kind of house we should like, as I cannot discuss with each one of you your particular fancies. I am sure we shall all agree if we term it a beautiful house. Now for the building, taking it for granted that we have a plan designed; what is the most important thing to consider first? Why, its foundations, because if these are not strong the whole building will soon topple over. Having made sure that we have made no mistakes about them being strong we will just make as many rooms as we want. I will leave you to work the details in, but we want a playroom, a workroom, a bedroom, a dining room and a kitchen, not forgetting the doors and windows.

I wonder if this building reminds you of anything else, it does me. I think it is just like our lives and the things we need to make them happy and bright.

For in life we want to start off with a good foundation that will not allow the whole building to topple over with the first gust of wind which comes along.

Surely the bricks used for this must be called Truth and Right. Then the rooms. I have said a playroom and a workroom because "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." A bedroom, because we need enough rest to keep us fresh and bright, a dining room where we can eat and drink of the things of wisdom, a kitchen in which we labour for others' comforts. The door being our ears through which we should allow no unpleasant visitor to enter, the windows, our eyes ever looking out to welcome other chums along the road of life. If you work this out for yourselves, adding just those extra things you think you have need of, I am sure you will grow up into strong men and women.

ANSWER TO PUZZLE No. 192.

1. Guardian Angels.
2. Sunny Days.
3. Angel Care.
4. Floral Sunday.
5. Sparkling Water.
6. Heart Flowers.

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE No. 193.

A fruit.	Five letters.
A colour	Three letters.
A school lesson	Seven letters.
Very Cooling	Three letters.
A Flower	Four letters.
A cricket term	Six letters.
A bird.	Four letters.

If you get your answers correct you will find the first letters of each word will give you a muddled boy's name.

A little boy was playing with a hammer, but when his mother saw him she said, "I shouldn't play with that dear, you will hit your fingers."

"No, I won't mummie, Nellie is going to hold the nail."

Well I hope you work this puzzle out yourself without any help.

With Love,

Ruberrondo,
126, Woodlands Road,
Isleworth.

Your loving friend,
UNCLE BERT.

OUR LYCEUM GUILD

MOTTO: "We Live
to Learn and
Learn to Live."

AIMS:—(1) To be progressive.
(2) To develop ourselves.

Dear Guildites,

This month we have seven new members, exactly the same number as for last month. Here are the ones we welcome into our midst.

- 108. E. JEFFRIES, Rotherham.
- 109. H. PEET, Warrington.
- 110. E. PEET, Warrington.
- 111. L. E. TURNER, Warrington.
- J. 112. J. W. DEAN, Rotherham.
- J. 113. E. DEAN, Rotherham.
- J. 114. Joe DEAN, Rotherham.

Finances.

This month I have received 4s. 9d. in fees; and donations (for which I am exceedingly grateful) from Miss Irons 1s.; and Mrs. Coll (one of my old Lyceumists at Halifax, Alma St.) 2s.; making a total of 7s. 9d. So you see, our debt is slowly, but surely, decreasing.

Our First Competition.

Here are the results which you so anxiously await.

From the 20 Junior Guild members I received 6 entries, these being 1 Christmas Story, 2 Christmas cards, and 3 Calendars.

Freda Bold, aged 11, (Rotherham) sent the story of which the judge says—"A very good original story, well punctuated, and English correct."

Doris Edwards, aged 11 (Rotherham) and Beryl Bold, aged 6 (Rotherham) sent cards and the judge decided that, taking into account the difference in ages, they should receive equal marks. Both cards are "very good work; neat and carefully done."

The Calendar sent by Willie Dracup aged 12 (Halifax, Alma St.) was judged the best of the three, with Nance Pierson aged 10 (Middlesbrough) next, followed by Arnold Thorpe, aged 10 (Halifax, Alma St.). The judge's remarks are—"The calendars are disappointing for the age of the children. The work ought to have been much neater and shown better finish."

There you have a fair criticism of your work, and you now know the worst and the best.

From the SENIORS I received 9 entries, which have been marked by a specialist in English. The standard of marking was high, and yet 7 of the essays obtained 85 or more marks, while the other 2 had more than 75 marks. This speaks well for the quality of work sent in by the competitors. Here are the details:—

"The Guild Motto."

- Mr. R. Robb (Birkenhead) 90 marks.
- Miss N. Horner (Rotherham) 90 marks.
- Miss E. M. Irons (Warrington) 86 marks.

The Lyceum—its aims and ideals.

- Mr. R. Robb, (Birkenhead) 93 marks.
- Miss J. Maude (Rotherham) 90 marks.

The Value of the Education Scheme:

- Mr. R. Robb, (Birkenhead) 94 marks.
- Mr. A. Bruce (Rotherham) 85 marks.

Well done, both Juniors and Seniors! Your leaders are proud of you. If any of you have any special ideas for our next competition (which will be held after the examinations in May) please let me know, won't you?

Correspondence.

Many thanks indeed for your quick responses to my appeals. There are now two Guild members corresponding in Spanish; and I have another member (a young lady of about 17) who would like to find a congenial fellow-member of Our Guild.

By the first post after the last issue of the BANNER I heard from a Guildite who volunteered to write to our invalid Lyceumist, whom I have made a Guild member. There are others also who are willing to adopt invalids, when such are brought to my notice. So please, Lyceum secretaries, let me know if you have any on your registers.

I have already received photos of some members (as I asked a while ago). If you have one taken, don't forget the Guild Leader would like one for the collection.

To all Former Guild Members.

As I stated last year, ALL former members who enrolled under Miss Kitson, are no longer Guild members unless they fill up another entry form, and so make a re-application along with another fee of 1s.

To all Members.

Is *your* name to be found in the list of entries for the various grades of the Education Scheme? I sincerely hope so, for I want to be able to say that all our members are serious in their intentions, and have shown it by trying to keep their promises. If, on any account you *do not* keep your promise, write and explain to me, won't you? Settle down to work in real earnest now, make the most of every moment in the Lyceum, use your officers and conductors well, and then may we be proud of your efforts when May comes along.

You who have taken *all* the grades, play your part in helping others, and by so doing you will help not only Our Guild to realise *one* of its ideals, but also *your* Lyceum to become more efficient.

That you may be strong enough to carry out your resolves is the wish of your Guild Leader.

G. M. HALLIDAY,

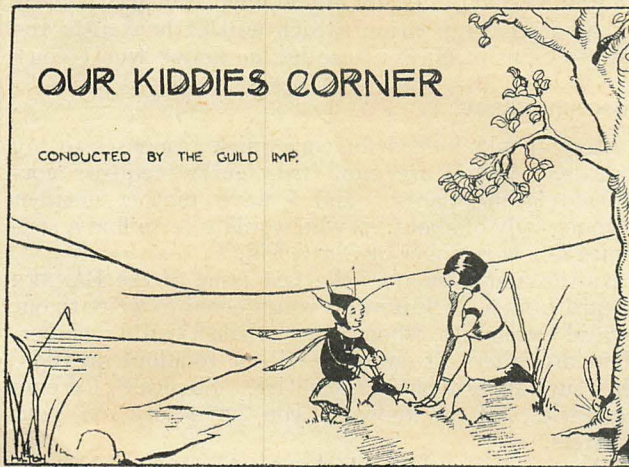
28, Moorlands Place,
Free School Lane, Halifax.

THANK YOU.

Supplementary Fund. Tottenham and Edmonton 10s.; Liverpool L.D.C. £1; Rotherham 2s. 6d.; Ashton 5s.; Leeds L.D.C. (Mr. Barnes' half exes. as Adjudicator) £1 4s. 9d.; N.E. Lancashire L.D.C. £2 12s. 6d.; Miss Rothwell 1s.; Parkgate 5s.; Mrs. Hanson 5s.; Lincoln, Coultham St., 2s. 6d.; Nottingham, Mechs. Hall 3s.; Macclesfield 5s.; Whitley Bay 2s. 6d.; Preston, Moor Lane 5s.; N.E. Cheshire L.D.V. 13s.

Patron Fund. Attercliffe Lyceum 9s.; Mrs. Nuttall 2s. 2d.; Mrs. H. Rushton 2s. 6d.

Ainsworth Home of Rest Fund. Accrington, Pearl St., £1.



Dear Little Imps;

Here is the other new picture! Our story-telling imp has been photographed again, and is very proud of his new wings. I wonder why he smiles? Is it because he is enjoying his own tale, or because he has noticed Mr. Long-Ears peeping and listening from behind the tree? Perhaps the tree is listening too! We cannot always understand the birds, and plants, and animals, but maybe they can understand us. That is why I envy the fairy folk who can be so friendly with us all.

THE WILL-O-THE-WISPS.

March came roaring in—bringing cold winds laden with sleet and snow. For the first few days everything was very quiet. The snow made a cosy blanket and the plants cowered under it gladly. The birds had not been so lucky. Those that had stayed at home came more boldly for crumbs, and were grateful for the water that kindly folk put out for them.

Yet—it was March, the wedding day for birds had passed, and it was time that new nests were being built. Not for always could they twitter on window-sills, hop about gardens, or creep into barns for comfort each night. The poor birds grew quite worried. They did so want to make ready their nests, but who could build in a snowy world? Why! they couldn't even choose a place for their nests, much less build them.

The birds were so sorry for themselves, that they almost forgot that they had any friends. The Fairyland folk had better memories. They knew that the world would need the songs of the birds, and how much the trees longed for their feathered playmates. Said a fairy "Do let us cheer up the birds. Even the robins forgot to chirp this morning. It will be dreadful if the birds forget to sing. We must help them." "I wish we could," sighed an elf. "They really are worried about their nests. If they only knew *where* to build, they would soon start when the snow has gone." "Ah! that is difficult," agreed an imp. "Let us all put on our thinking caps, and find a way to help them." Every member of Fairyland solemnly put on a thinking cap, and sat quietly waiting for new ideas to come. Suddenly, a sprite called out in glee, "I know! Let us ask the Will-o-the-wisps to search for good resting-places. They could, with their lanterns, and I'm sure they would help the birds." A murmur of delight ran

through Fairyland, and a fairy, an elf, an imp and a sprite were chosen to ask the Will-o-the-wisps to help the birds.

Now the Will-o-the-wisps were very very proud of their lanterns. There were no lanterns such as theirs, even in Fairyland. Therefore, when they heard the wish of the fairy-folk, each Will-o-the-wisp shone with pride. To use their lanterns for work that fairies could not do! Of course they would! As the messengers returned to Fairyland, a tremendous polishing of lanterns began.

What a time those Will-o-the-wisps had! They had asked for a week in which to do their work, and fairy-folk and birdfolk waited anxiously as the days passed by. They need not have worried, for the Will-o-the-wisps were quite determined to work well for the fairies. They fluttered in, and out, and about, amongst the fields, in the hedgerows, about the tall trees, and all over the woodlands. They even remembered the birds that like people for neighbours, and searched amongst chimney pots and roofs, and found crannies and holes in walls and sheds.

The week ended, and the Will-o-the-wisps entered Fairyland with news of their finds. The birds need not be sad, they had found resting places for them all. Each dweller in Fairyland was told where birds might rest, so that they could pass the good news on to the birds.

It was most surprising! The very next day the thaw began, and in a very short time the earth suddenly seemed to remember that Spring was on the way. The fairies carried their news to the birds, and, oh! what a flutter commenced. Crumbs lay forgotten, for worms could be had, and worms were near to resting places, and so were quickly found. The birds worked as though they hadn't a minute to lose. They flew backwards and forwards, carrying the things they needed for their nests. They found twigs and leaves, bits of wool from the sheep, and hair from the horses. They gathered mud with their claws, and moss with their beaks. Because they were busy they were happy, and they remembered to sing.

March went out quietly in happy, sunny days. Spring had come, and every opening bud and flower wakened to the songs of the birds. Sparrows and robins, black-birds and starlings, tom-tits and chaffinches, all sang and whistled their happiness, whilst the Will-o-the-wisps had never before felt so important.

When all the homebirds were settled in their nests, a new stir began in Fairyland. There was work to be done by the wind-sprites. All the wanderers must be brought home. On the wings of the wind sped the sprites, taking "Come home!" messages to the swallows and nightingales, the skylarks, and the thrushes. Very soon, with the sprites to show them the way, the wanderers could be seen returning home in flocks. They didn't need any help to find their nests, but they each had a friendly word for the Will-o-the-wisps. Gossip Wind had told the wanderers of the snowy days, and the silent birds, and how the Will-o-the-wisps had helped to bring back happy songs to birdland. Can you wonder that ever since then the lanterns of the Will-o-the-wisps seem to have glowed brighter than ever?

My love to all Imps,

MEG.

CONSTITUTION REVISION.

Mr. J. Shuttleworth, President of the Union, was in the Chair. He read the resolution passed at the 1932 Annual Conference, and said once we understood what our activities are, what we need, and what we are likely to launch out into, then could we start to build up a Constitution applicable to our agreements.

Article III. Objects, as fully considered and members aired their views freely. Three new sections are to be added to read:

- (e) "In accordance with the Seven Principles as laid down in the Memorandum of Association of the S.N.U., Ltd."
 (d) "Promoting the harmonial development of the individual by encouraging educational, social and other activities."
 (c) "Promoting cordial co-operative relationships between Lyceums and Churches and with the S.N.U. Ltd."

Amendments to the Constitution, as submitted to the last Annual Conference, were next on the Agenda. A suggested amendment to Art. III. that Conference be on the Rotary Principle in District Councils was not agreed to.

Amendments to Art. IV.

After discussion, the Committee decided that the Principle of a Chairman be not accepted. It was agreed that the 'Secretary' be deleted from the Officers. The suggestion that in Art. IV., from the words 'consisting of,' in line 3, to 'Bye-law,' on line 4, and substitute "one Executive Councillor from each District Council," was rejected.

It was agreed to suggest that the M.C. consist of four persons, elected from the floor of Conference. The question of one person under 25 serving on the M.C. to watch the interests of the youth of the Movement, was seriously considered, but it was almost generally agreed that young people should work their way through the Lyceums and District Councils to the National Committee. It was also suggested that some method be adopted whereby the four E.C. Members would be elected on a representative vote.

Article V. It was agreed that "7" be deleted and "15" substituted. Some method is to be sought whereby Lyceums with less than 15 members can be enrolled as 'associate members' at a nominal fee.

The point as to whether compulsory membership of D.C.s. should be inserted in the Constitution was left for fuller discussion when the question of finance is raised.

Article VI. It is recommended in Clause (e) that "and" be deleted and "or" substituted. It was also decided to recommend to the Trustees to only send two representatives to the Annual Conferences.

The matter regarding the U.D.C. was left until a further meeting. The principle of 'No vote by proxy' is recommended.

A suggestion to add a new paragraph to read "That there be two delegates from the S.N.U. Ltd., providing this Union is, at the date of Conference, in affiliation with the S.N.U. Ltd.," was recommended. And a further new paragraph to read "Notwithstanding the foregoing the Management Committee may grant fraternal credentials to representatives of bodies whose aims and objects are in sympathy with those of the Union" was recommended.

Article VII. is to be amended to read "one delegate for each 50 or part of 50 members." "Two delegates from the S.N.U., Ltd.," is to be added to the first section, to conform with recommendations in Art. VI.

In *Article VIII.* it was agreed not to recommend that the President's Address take precedence over other business.

Article IX. The last paragraph is to be deleted and the following substituted: "The General Secretary shall advise all nominees of their nomination and of the office for which they are nominated not later than the 30th of March. Nominees who do not write to the General Secretary by April 7th accepting nomination and stating their eligibility according to article 10 shall be deemed unwilling to accept nomination, and their nomination shall be void." It is also suggested that "within their own area" be deleted.

A suggestion that Section B shall read "Make 20 attendances at one Lyceum unless prevented by official services to the Union or District Council" be rejected. The last paragraph of Article X. is also to be deleted. The amendment, the "five years," instead of "three," in last paragraph, was rejected. It was unanimously agreed to transfer the whole of Bye-law 5, clause 1 to 7, to Article XI. of the Constitution.

Article XII. It is suggested that this article be re-drafted as follows:—First paragraph as printed, then to read "The accounts of the Union shall be audited annually by a professional accountant. In addition there shall be two Auditors, not members of the M.C., who shall review the books, vouchers, etc., and report thereon to the next Annual Conference."

(Continued on page 48).

THE THINGS WE HEAR.

BRADFORD DISTRICT D.V. REPORT.

I visited *Milton Lyceum* on Jan. 4th. Very good session and comments on all readings. Good pearls: Marching good. 20 present. *Keighley*; Feb. 4th. 22 present. A few comments on all readings. Marching and callisthenics good. Feb. 4th. 72 present. Open Session. This Lyceum is nicely improving.—A. Boyes, D.V.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

Jan. 22nd. morning I visited *Slaithwaite*. 16 present. Singing good. No response to readings. Marching and callisthenics very good. Good discussion on Reading 61. In the afternoon I visited *Marsden*. Punctual start at 1.45. 17 present. Mainly children; only two adults present. Good questions from the children on Reading 74.—E. Smith, D.V.

UNITED LYCEUMS DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Half-Yearly Meeting of the above Council will be held in the Church and Lyceum, Grange Road, Middlesboro', on Saturday and Sunday, March 11th and 12th. Write Mrs. M. I. Bonney, 24, Kildare Street, Middlesboro', stating your requirements *re* entertainment, etc., at an early date. This meeting is important, good attendance of delegates requested.

Agenda. 1. Opening exercises; 2. Pro.tem. Appointments; 3. Minutes; 4. Correspondence; 5. President's Address; 6. Reports: (a) Secretary's; (b) Revision; 7. Open Council: (a) Standing Orders, (b) Notices of Motion, (c) Motions arising out of business; 9. Date and place of next meeting; 10. Votes of thanks.

The Saturday meeting will commence at 6.30 and tea will be provided from 4 to 5.30 p.m.—A. S. Dickinson, Sec.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The A.G.M. was held on Feb. 11th at *Yeadon*. Good attendance. Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Illingworth were appointed Tellers. Minutes were adopted. Letter from *Laisterdyke* *re* nominations resulted in a resolution that in future only two officers from one Lyceum be elected in one year. The President's Address was accepted. Standing Orders Committee and D.V. reports were accepted.

It was decided that the third series of callisthenics be done in *Shield* Competition. The interchange of Conductors is to be continued, reports of same to be presented to Council meetings. We are to amalgamate with the Bradford D.C. of Yorkshire Council of Spiritualists in any Eastertide effort.

Officers for 1933: President, Mr. Hollings; Vice-President, Miss Hudson; Secretary, E. Aked; Treasurer, Mrs. Craig; D.V. is to be appointed on March 11th. The meeting stands adjourned until March 11th. at *Keighley*, at 3 p.m.

A very good concert was held and much enjoyed. Vote of thanks was given to local friends.—E. Aked, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT L.D.C.

On Saturday, Feb. 11th, at *Handsworth* Church, we held our A.G.M. The President, Mr. L. D. Frost, in the chair. Mr. Babb welcomed the conference. One item of interest was the awarding of the Silver Bell.

Minutes were accepted and confirmed. Reports of D.V. and Associate Representative accepted. A.R. reported falling off of associates. Treasurer's report accepted, little better financially than this time last year. Auditors' report given; complimented Treasurer on splendid method of keeping books.

Election of Officers took place:—President re-elected, Secretary re-elected, Treasurer re-elected, Vice-President re-elected (Mr. T. Wright); Associate Representative and District Visitor (combined in one office), Mrs. Shakespeare, 1472, Pershore Road, *Stritchley*; Auditors re-elected.

Ladies of "Forward" Church were thanked for hospitality. Will all Lyceum Secretaries send affiliation fees to Council as soon as possible. Next meeting, *Wolverhampton* Church, *Drummond* Street, May 13th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Brown, Sec.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

The A.G.M. was held at *Sowerby* Bridge on Feb. 12th. 4 officers, 11 delegates, 3 associate members and 1 visitor present.

Balance sheet showed a total income of £13 11s. 7d., with total expenditure £10 8s. 1½d., leaving £3 13s. 5½d. in hand, with bank balance of £2 2s. od.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. Baxter;

Vice-President, Mr. Ellis; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss G. Halliday; Auditor, Miss G. Haigh; D.V., Mr. E. Smith; Delegate, Secretary.

Mr. Aked, of Bradford and Mr. J. Taylor of Manchester, are to be adjudicators for 1933. Will secretaries please send in entry forms as soon as possible? It was decided that the D.C. should be officially represented at each Lyceum anniversary in the district.

Open Session in the afternoon was conducted by the Secretary. An appeal was made for the Education Scheme and Our Guild.

Evening service was presided over by the old President who, later handed over the reins of office to the new President, Mr. Baxter. The Secretary voiced the thanks of the D.C. to Sowerby Bridge friends.

Next meeting, West Vale, May 21st, at 10-30 a.m. Delegates required all day.—G. Halliday, Sec.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The A.G.M. was held at Vernon Street, Nelson, on Feb. 18th. Mr. Batley presided, supported by R. Latham, D.V.; T. Wood, Treasurer; J. Shuttleworth, Sec. Mr. T. Wood was appointed Credential Officer.

Miss Lawton sent letter *re* absence due to a J.E. Committee meeting at Halifax. Minutes were taken as read. Arising: A definition *re* the Joint Lyceum motion was deferred until correspondence. Minutes were confirmed and adopted. Correspondence. Many letters were read from Lyceums, B.S.L.U. and D.Cs., and were accepted. The Secretary's interpretation *re* the resolution was agreed as interpreting the spirit of the meeting, and the interpretation is to be included in this meeting's minutes.

Each Lyceum is to have a full statement of Demonstrations accounts. Fees are to be paid to the B.S.L.U. on 13 Lyceums. The Secretary reported 13 Lyceums had paid fees. Three Lyceums and three individuals contributed to the President's appeal, raising £2 12s. 6d. Meeting places are requested for 1933 and 1934. Since unpaid fees were remitted in 1929 there had accrued debts to the extent of £9 10s. The Secretary's report was adopted.

Treasurer gave last quarter's statement:—Income, £5 8s. 10d.; expenses, £4 3s. 9d.; balance, £1 5s. 1d.; loss, 5s. 2d. Balance sheet showed: Income, £19 9s. 5½d.; expenses, £18 4s. 4½.; cash balance, £1 5s. 1d.; loss on year, £2 0s. 11½. Income for 1933 to date, £2 10s.; total in hand, £3 15s. 1d. Balance sheet and Auditors' report were adopted. The Credential report showed 27 present. Pool 5s. 6d.

The Adjudicator reported Fleetwood, 129½ marks, as winners of the Bell; Darwen second, 123; Blackburn, 120; Burnley, North Street, 119. The report was accepted and adopted with thanks.

The President complimented the Adjudicator and appealed for serious consideration of the apathy prevalent in the Lyceums to-day. He appealed for financial support to the B.S.L.U. It was agreed that the President's address be forwarded to Lyceums for discussion.

The officers for 1933 were duly elected. A Notice of Motion from Blackburn, that the U.D.C. Delegate also be Conference delegate was defeated. It was decided two delegates attend the U.D.C. meeting. Miss Coghlan and Mr. W. Taylor were elected. Recommendations for B.S.L.U. nominations: President, J. Shuttleworth; Vice-President, Mrs. George; Treasurer, Mr. W. Burrows; Area Representative, Mr. J. Shuttleworth.

It was decided that only Lyceums having paid fees shall be adjudicated, but Lyceums in arrears be notified.

Future nomination forms are to be sent to all Lyceums at least 28 days prior to the A.G.M.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the Nelson friends for hospitality.—J.S., Sec.

IN MEMORIAM.

HOPE.—In loving memory of my dear son Albert, who passed to the Higher Life, March 18th, 1930. Ever remembered by his mother.

SHEFFIELD, Darnall.—On Jan. 21st, Walter, aged 2 years 11 months, also on 24th Jan., Harold, 1 year 5 months, beloved sons of Maude and Harold Hellawell. Interred 25th Jan., service conducted by Mr. J. F. Smith.

In remembrance of Marjorie Foster, who passed away 5th March, 1924, aged 23. Always remembered.—F. Jones, Sec

Owing to pressure of space several D.C. Reports held over until next month—Ed.

AROUND OUR LYCEUMS.

Copy for these columns must be received at the office by first post on the 20th of each month, recording events after the 20th of the preceding month. Lyceums taking 12 copies, 25 words; 24 copies, 50 words; 36 copies, 75 words. Additional copy 6d. per nine words.

ASHTON.—Anniversary Sessions, 5th Feb., conducted by Mr. J. W. Jackson. The afternoon session was built up from "Spirit Guidance," and pearls, recitations, etc., all fitted the subject. Evening, "The Builders." Again harmony reigned. Greetings from Hyde, Oldham, Waterhead and Central, and N.E.C.L.D.C.—R. A. L. Markham, Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session, Feb. 5th. Items by Dorothy Halsall, Mr. Ashcroft, Gladys Ormerod, Gladys Holmes, Joan Patchett, Mrs. Lord, Mr. H. N. Shaw, Nelly Taylor, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lord, Alice Wright, William Ashworth, Molly Halsall, Mrs. Wright, Mary McKenna, John Aspinall, Harry Salt, J. T. Foulds, Doris Clayburn, Will Watters, Mr. Halsall. Conductor, Mrs. Carter; Musical Director, Mr. J. T. Foulds.—S. Carter, A.N.S.C., Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—Open Session, Feb. 5th. Conductor, Mr. Reg. Robb. Items by Gwennie Watson, Eileen Probyn, Peggy Williams, Elizabeth Saunders, Mrs. Mars, Olwyn Daly, Wm. Barry, Elsie Makin, Elsie Thompson, Ernest Kneale, Mrs. Harper, Mr. Taylor, Florrie and Gertrude Watson, Donald Mars, Eileen Edwards, Albert Thompson.—Wm. Kneale, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—Open Session, Feb. 5th, conducted by Mr. Hargreaves. Duets, solos and recitations were well rendered. Our attendance is steadily improving.—J. Babbs.

BRISTOL.—Feb. 5th, Open Session and Annual Prize Giving. 20 prizes were presented by the Vice-President, Mr. Reed. Effie Cross was awarded 1st prize, having attained 150 marks, and Clifford Rosenthal the 1st prize for boys, with 147 marks. Pearls were excellent, followed by solos and recitations by the Lyceumists. Good open session.—Mildred Thompson, Sec.

CALGARY, First.—1933 Officers: Conductor, Mrs. A. Rushton; Assist., Miss M. Dams; Guardian, Mr. W. Biles; Assist., Miss Q. Rushton; Secretary, Mrs. F. Poyser; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Collette; Musical Director, Miss J. Poyser; Assist., Miss V. Stoutenboge; Librarian, Mr. J. Lilligren; Assist., Mrs. A. Rushton; Physical Director, Mr. V. Dams; Assist., Mr. J. Lilligren; Captain of Guards, Mr. M. Eshelby; Assist., Miss J. Poyser; Superintendent of Sunbeam Club, Miss T. Poyser.—A. E. Rushton, Sec.

CALGARY.—The National Spiritualist Church Lyceum held their annual meeting on Jan. 1st. Officers elected:—Mrs. A. Garrad, Conductor; Miss Evelyn Ford, Guardian; Ruth Kroll, Assist. Guardian; Teddy Cowlin, Physical Director; Nelson Ford, Captain of Guards; Bruce Malby, Danny Ford, Guards; Margaret Ford, Sec.-Treasurer. We are very pleased with the progress of our seven months old Lyceum.—M. Ford, Sec.

CHESTERFIELD.—Jan. 29th, Open Session. Items by Audrey, Kathleen and Eveline Clements, Mervyn and Irene Cowell, Irene and Harold Hobster, Jimmy Rippon, Reggie Herrot, Betty Bennett, Winnie Hooson, Arthur Marshall, Mrs. and Lillian Briggs. Stringings: Mervyn, Irene and Mr. Cowell, Irene, Harold and Mr. E. Hobster, Shirley and Mr. K. Widdowson, Frances and Mr. J. J. Hobster, Mr. Heath, Mr. Beckett and E. Campbell. Pearls: Shirley and Mr. K. Widdowson, Mr. E. Hobster, Mr. Heath.—S. Hobster, Session Sec.

DARWEN.—Jan. 22nd, Lyceum Founders' Day. Mr. Dickenson, of Nelson, answered many questions at Open Session in the afternoon, and also gave an address in the evening.—J. Blackledge, Ban. Sec.

DEWSBURY.—Open Session, Jan. 29th. Conductor, Mr. Gregory; Student Con., J. Badley. Very enjoyable session. The chief feature was the return of "Dad" Kitson, after his recent illness. He spoke a few words to us. It was prize-giving day, Mr. C. Phillips presenting 35 prizes. Pearls, recitations and duets were rendered in great numbers, especially by the younger Lyceumists. We were sorry to hear of little Dorothy Rand being ill.—V. Hartley, Sec.

DUNEDIN.—Dec. 11th the Lyceum closed for the annual holiday. Special Open Session. A number of visitors were welcomed by the Conductor. Pearls by all. The children received small gifts from the Conductor and Leaders. The Conductor received several nice gifts. Mr. Gore expressed the hope that she would return from her holiday fully restored to health. The hall was gay with flowers, which were taken to the hospital after evening service.—(Miss) R. Burgess, Hon. Sec.

EARBY, Greenend Avenue.—Feb. 12th, Open Session. Songs and recitations by I. Cryer, E. Hancock, D. Lea and M. Lea, R. Hancock, K. Hancock, D. Clough, O. Wilkins, E. Fox, A. Morby, J. Hancock. A solo, A. G. Morby, D. Sedon, T. Hancock, R. Hodkins, L. Etherington, Mrs. Rimington, Mrs. Millican and Mr. Millican.—A. G. Morby, Sec.

EDINBURGH, Gayfield Square.—25th Jan., Open Session. Recitations by Minnie Andrews, Alison Munro, Alex. Andrews, Jim Houston, Bertie Mackie. Songs by Miss Ewing, Mr. Mackie, Mrs. Cobb, —J. Andrews, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—Jan. 29th, Founders' Day. We held our usual three sessions. At the Open Session in the afternoon we had the Adjudicator with us. Items by Ruth Harris, Marie Dews, Tom Wright, Mary Gibson, Ethel Bugg, Kenneth Harris, Eric Horan, John Reeve, Willie Gibson. At the evening session 41 prizes were presented to our youngest Lyceumists by the Conductor, Mr. Batley. Founders' Day will have very happy memories for Fleetwood Lyceum, for at the N.E.L. L.D.C. A.G.M. we learned that our Lyceum had won the Shield.—L. Vollans.

HAMPTON WICK.—2nd Anniversary, Jan. 15th. Morning Session conducted by Uncle Bert, supported by members of the L.L.D.C. Auntie Ruth presented prizes. A Mass Session at Navada Hall in the afternoon, when seven Lyceums were represented. Two very pleasing items were a birthday cake, presented to Uncle Bert, and three medals presented to Lyceumists. A Propaganda Meeting was conducted by Uncle Bert, assisted by Mrs. Redfern, at Navada Hall in the evening.

A.G.M., 12th Feb., Miss E. Ashley in the chair. Officers elected were:—Conductor, Miss Moore; Secretary, Miss Pennington; Treasurer, Mrs. Comfort; Guardian, Mr. J. Hardiman; Musical Conductor, Mr. J. Lindsey; Captain of Guards, Mr. P. Robinson; Marching Instructor, Miss Moore; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Shaw; Guards, Miss M. Bays and Miss J. Attwood.

HEATON NORRIS.—Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mr. Downs; Assist., Miss D. Pickering; Secretary, Mr. F. Harrison; Leaders: Girls; A. Evison, D. Ellison, E. Illingworth, L. Illingworth; Leaders: Boys; W. Burgess, H. Webster; Musical Conductor, Miss Downs; Assistants, Miss Craig and F. Harrison; Callisthenics, Amy Evison; Liberty Group, Mrs. Craig; Children's Group, Miss A. Sprawson.—F. Harrison, Sec.

HEMSWORTH.—Dec. 27th, Children's Tea and Social, given by officers and friends. Two birthday cakes lighted the tables during tea. Enjoyable time was spent, with Xmas novelties for children.—Mrs. Bates, Sec.

HOLLINWOOD.—Feb. 5th, Open Sessions. The children responded with pearls, solos and recitations. A happy time was spent by all. 11th Feb., Annual Tea Party and Concert and Prize Distribution. 70 sat down to a tea. After tea the children entertained a still larger audience at Grannie's Birthday Party, and the Dramatic Society produced "The Man on the Sofa." Thirty prizes were distributed, including a special prize awarded to May Preston.—Jenny Fairbotham, Sec.

HORWICH, Chorley New Road.—Jan. 14th, Social and Prize Distribution. An enjoyable time. Jan. 29th, Open Session for Founders' Day. Mr. Simmonds, of Preston, was the speaker. We had a nice attendance.—Mrs. Giles, Sec.

LANCASTER, Bulk Road.—Feb. 5th, Prize Day. Miss Swale presented prizes to fifty-six Lyceumists. We had open sessions morning and afternoon, at which the children responded well with various items.—M. Bouskill, Sec.

LEEDS, Armley.—Feb. 4th and 5th, Anniversary. On the Saturday we gave a successful Tea and Concert, the children appearing in a little playlet, "The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe." On Sunday Mr. Batley, of Fleetwood, presented prizes during session and addressed the Church in the evening.—G. Parton, Sec.

LEEDS, Psycho.—Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mrs. Ward; Assists., Mrs. Proctor, Mr. Hunter; Treasurer, Mr. Daisley, Jr.; Secretary, Mrs. Hunter; Musicians, B. Charmley, Miss Atkins; Marching Leaders, E. Daisley, R. Ward, I. Brown, N. Croll; Capt., W. Brown; Guards, D. and A. Ward, A. Thistlewood, N. Webb, D. Betty, C. Croll; Sick Visitors, Mesdames Burrow, Wainwright, Ward, Proctor, Mr. Newton; Delegate, Mrs. Proctor.—Mrs. Hunter, Sec.

LEICESTER, Liberty Progressive.—Open Session. Items by Jacky Whitbread, Doris Crowdell, Kathleen Crowdell, Joan Whitbread, M. Wain, M. Gamble, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Thwaites, Gladys Warwick, Rosie Newton, Elsie Garrett, Doris Garrett, Lily Jayes, Yvonne Dehoux. Songs by Liberty Group. A

naming service on Feb. 19th. The infant daughter of Doris and John Whyllis was named Doris Barbara and spirit name of Light, by Mrs. Thwaites, Conductor.—Thomas Kenney, Sec.

LONDON, Croydon.—Anniversary Services, 5th Feb. Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Connor present. Services well attended and enjoyable. The outstanding feature of the evening session was Mr. Connor's straight talk to the Church members regarding the necessity for all Spiritualists to have a complete knowledge of the history and principles of the movement. The Lyceum, he said, was the avenue for obtaining that knowledge.—P. M. Stewart, Sec.

LONDON, Hackney.—Jan. 20th, Xmas Party at West Hackney Lecture Hall, where tea was served for the children. Games were organised and a very jolly evening was spent. All Lyceumists put the same Hackney spirit into the party that they put into their Lyceum work. Presents were given to the children.—M. Moring, Sess. Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham and Edmonton.—We are still progressing, our motto being "Go Forward." Great interest being taken in our groups.—Maurice Beavan, Sess. Sec.

LINCOLN, Coutham Street.—Jan. 10th, Mrs. Harrison gave a birthday party for her four year old niece, Nora. 50 members and friends were present. A cake, with four candles burning, pleased the children. A social evening followed. Santa Claus gave the children necklaces, stockings, caps, golf hose, handkerchiefs, chocolate, etc. Mrs. Harrison was cordially thanked for her party and Nora was given birthday wishes.—N. Willey, Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—Election of Officers:—Conductor, Mrs. Challinor; Secretary, Mrs. Rushton; Guardian, Mr. H. Johnson; Assistant Guardian, and Leader of Marching, Miss P. Swindells; Musical Conductor, Miss Hulley; Assistant, Miss Kenyon; Guards, Connie Downing, Joyce Potts, Mr. Magee and Stanley Woods; Leaders, Elsie Cotterill, Connie Downing, Phyllis Swindells, Harry Johnson, Miss Hulley, Miss Kenyon, Mrs. Holland, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Rushton and Mr. Magee; Librarians, Mr. Carter and Mr. Magee.—H. Rushton.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—Open Session, Jan. 29th, conducted by Miss G. Entwistle. Uncle Bert, London; Mr. Slimin, Tyneside, and Mr. Nellist, Tees-side, came with Mr. Hart. Eight Lyceums were represented. Items were well rendered by the children. Our visitors conducted our various readings and offered explanations. Uncle Bert spoke on "Possibilities." Our hearty thanks are extended to our Church Organist, Mr. Tom Lees, for his services. The session was very enjoyable.—Mrs. Wood, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Maskell Street.—Feb. 12th, very interesting Session, consisting of musical items rendered by Lyceumists. We hope this will help to stimulate further musical items. We are a proud Lyceum at having the honour of winning the Shield for 1932. See Broadcast Events for date of Shield presentation by the M. & S. L.D. Council. Our next Open Session is March 12th.—S. Sharp, Sec.

MIDDLESBROUGH, Grange Road.—Mr. Roeder addressed the Lyceum on Founder's Sunday, when greetings were sent to Dad Kitson. Open Session, Feb. 5th. Items by Pauline and Joyce Haigh, Clive Hudson, Marjory Cartwright, Margaret Pierson, Joan Naylor, Maurice Peacock, Mr. Shipman. Chorus by junior Lyceumists.—Edith Pierson, Sec.

MORECAMBE, West End Road.—The Lyceum held their first Lyceum week-end, which consisted of tea party and concert and prize distribution, on Feb. 11th, and Lyceum Open Session on Feb. 12th. The children responded splendidly. Both events were successful.—W. H. Moores, Sec.

OLDHAM, Central.—Jan. 1st, Gentlemen's Day. The chair was taken by the President. Four young men, all Lyceumists, were the speakers. Jan. 8th, Open Sessions. Good attendance. Jan. 14th, Lyceum Tea Party. Twenty-four prizes were presented to Lyceumists. A concert was given by the children to finish the evening.—Mrs. H. Clegg, Sec.

PETERBOROUGH.—Jan. 8th, prizes were awarded to successful scholars by Ben Carter (Halifax), followed by presentation of enlarged photograph of members of Lyceum to Mr. Carter, by Conductor, T. Anton.—A. E. Reynolds, Sec.

READING.—Feb. 5th, A.G.M. Mr. Deadman presided. Elected: Conductor, Mrs. Lawrence; Assistants, Mrs. Duke, Mrs. Jackson, Secretary, John Jackson; Treasurer, Mr. Duke; Organist, John Andrew Jackson; Assistant, Miss Radford; Librarian, Mr. Deadman; Leaders, Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Hulton, Mr. Hulton, Frank Cox, Violet Haslam, Margaret Latter. Votes of thanks.—John Jackson, Sec.

RYDE, Belvedere Hall.—Feb. 5th, Open Session. We were fortunate in having with us Mrs. Taylor, President, L.S.D.C. Greetings exchanged. Mrs. Taylor gave us a very helpful talk. All junior and some adult Lyceumists gave excellent individual efforts. We thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon together.

Feb. 12th, a naming ceremony was performed by Mrs. O. Perkis, at which the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Hall received the name of Colin Arthur Hall, spirit name "Courage."—Annie Hale, Sec.

RYDE, Newport Street.—Feb. 5th, Open Session. Session programme chosen by Lyceumists. Pearls by all. Solos by Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Bloomfield, Miss D. Perkis, Tony Perkis. Recitations: Joan Heapey, Joan Bell, Alan Gregory. A very enjoyable Session.—E. Oak, Sec.

SCUNTHORPE.—Jan. 28th, week-end services were taken by the Lyceumists. We are now looking forward to practising for a service of song for our next week-end.—Ivy Sprakes, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Attercliffe.—Originality was the keynote of a successful "Grand Valentine Party" held on February 16th. The Church was charmingly decorated to represent Valentine scenes. Every Church member, Lyceum elders and the parents of Lyceumists received a personal invitation by means of a Valentine Card, to be present.—James le Noury, A.N.S.C. Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley, Gifford Road.—Jan. 11th, Annual Xmas Tree and Treat. About 40 children and 30 adults sat down to a meat tea. After an evening of games, etc., each child received a gift from the Tree, and all in the Hall were given fruit and sweets.—H. Truelove, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley, Woodseats.—Feb. 5th, Open Session, conducted by Mr. Romanes. Pearls and recitations were well rendered, even to our youngest Lyceumist, aged four, making an afternoon well spent.—L. Grant, Sec.

SHIPLEY.—Feb. 5th, Open Session. Conductor, Mr. Illingworth. The following took part: Mrs. Hollings, Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mary Bower, Nellie Hutchinson, Ethelyne Bateson, Leslie Bower, solos, Miss Hudson and Mr. Illingworth. Miss A. Coles officiated at the piano.—E. H. Coles, Sec.

SMETHWICK.—Feb. 5th, Open Session, well attended. Conductor, Mr. T. Wright. Pearls and recitations by O. Millward, J. Evitts, R. Nicholls, A. Wade, O. Evitts, A. Pullinger, I. Wright, F. Millward and Miss Rivers.—T. A. Powell, Asst. Sec.

SOUTHEND AND WESTCLIFF.—January 18th, a very successful concert was produced by Mrs. M. L. Bell. The first part consisted of Living Statuary, and a small play entitled "A Real Fairy". The second part was a Japanese play entitled "Sunrise Land," which was very spectacular. Both these plays were very well acted, and the enjoyable evening closed with the heartiest congratulations for the untiring energy of the producer.—Stanley F. Thompson, Sec.

WALSALL, Bradford St.—Open Session, Conductor Mr. Wadsworth. Marching and Callisthenics conducted by Mr. Tildesley. Marching Leaders, Mr. Hollinshead, Miss Norah Johnston.—W. Hollinshead, Ban. Sec.

WHITLEY BAY.—5th Feb., Mrs. T. Nicholson presented the prizes to successful Lyceumists, and gave a very encouraging address. Pearls, recitations and songs were rendered.—Wm. Hall, Sec.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Jan. 29th, Special General Meeting decided to call the Lyceum the "Zenith Aim" Spiritualist Lyceum, instead of Drummond St. Lyceum.—Paul Warrilow, Sec.

CONSTITUTION REVISION—continued from page 45.

Article XIV. is to be re-drafted to read, "The expenses of the Officers, Management Committee, Trustees, Auditors, Conference Committees, and other persons serving the Union, shall be borne by the Union, when such are engaged upon Union's business. Such expenses shall include third class railway fare, and reasonable out of pocket expenses for each day on which the said business requires their attention."

The suggestion that "boundary lines shall be drawn up and all Lyceums in that area shall become members of the District Council belonging to that Area" was rejected.

The suggestion that in Article XV. "2/3 be deleted and "By a majority vote of Conference" be substituted was accepted.

In the District Council Constitution the question of "Associate" members was thoroughly discussed and decisions made regarding same.

The next meeting is to be held on March 25th and 26th, at the Union's office.

J. SHUTTLEWORTH, *Chairman.*
J. NORBURY, *Gen. Sec.*

THE BATTLE OF WORDS.

"THE COLLECTED WORKS OF MADAME BLAVATSKY." Volume One. (Rider & Co., 15/-).

No matter from what angle one approaches the study of Psychism, particularly in its phenomenal aspect, one cannot escape from that mysterious figure who had been called the Cagliostro of the Nineteenth Century, Helene Petrova Blavatsky. To some she was the re-discoverer of the Ancient Tradition, and the knowledge she presented to the world the gateway through which man should walk on to the pathway of perfection itself. To others she was a charlatan of the deepest dye, a cheating humbug, and a despicable adventuress.

Now at last, perhaps, through the able assistance of Mr. Trevor Barker, and through the publishing initiative of Messrs. Rider & Co., we are going to obtain a glimpse of the real Madame Blavatsky, and after reading the first volume of her Collected Works, I am bound to say what a wonderful thing this glimpse is going to be. There have been many who have said that Madame Blavatsky entered whole-heartedly into Spiritualism, and only broke away because she was not elected their leader. I do not think this is quite a correct version of what happened. From the first Madame Blavatsky insisted that Spiritualism was riddled through with a lower form of psychism that was dangerous to itself and detrimental to man, stating openly that much of the phenomena was produced by elemental spirits and not by discarnate entities as orthodox Spiritualists claim. The quarrel regarding "elementals" is undoubtedly one of the classic controversies within the realms of psychism, and if on the one hand the evidence of the seance room proves beyond a shadow of doubt the activities of discarnate spirits, on the other the phenomena of Madame Blavatsky definitely points to the fact that she had the psychic forces well under her control and was able apparently to summon their aid at will.

Her views on mediums are interesting, and in a manner, enlightening. She says "My experience shows that the worst enemies of mediums are mediums. Not content with slandering each other they assail and traduce their warmest and most unselfish friends." She definitely states that she does not wish to associate herself with the messages of advice that come in the seance room, and declares that "Who can blame me in not wishing to associate with or receive instructions from spirits who, if not far worse, were no better or wiser than I? Why should I turn necromancer and evoke the dead, who could neither teach me nor make me better than I was? It is a more dangerous thing to play with the mysteries of life and death than most Spiritualists imagine." These are either very brave words or merely proud platitudes. The real issue must be left for the individual to decide.

The humour of the woman has a pull which is strangely its own. When condemned by the editor of one spiritual journal she said, "Already one spiritual editor to most effectually demonstrate his spirituality has called me a witch. I have survived and hope to do so if two score more should do the same; but whether I ride the air to attend my Sabbath or not, one thing is certain: I will not ruin myself to buy broomsticks upon which to chase after every light set afloat by editors or mediums." Here one sees Madame Blavatsky at her best and at her worst. She could be brilliantly epigrammatic or stinging sarcasm as occasion demanded, and one often wonders how much her later prestige was due to the sarcasm she could evoke to denounce a hostile critic.

Every page of this book has something new to interest us. Whether she is discussing mediums, mysticism, Indian Metaphysics, Turkish barbarities, Theosophy, the Cabala, or any of the other hundred and one things that came within the sweep of her mental flights, she holds one thrilled and fascinated, until one is left staggering and saying, whatever she may have been here is a woman who is worthy of consideration.

It will be interesting to watch the building up of these volumes and to see the true nature of Madame Blavatsky unfolding through her own writings. No Spiritualist who is interested in the historical aspect of the Movement can afford to overlook the part this woman has played in the drama. We hope from time to time, as these volumes appear, to review them in our pages.

JUPITER.