

THE LYCEUM BANNER

VOL. XLIII. No. 506.

APRIL, 1933.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

SPRING AGAIN

SPRING AGAIN!
The time for new beginnings. The time for young things. The time for starting all over again the pleasant round of the year.

by

URSULA
BLOOM

They say that the new year is the time for making new resolutions, but I always think that Spring is the real time. Spring, when you are sitting in some bluebell wood, and when you see all around you the hundred miracles of everyday happening, which are so much greater than the miracles we dream about.

Birds with their tiny nests swung high in the budding branches of the trees; the primroses nestling close to the earth, with their more frail violet friends; the bluebells scattered in companionate clusters in the woodland, the wild orchids, and the pale green-yellow tassels of cowslips. These are the eternal miracles which life offers and which some of us pass by unseeing.

While there is still Spring the age of miracles is not past. While there is still Spring, the chance to make a new and good resolution is not to be missed. While there is still Spring, then there are new hearts, and new lives turning towards the great question of all time, and demanding the answer of us.

It seems to me that the Spring time of a saner and wiser religion is dawning on this world. It will come slowly, very slowly indeed. It cannot be hastened. We have to do away with the old shibboleths and laws. We have to sweep aside so much that has become firmly established, and which was intolerant, and unkind, and not religion at all. We have never given Christianity, true Christianity, the morale of a Galilean Peasant, a chance. It occurs to me that when Jesus died on that first Good Friday, he had done his part towards founding the challenge of a new way of life to man. When he rose again in the glory of that eternal Easter, it was as the disembodied spirit, and the disembodied spirit has done and is doing his work here in this world, as he seeks to influence all who aspire to the Good Life.

He left it to others to carry on, and they carried on away from his teaching. Christianity, the Christianity which we have indulged in, has never been the religion that Jesus taught. He would not have tolerated the bitter blood-shed, the terrible slaughter, the Inquisitions, the horror that came to the world through the Faith they claimed to be his.

Not only did the Christian's slaughter and were slaughtered, but when they had had their wars with the people around them, then they started more wars

amongst themselves. They burnt reverend gentlemen at the stake, because they believed in candles, or did not believe in candles. No popery, and yet again popery, those were the opposing cries.

The morale of Jesus was a beautiful foundation, on which an ugly house was built up. The builders forgot to look again at the plan, they did not see with the Master's eye.

Jesus meant peace. He preached peace. His morale was live and let live. He asked for tolerance.

Gradually we are getting back to the spirit of his teaching. Gradually we are realising that the dogma and code do not matter one iota, but what does matter is how we personally live, how we think and how we treat each other.

There is always time to make the new beginning. There is always time for the great miracle to take place. Give it a chance. The new youth of this life is being given twice the opportunity that the last generation had. It is being given greater help, it will go forward. It will carry forward into that great new Spring that I myself feel will come, soon . . . perhaps even in my lifetime. I pray that it may.

And in the glory of that Springtime of confirmed faith, and of new thought, of tolerance and love, and eternal peace, every man will stand his chance. It will always be Easter.

To that end we are working.
For that miracle we are striving.
I pray that we may get it soon.



THIS MONTH
R. W. MARK, G.N.S.C.
ENTERS THE ARENA

Nothing makes the soul so pure, so religious, as the endeavour to create something perfect; for God is perfection, and whoever strives for it strives for something that is God-like.—MICHAEL ANGELO.

AND OFFERS
A FEW SUGGESTIONS
TO MR. CALWAY.

WE ARE ALL NO DOUBT AGREED that the Lyceum is far from being perfect and that there are many features that may be improved by alteration.

The Lyceum Manual may possibly be considered very definitely to be one of these, at least insofar as certain portions of it are concerned.

To say however that some portions of it are "nauseatingly sentimental, boring to adults and disgusting to children" is a statement so utterly unreasonable in its general character that I cannot pass it without comment. "Love one another" for instance may sound sentimental judged by the standard of modern youth, but the putting of it into practice by the public at large would produce such sweeping beneficial changes as to utterly confound the leaders of much so-called modern thought.

Certainly let us have our text book brought up to date, and in passing may I point out to Mr. Calway that the Manual has been revised from time to time and is in fact under revision now, but we must walk before we run and I doubt, at this juncture, if the finances of the Union would be able to stand the strain of a completely new version of the Manual.

Mr. Calway, I note, suggests that he, along with others, has become bored with the Lyceum Session, in his own particular case after eight years, and admits that he has become somewhat blasé. In that case he will no doubt agree that his outlook has become somewhat distorted. In the North there is an adage which says "the more you put into a Lyceum session the more you get out of it."

Again, the question was raised about the seeming "tiredness of many conductors" (Oh! to be a conductor!) but if the Lyceumists who attend session adopt a bored and unsympathetic attitude, what can you expect? A little knowledge of psychology will convince you that such a reaction is virtually inevitable. Come now Sydney, I am not too sure that you really are bored; at least a little of the fire you have shown in your article if applied at the Lyceums into which you have been would have at least wakened them up.

The marching and callisthenics also come under our young friend's ban (and mark you, not because they inculcate the militarist spirit this time). In fact as I progress through the article I am beginning to wonder why we have a Lyceum Session at all! With some of the observations I must necessarily agree, but again Mr. Calway's pen runs away with him, for although his remarks respecting the improved methods of Physical exercises in the day schools are quite correct, still he must admit that additional exercises on a Sunday can scarcely be considered harmful. But does the Lyceum personnel comprise only children? It does not. Very well, do not the callisthenics give excellent continuation exercises to adolescents and adults? The ideal of the callisthenics being a mid-week or even daily Lyceum activity is, in the conditions of modern

work-a-day life, an ideal more to be desired than to be attained.

The suggestion for the introducing into the Lyceum Session of poems from other sources than the Lyceum Manual came as an agreeable surprise. Here is something well worth noting. I have seen this done with very excellent results. Naturally some care has to be taken to select the right type of matter but there is no lack of this available.

Complaints however are the wrong form of discussion if we are desirous of effecting a change in as short a time as possible; it is bad psychology; it antagonizes instead of encouraging. It will be found from the hard school of experience that a negative expression has never the force of a positive one and the criticism, to be really effective, must be constructive criticism, we should never pull down before we are certain of what we are to put into the place of that which we attempt to destroy.

Visualise for a moment a Lyceum in which each of the Officers have very definite and different ideas as to how a Lyceum Session should be run, and who enlarge upon their ideas by criticising the methods of their fellow Officers. Although their intentions may be for the good of the Lyceum, is it not quite obvious what the effects of it will be. The Officers feel that their best efforts are belittled, and being human beings with the ordinary human failings, they become either discouraged, and the Lyceum which had within it all the ingredients of a really successful body rapidly falls away to a mere shadow of its true possibilities. The old adage once again has proven true, "united we stand, divided we fall."

This does not mean that we must not ventilate any new ideas that we may have, but we must be careful that we do not offend other peoples susceptibilities by indiscreetly approaching them.

Should the changes we contemplate be of a radical nature, and in any way controversial, the Union provides an excellent venue for their considerations either at the District Council meetings or at the National Conference, where the questions may be fully discussed and an equitable solution arrived at.

That the Lyceum produces tub-thumpers was a new idea to me. Obviously any Movement of any dimension will contain a small portion of people who may be classed as such, but to state in such a dogmatic way that the system produces them, presumably in bulk, was a really startling suggestion, and one, I am sure, that is not substantiated by the facts. Surely, it will be realized that the ordinary Lyceum Session does not set itself out to produce fully qualified speakers, although it provides the means for the obtaining of these by studies in the Associate and Graduate Sections of the National Spiritualist College.

To conclude this reply may I say that all other considerations on one side, Mr. Calway's article is worth serious consideration by all Lyceumists', if only to convince Mr. Calway that we are not all Rip Van Winkles.

MUSIC IN CHILDHOOD
AND
ADOLESCENCE

2
HENRY DENNIS

THE PIONEER OF
SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY
MUSIC



THERE are many Sunday Schools in England where the "Anniversary" is kept each year with special music, and, of course, collections for school funds. Money is always necessary, but few people know that the idea of marking this anniversary or "School Sermons" by special music originated in a small Leicestershire village called Hugglescote.

It happened about the middle of last century. In those days they had "Charity Sermons," preached annually for the purpose of raising money for the local orphanage whose inmates—poor things—had to wear a distinctive dress of ugly red flannel to show they were not like other children, but dependent upon charity.

Now Henry Dennis was a Leicestershire farmer who took a great interest in the affairs of his countryside. He was Way-Warden, Vestryman and Chairman of the local Board of Guardians. He was also a gifted musician, the local choirmaster, and an accomplished fiddler. He loved music even better than his farm, and taught himself to play every instrument he could lay his hands on. His kind heart also took pity on the poor "charity children" who were obliged to show themselves at chapel—conspicuous in red flannel—whenever special sermons were preached on their behalf. He taught them special hymns and tunes. Then he hit upon the idea of writing special tunes of his own for them to sing. People liked them, so being superintendent of the Sunday School he introduced his own music there also. He would train the scholars for many months before the Anniversary, and conduct them on the day itself. Then he organised a village band, and wrote special parts for them to play.

Very soon Mr. Dennis's music began to attract attention outside his own village. Each year hundreds of country-folk from outlying districts came to hear the new tune he wrote for those occasions. Then they borrowed it, his bandparts, and even his band itself, for performance

at their own Anniversaries. His fame began to grow, for there was in his music a rare spiritual force as well as a spontaneous flow of melody. When he died, in 1887, his fame had spread all over the Midlands, and to this day his music is sung at almost every Anniversary around that countryside. Since his day many others have imitated him in the great work he began, but he was the pioneer.

At his own chapel in Hugglescote they recently honoured his memory with a great "Dennis Festival," at which most of his best music was sung to crowded congregations and accompanied by an orchestra of highly-skilled players. As I write, a marble tablet is being erected in the chapel he loved and served as Secretary for 30 years, as a tribute to his memory. In the Sunday School a handsome enlargement of his photograph will be unveiled along with the tablet. In the adjoining graveyard where they buried his body in 1887 there is carved on his tombstone a fiddle and a scroll containing the first line of his famous hymn tune "Euphony," still sung by Methodists and Salvationists the world over. It is fitting, therefore that the new tablet should express in his honour the noble words from *Ecclesiasticus XLIV*:

"Let us now praise famous men, . . .
Such as sought out musical tunes . . .
Their name liveth to all generations."

Many thousands of admirers of his music will read those words, and will be glad to know that a prophet has been honoured in his own country.

There will be none so proud as the writer of this article, for Henry Dennis was my grandfather. The work he accomplished has borne greater fruit than he ever dreamed of during his lifetime, both on this side and in his own spiritual development since he passed over. I know that, because (and here I am going to say something which could not be said in an ordinary magazine) I know because Henry Dennis is one of my own musical guides.

It is now 20 years since I made that discovery, though I have felt his influence all through childhood, manhood, and in my musical career. He has talked with me many times since, through several mediums, and once through Mrs. Etta Wreidt's trumpet in a "direct voice" sitting, he sang one of the tunes he wrote for those Anniversaries so long ago. The incident astonished Mrs. Wreidt and convinced me for all time of his identity, for I was the only person present who knew that tune. From that day to this his loving influence has never left me.

He tells me also that I have often been with him during my sleep, and that we have had many a chat together while my spirit was thus temporarily out of my body. I would give a good deal to remember those conversations, but I cannot, for the brain and the mind are two different things, and the mind is seldom able to impress the brain when the latter is asleep.

But in spite of this I think I have always understood his music better than anyone else, for although it is so simple I understand the spiritual force behind it; and am also looking forward to the great work he tells me I shall have to do along with him, when I finally join him on the other side.

In my next article I will tell you some of the things he has told me about the Music of Heaven,

STAINTON MOSES

A PEN
PORTRAIT by CORDELIA
GRYLLS

FIFTY YEARS AGO THE NAME OF STAINTON Moses was one to conjure with in the Spiritualist movement. In these days, when there is a multiplicity of books on Spiritualism, and much automatic writing he is in danger of being forgotten, and his work is little known among the rising generation. A short account of his life and labours will, therefore, be of interest to many and will help to keep his memory alive.

To begin with the man himself, as revealed by one intimately associated with him—Mr. Charlton Speer, writer of the biographical note in the Memorial edition of "Spirit Teachings," who had been his pupil for some years as a boy, and later had attended many of the seances held at Dr. Speer's house. William Stainton Moses was born in November 1839, and received his early education at the Lincoln Grammar School of which his father was headmaster. At sixteen he went to Bedford School, where he took many prizes and won an exhibition to Oxford. Here his ability and industry raised great hopes of his winning high honours, but he worked too hard, and on the eve of his final examinations, broke down completely, and was ordered abroad. He spent about a year on the Continent, going as far as St. Petersburg, and then on to Greece, where he felt such an attraction for the old Greek monastery of Mount Athos that he spent six months in rest and meditation in that quiet old-world spot. In later life he learned that he had been impressed to do so by his guides, who were even then preparing him for his life-work.

Stainton Moses returned to England, took his degree, and was ordained to a country parish in the Isle of Man as curate-in-charge, under a very old and infirm vicar. While there he revealed the absolute fearlessness and unselfishness of his character. An epidemic of small-pox broke out, and, there being no resident doctor in the place, Stainton Moses exerted himself to give what assistance he could, attending to the stricken population both physically and spiritually. Needless to say, he was greatly beloved, and his departure was sincerely regretted when he left to take a curacy in Douglas. Here he became acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. Speer—an acquaintance which was to lead to great results for humanity.

In 1870, after suffering from throat trouble which obliged him to give up his clerical career, Stainton Moses joined Dr. and Mrs. Speer in London, and undertook the education of their son, and a year later he obtained the post of master at University College School,

a post he held till ill-health and the pressure of other work obliged him to relinquish it in 1888.

His interest in Spiritualism started through the reading by Mrs. Speer of Dale Owen's "Debatable Land." She was so greatly interested in it that she induced Stainton Moses to read the book, and before long he and Dr. Speer had sittings with some well-known mediums and became convinced that there was *some* force outside the medium responsible for what took place. They then started a home circle at which the mediumship of Stainton Moses quickly developed. The phenomena enumerated by Mr. Charlton Speer included raps, lights, musical sounds, direct writing, passing of objects through the walls and ceilings from other rooms, production of various scents and movement of heavy objects such as chairs and the large mahogany table at which they sat. Stainton Moses soon developed clairvoyance and deep trance, and through him at the circle were given many beautiful trance addresses, the notes of which were sent by Mrs. Speer to "Light" some years after the passing of Stainton Moses which took place in September 1892.

In spite of the demands made upon his time by his school work, Stainton Moses contrived to bestow an immense amount of energy upon Spiritualistic research. He carried on an enormous correspondence with enquirers all over the world, and was in constant demand by all sorts of people eminent both socially and politically, with some of whom he joined in the foundation of the Society for Psychological Research. In 1884 he established the London Spiritualist Alliance, and became its first president. He contributed frequently to "Light," of which he subsequently became Editor.

But it is by his automatic writings that Stainton Moses is best known. He sent many extracts from his notebooks to the 'Spiritualist' and later to 'Light' and in compliance with many requests in 1883 he issued the well-known collection which he named "Spirit Teachings." Stainton Moses always carried about with him a flat oblong notebook so as to have it at hand if he felt the impulse to write. These books, of which there were about twenty-five, show several varieties of handwriting, some extremely tiny, requiring a magnifying glass to read, some very large, and a few even coloured red and blue, although Stainton Moses possessed no coloured chalk or ink. These books are now in the possession of the L.S.A. and a typescript copy is to be seen in the library of that institution. One remarkable fact in connection with his automatic writing was the ability of Stainton Moses to study an abstruse problem or read an interesting book while the spirits were writing through his hand, which, in order to prevent its being influenced by his own mind he frequently covered with a handkerchief while it was being used by his guides. Another article will deal with his controls and their teachings.

(To be concluded next month).



MERELY DUST ■

by

W. H. EVANS.

MOST OF US ARE impressed by mere bulk. The big things of life loom before us and we are filled with wonder, sometimes awe. There is something in mere bulk which appeals; its very massiveness seems so enduring. The mountain's crest lost in the swirl of the clouds, challenges us; we are so small beside it. Even the works of our hand sometimes have the same effect. Stand beneath the dome of St. Pauls and look up. The suggestion of vast space gives an airy lightness to the dome above us. Soaring away as it seems to do, we shrink, and feel a sense of insignificance. Amidst the roar of the city streets; with their massive buildings, men come and go like ants around ant-hills. And yet to the physicist it is all a mass of dancing electrons invisible to our eyes, but which in some way we see as buildings, or mountains, rivers, and meadows. It is all consolidated dust!

Contrast a mountain and a man. From the aspect of mere size man is a pigmy, a mere pixey dancing o'er the heath! But in man is something which can mould the mountain to his will. The pigmy man conquers the Goliath, mountain, and with the sling of will, the pebble of intellect, subdues it to his will. If the mountain straddles his path he bores a hole through it, or makes a road over it. Mind rules and moulds matter. It is the antithesis of matter, and laughs at bulk as a figment of the imagination. Think of the vast universe in which we are, millions of light years in extent, and what does it mean to us? Are we dismayed? Do we wring our hands and say its problems are insoluble? No, we bend to our tasks and with the light of intelligence seek, and find, and seek again. Mass and bulk have their place but mind has a value which raises it above the weight of a million suns, and a brightness which outshines Sirius, or the Pleiades.

But whither am I going? I wrote at the head of this article the word "dust," and you will be wondering what worlds, suns, systems, have to do with it. Very much indeed, for these are but aggregations of dust from the Cosmic highways! Even so, the housewife declares war upon dust, and is not concerned with the whirling motes in the abysses of space, but with those fine particles which seem to distill out of the air and settle upon the sideboard she has so religiously polished. Probably she feels a great concern about it, but if told that but for dust the world would be in darkness, would probably gaze at us in wonder. Is it so important? Cannot we see without it? No, for *light is invisible!* It is the dust of the world which makes it visible, so that in very deed the whole of life may be said to depend upon dust. Given an entirely dustless world, and all life would perish, for light is essential to all life. I think there is a lesson here; it shows how close knit is the web of life, and how its relationships stretch across the voids of space and link us to the stars and suns, which glow in the night sky.

Nature pays as much attention to the small as to the great. She lavishes her beauty upon us. The microscopic shells of the diatoms are something to marvel at, with their interlacings and geometric designs. Why all this beauty which apparently no one ever sees? It reveals the universality of law. "The law that rounds the dew drop, forms the world." Beauty is inherent in nature, and we have not yet unravelled its function. It does not pertain to the world of matter, but to mind. Under the direction of life, tiny electrons and atoms are kept in their appointed paths, and form the lacelike designs in the shells of diatoms, butterflies, flowers, and other forms of life. Even so, let us not forget the delicate traceries which Jack Frost traces on our window panes. The lines of force around which the frost crystals cohere reveal beauty even in the inorganic world. And it is all dust! atoms which in some marvellous manner are marshalled by a Supreme Intelligence. What is that intelligence? The religious thinker calls it God; the scientist calls it Law; the philosopher, the First Cause. All different names for the same Power. Yes, and the greatest of all wonders is this; all this beauty does not exist except there are minds to appreciate it! For it is mind which sees beauty; which *feels* its glory, and *knows* its power. Mind! And does not the fact that our minds can apprehend and appreciate the beauty of Nature imply a Mind which has produced it, in which that beauty is inherent? I think so. And that Mind is so great that it can, out of dust, make worlds and men.

WORKERS ALL.

A Lily, broken on its stem,
A Fledgling, from the parent nest outcast;
Mere unimportant trifles in man's eyes,
A cruel fate their early lives doth blast.
The broken Flower, placed by some lone bedside,
May ease a pain, may weary eyes make glad;
Its beauty and its perfume breathing heaven
To pain-racked body, or a heart so sad.

The little Fledgling, by some traveller rescued,
Caged and well fed; content a pet to be,
Repays the kindness by a life's affection,
Nor ever pines for greater liberty.
Who knows, perhaps its loving, bright-eyed glances,
And feathered touch, may sympathy impart,
Nestling 'gainst cheek, or toilworn hand caressing;
Breathing God's message to an aching heart.

Pass on! vain man, pass on thy way unheeding,
"Lord of Creation" thy mighty power is such;
But when earth's journey o'er, thy record reading,
Can thou then answer thou hast done as much
There are no insignificants in God's Creation,
All have the Master's work to do each day;
Each lowly flower, each songbird gaily singing,
Shall serve to point to man the nobler way.

MARY A. SWEENEY (Warrington Lyceum).

William Hope

The Modern ● ●
 Troubadour ● ● ●
 of God ● ● ●

*Alone with Thee amid
 the mystic shadows,
 The solemn hush of
 Nature newly born;
 Alone with Thee, in
 breathless adoration,
 In the calm dew and
 freshness of the morn.*

BY

James Norbury.

THERE exists a strange kinship between Francis of Assisi and William Hope of Crewe. Each can be said by common desire to have been wedded to My Lady Poverty. Each met the storms and battles of life with a song of praise on their lips, and each surrendered himself entirely to one dominating purpose that coloured the texture of his life.

When we turn to mediævalism we shall find that the rich little poor man, the singer of songs whose simple beauties are a high light in an age of darkness, was undoubtedly the transforming factor of the religion of his day. Through his ministry men and women who had become disillusioned about life, who had lost their vision, who had seen the darkness of a closing era folding in upon them, found a new inspiration and discovered the way of the courageous life once more. The same can be said of William Hope. To him people of all lands and climes have come to rediscover a faith in themselves and the certainty of first and last things. With his passing, not only Crewe, but the world, has lost one of its greatest men, and no matter how much Spiritualism may grow and blossom forth into the universal religion it is destined to become, the Crewe circle and their labours will be unforgotten, for they are, without doubt, one of the corner stones of the new vision of life which Spiritualism presents to mankind.

Speaking of him at the moment when we were bidding his mortal remains farewell, Ernest W. Oaten, a man who had stood by him when the storm waves were beating in upon his reputation, said, "William Hope was one of God's simplest souls, but he was more than this; he was also one of His greatest servants. He was essentially a man of the people, simple, rugged, and direct. In treading the thorny path along which every public medium must walk he was as one who sits on the top of a wall for every fool and ignoramus to throw stones at. And yet he never bore malice. I do not think he had any ill-will to anyone."

"Peers considered it a privilege to be in his company. Scientists laughed at his simplicity, but admired his sincerity. All who knew him intimately learned to love and respect him. He has brought comfort to thousands and I know of no man in the world who can fill his place."

In these few words Ernest Oaten has done more than pay a tribute to a great man, he has re-created that man's character for all time.

I well remember my first contact of Billy Hope. It is one of the high lights in my psychic adventures. There was something so tremendously humorous about the whole atmosphere of that first sitting. I do not know quite what I expected when I arrived at Crewe, but I certainly did not expect a funny little man, in a dirty old cap, with a face wreathed in smiles, and welcome in every word, to open the door to me at 144, Market St.

In that first contact I felt I was in the presence of one whose essential nobility strangely contrasted with my own unworthiness. There was no fuss about the whole business. I had taken my own plates, I watched every stage of the proceedings, and I obtained an extra. I gained much more, however, than a psychic extra, for in that first hour's association with Billy Hope one glimpsed a faith so sublime, a surety in the guiding hand of God so certain, that one's own halting acceptance gained new re-assurance, a vitality that was stronger than anything one could build into one's philosophy of life from reading tomes or burning the midnight oil for years.

Of his passing I need say little. That he suffered more deeply than even his most intimate friends realised is a fact that we now fully appreciate. But in those last hours as the twilight of life in this world closed in upon him, as he wandered in the shadows that lie along the last valley, he was still his cheerful self. Whereas some might hope for a hereafter, Billy knew. What a host of friends must have gathered to welcome him as he awakened in that new dawn-time. Friends who had walked a little way ahead, yet whose memories of earthly associations with him must have linked them in bonds of affection that naught can destroy.

As we walked along to the graveside the thought flashed through my mind how terribly unlike Billy Hope this strange, yet dignified, procession was. He would have like all the flowers, for his was a soul that revelled in simple things, in the beauty of springtime in the merry tinkle of childish laughter, but all the fuss that we were making would have seemed to him to be a huge joke. Somehow, I felt he was there, laughing at us all, cracking his little jokes at our expense, for I cannot imagine Billy Hope without thinking of that hilarity which always marked our meetings.

And so, over the centuries, there stretches the bonds of a great kinship; the brown habit of a Franciscan monk, wandering along the lanes of Umbria, pouring out his soul in divine melodies; the old home-spun clothes, the rough tweed cap, the strains of evangelical hymns, the rugged face, wreathed in smiles, of the modern troubadour as he too wandered the length and breadth of England, proving triumphantly there are no dead to the multitudes who came to him, seeking facts to prove the survival of man after bodily death. He wandered so much in the shadowy places of life, he was often unjustly and bitterly attacked by those who not only did not seek to understand him, but who failed entirely to appreciate his nature. He proclaimed the truth of Samuel Rutherford's words, "All the Saints have their own measure of winter before their eternal summer. O! for the long day, and the high sun, and the fair garden, and the King's great city up above these visible heavens! What God layeth on, let us suffer, for some have one cross, some seven, some ten, some half a cross—yet all the Saints have whole and full joy, and seven crosses have seven joys."

As I lay down my pen I realise how inadequate any words of mine are to tell this story. At the best I am but a poor journalist, one used to dealing in sensations and evolving fictions, but here I meet one whose essential simplicity cannot entirely be captured by my subtleties. Of him we can say best with Homer,

"He was a friend to man and lived in a house by the side of the road."

OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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

EXAMINATION DATES IN 1933.

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

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

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.

IMPORTANT TO SECRETARIES.

The names of your Lyceumists who intend taking the examination next month should have already been sent to the Education Secretary. But if, for any reason, you have been unable to send them in during March, you still have a chance, as the closing date for receiving entries has been postponed to 26th April. Send in your entries AT ONCE, and so save your students from being disappointed, as we are sure they will not like to be left out of the lists.

REMINDERS TO STUDENTS.

The examinations will be held next month—on 14th May, or during that week-end.

If your name has not been sent in, ask your Secretary to send it now—it will be too late after April 26th, and you *must* take the examination.

The Education Department in each issue contains interesting and helpful information—which may be of use to you.

KNOW the set chapters in your Handbook; KNOW the set pieces in the *Manual*; look them up in *Summaries and Glossaries*, and learn the meanings of the hard words and phrases; learn the Summaries, and practise writing out answers to questions. You cannot then help doing well in May.

You have now only six weeks remaining before Examination week-end, and should devote the time to revision work and in practising how to write answers to questions. Grade V candidates could give one week to each article in No. 3 Handbook and the corresponding chapters in *Essays on Reasoning*, and are advised to obtain the questions set at the last examination and answer them, as the questions set this year will be similar in nature.

In examination practice do not take more time in answering a question than you will be allowed to take at the actual examination.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION.

May I appeal to Lyceum Secretaries to pass on to their Tutors the pamphlets and leaflets forwarded from the General Office in the middle of February. In these pamphlets will be found all the information necessary

for the proper carrying out of the Examinations, and if the Secretaries will please pass them on it will save me having to spend time and postage in answering questions that should never have to be asked. I have received quite a number of requests for information regarding the duties of Supervisors and Tutors, and in case the pamphlets have been mislaid or gone astray, I am giving a brief summary of the duties of these officials, and also of the Secretary.

SECRETARY.—The Secretary collects the names and fees (if these are not paid by the Lyceum) of all candidates, fills them in on the List of Candidates Form—each Grade in a group by itself and headed by the Grade number (GRADE I., GRADE II., etc.), with a space of three lines between each group of names—and forwards the list to me with the Fee Form (which explains itself), adding 2s. 6d. to the fees for examination expenses and postages. When the Examinations are over, he will receive from me the marked papers and certificates, and a free copy of the Results Book.

SUPERVISOR.—The Supervisor receives from me, a week before the examination, the Questions and a sheet of examination paper for each student. He arranges for the times of sitting—a sheet of instructions is sent with each packet—sits with the students during the examination, collects all the answer papers, and sends them to me as soon as possible. He hands the Oral Grade Examination envelope to the Oral Grade Supervisor, who examines the Oral Grade in a separate room or at a different time—so as not to disturb those sitting for the written exams.—and hands the Form to the Supervisor to be forwarded with the written papers.

TUTORS.—Tutors are appointed or approved by the Lyceum Committee. Each tutor superintends the studies of the members of his or her own class, and sees that each student has the necessary Handbook for the Grade. Tutors are given a free hand—excepting that no tutor can also be a Supervisor.

LATE ENTRIES.

Entries are coming in very slowly, and I appeal to Secretaries to let me have their entries as soon as possible. I am doing the examination work in my spare time, and if entries are kept over to the last I may not be able to deal with them in time. So please send them along at once, as a personal favour to me.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

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

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

For all B.S.L.U. Education Handbooks, copies of Examination Questions, etc., apply to:—

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

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

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

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.

APRIL, 1933.

WORLD MAKERS OR WAR MONGERS—WHICH?

The world to-day stands in grave danger of an outbreak of war that would inevitably practically annihilate modern civilisation. The internal situations in the various countries of Europe which are tending to fan into flame a strong spirit of nationalism; the increasing antagonism to the Russian experiment; the intensification of depressed conditions among the working class of the community; the growing struggle to exploit the few remaining world markets; all these factors are ominous signs of danger to present day humanity.

The League of Nations, in spite of the ideals that inspired its inception, has failed, and failed lamentably, to meet the growing need for a spirit of internationalism among mankind; for while nations meet together, hide-bound by national policies and national prejudices, it is impossible to cherish the illusionary conception of them establishing, by mutual agreement, the peace of the world.

Some months ago Sir Arthur Keith suggested that war was "Nature's pruning-hook," since it was allied biologically to the struggle for existence which led to the survival of the fittest. We have only to examine this idea critically for a few moments to appreciate its fallacy. While in primitive times, when the brute strength of the savage was his main asset in war, it may have been true that the fittest man and the victorious tribe survived, producing a stronger stock in the racial blood-stream; to-day, owing to the misuse of scientific knowledge, man has created devilish instruments of torture and annihilation, which destroy, not only the weak, but also the strong, for modern war takes the best of humanity and destroys it, leaving the worst to carry on the duties of the state. We have seen this in the post-war years; the rarest spirits of our civilisation have been turned into nervous wrecks by the agony of the four years of hell they passed through. The finest stock, slain in the fullness of their manhood, lie buried beneath the sod of France and Flanders, and if anything should have shattered man's illusions about the glory of war and have created in their minds a sense of the need for peace, surely it was the battle zones of the late war. Men, however, seem to learn such lessons slowly. Even the bitterest experiences, leading to the destruction of homes and the break-up of families, do not appear to teach them sufficiently how great is the need for men to live amiably together.

Economic factors, which are largely beyond the control of the individual member of the community, create conditions of poverty for many that make life unbearable, and as the consciousness of their degradation constantly imposes itself upon them, any new excitement, even the bloody turmoil of war, proves to be a useful factor in offering a way of escape from the environment which destroys the better elements in human nature.

Let us say at the outset there is no moral justification for war. Statesmen may make economic excuses as to its reasonableness, but wise men recognise it as being utterly unreasonable, and the price of their wisdom generally is that they are made heretics and outcasts from the life of the community.

To every Spiritualist the darkening clouds upon the horizon of Europe present a tremendous challenge, for one cannot justify our taking part in the horrors of war if we proclaim as our basic principle the Brotherhood of Mankind. If it is a crime against man and against God to take human life, and if the penalty of that crime is that those who take the life shall also lose their own, then statesmen and diplomats who engineer modern warfare deserve, according to their own legal status, the hangman's rope, for war is murder, although we may glorify it in the garb of false patriotism.

Our Manual teaches quite clearly that "*Thou shalt not kill is a divine command, and applies to all classes of men, from the King on his throne to the humblest peasant in his cottage. All war is murder, and as such must be atoned for both by those who cause it and those who practise it.*" We of the Lyceum Movement have a positive contribution to make towards the problem of world peace. From a spiritual angle the physical world is a reflection of the divine order. Within it are enshrined seeds of the divine life which are constantly striving to grow to a full consciousness of their inherent spiritual nature. It is only as we create the conditions that free the finest elements of human nature from the slavery to creed, dogma, economic circumstances, or national prejudices, and link them into the greater brotherhood of all humanity, that we can possibly hope to bring into being those conditions that will make war impossible.

The strength of a chain must always be measured by its weakest link, and the weakness within civilisation to-day lies in the fact that while men know the solution to the crisis that has developed they are apparently not prepared to accept the moral implications that that solution brings in its train. While the days of our peace are made burdensome and difficult then danger of war is an ever-present factor. Once we learn to recognise the true values by which we shall measure life, then, as we apply these values, we shall move into a sphere of sanity and peace for all time.

And what are these values? Surely they are the willing recognition on the part of the individual of responsibilities which they must willingly fulfil, coupled with the realisation by the community as a whole, of duties that they must freely recognise. The primary task before civilisation is to recognise the true wealth that makes men. When these things are accomplished we shall find the new world we have sought so long, and the dream of the visionary shall be realised, for the lion and the lamb within our own nature will have been reconciled, and will lie down together in amity and peace.

THE EDITOR.

Easter^Ito

Whitsun, A.D. 29.

A 'Human' View of
Jesus. III.

TOWARDS CALVARY

THE WORKS OF JESUS,
his miracles and his
parables, and the strength
and character of the crowds who
followed him, had not escaped the notice of the Sanhedrin; neither had they been ignored by the Roman authorities. John tells us that when the news of the raising of Lazarus reached Jerusalem, and the Jewish Council felt that it must decide on a policy, the fear expressed was that, if they recognised Jesus as a leader, the Romans would take away from them what little of political liberty they still had left. As too often happens, political expediency won, and, as suggested by Caiaphas, they decided it was better that one man should die—and of course that meant Jesus—than that the whole nation should perish.

BY

A. T. CONNOR

“From that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.” We may be sure that, from the first, spies had mingled with the crowds; and the mention by John of “a disciple who knew the High Priest” suggests that Jesus may have had traitors (other than Peter or Judas) in his own camp. Death once decided upon, the machinery of political murder was immediately set to work, and the discontented Judas was chosen as the unconscious tool.

We can imagine one of the spies agreeing with him that Jesus was a hypocrite who deserved exposure and a public whipping; that Judas could carry on his social work better without Jesus, and obtain support that was now denied because of his association with such an undesirable character. So why not hand Jesus over for the scourging he deserved, and thus put an end to his hypocrisy.

And so on, fanning the smouldering spark of Iscariot's resentment towards the white heat of action. Judas had an interview with the Council, and was promised thirty pieces of silver (value about three guineas: less than a third of the value of the ointment!) if he would lead the palace officers to where Jesus could be taken without risk of a riot. And I firmly believe that Judas, when he assented to the bargain, had no suspicion that Jesus would be in any danger of death.

Events began to develop towards the final tragedy, and it was Jesus himself who fanned the spark into a flame by his bantering accusation (as Judas must have thought it) during the Last Supper. It gave Judas the idea that, at the very least, Jesus suspected him and was making sport of him—and in entire agreement that what he did he should do quickly, he went out to arrange for Jesus' arrest.

After his departure Jesus continued to talk with his disciples, and delivered the teachings recorded in John. He also bantered with Peter (as *Peter* thought) about denying him, and Peter was indignant that his courage and loyalty should be derided. Like Judas, he did not understand the mystic language of his Master; and it may be that—if Jesus had only explained

that he knew of Iscariot's discontent and where it must lead; and of how Peter, on seeing how meekly he would take his arrest and maltreatment, would be disgusted and refuse to acknowledge him—he need never have met his humiliating death on the cross. But he continued his symbolical teachings until at last he went out with them to Olivet—to Gethsemane—to betrayal and death.

We will not intrude on his agony in the garden, and will wait with his followers until he rejoins them outside. We can share their surprise and dread when they saw the torches of the rabble coming nearer and nearer. They had supposed themselves safe in this secluded corner of Olivet, but the lights were surely approaching where they stood. At last they were surrounded, and Judas carried out his undertaking to identify Jesus to the officers. We can imagine with what sarcasm he said “Hail, Master” and with what fierce irony he kissed him! But all was not yet lost. The rabble fell back when Jesus stepped towards them, and Peter, leaping forward, struck at one of them and cut off his ear. But Jesus was obsessed with the idea that he had to die, and he refused to escape. Instead—to Peter's amazement, he reached forth his hand and healed the man's ear! This was too much for his defenders, and they broke through the mob and made good their own escape. But Peter did not go far. Once clear, he kept at a distance and followed the crowd into the palace. Perhaps he had been mistaken in Jesus' actions, and if there should be any chance of an attempt at rescue he wanted to be on hand. With rage and shame he witnessed the abuse to which his leader was subjected by the soldiery, and rage won the mastery as he noted that there was no attempt to return a single blow. His leader, forsooth! That was no leader of his. That was no King of the Jews; no deliverer of Israel. Israel's king must be a hero who would lead armies in the field—not a miserable poltroon who dare not return a cuff or a jibe. And so we can understand why, when challenged, “he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man.” Any red-blooded man in his place would have done the same. And when he went out and wept bitterly, *were* they tears of remorse he shed? Were they not rather bitter tears of despair—over an Israel still doomed to be ground under the heel of Imperial Rome.

Tragedy piled on tragedy. Judas would have to accompany the officers back to the palace, and we gather that there he heard the charges and the condemnation to death. Horrified, he went to the chief priests and protested; but they only laughed at him—they had no further use for him—and he realised the full extent of what he had done, and how easily he had allowed himself to be tricked. In a frenzy of despair he threw down the fatal money, rushed out, and hanged himself.

This immediate suicide argues that he was not a sordid traitor. In those days human life was held as cheaply as it is in these post-war days of our own—and a calculating thief and traitor, such as Judas is portrayed, would not have worried for a moment over the fate of his victim. But an honest man who had allowed his resentment to lead to the death of a friend could not withstand the horror of his deed—and his own death would seem the only way of escape.

Poor Jesus! Poor Peter! Poor Judas! Each the victim of a mind dominated by one great central idea.

Next month: “*They Crucified Him.*”



A watching, as in childhood,
 For the flowers that one by one
 Open their golden petals
 To woo the fitful sun;
 A gush, a flash, a gurgle,
 A wish to shout and sing,
 As fill'd with hope and gladness
 We hail the vernal spring.

(Adams).

My Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you not think the opening verse of this letter expresses our feelings in a very beautiful way? For after several months of cold, dark days, there is a bursting into greenness all around us, and it would seem that we are not alone in appreciating this change. The birds, too, twitter and warble their songs of praise. In everything there is "a sense of renovation." This is how the writer of this verse saw the change from winter to spring.

During the past few months you have amused yourselves with your dolls and toys and indoor hobbies. Now you are looking forward to playing in the garden, the parks and open spaces; by the way, I hope you girlies have not forgotten to make your dollies some nice new dresses, for if not, you are sure to meet that friend of yours in the park, "Miss Matilda Jane." I hope too that you boys have not forgotten to oil your cricket bats and given your scooters and bicycles a good clean up.

I heard someone say "Doesn't the sun show up the dust?" This is a very true statement, which we can apply in many ways, and it is for this reason that I want you to have everything ready, clean and in perfect working order for your new amusements.

Spring cleaning is quite a custom in nearly every household. It extends to the garden, and the outside of our houses also; truly spring does create a sense of renovation. There are those heaps of dead foliage and rubbish in the garden to be cleared away, also a lot of painting to be done. Whitewashing of ceilings, paper hanging, and a thousand and one things to do.

To get a lesson from this we must ask ourselves the question "Why is all this necessary?"

In most cases it is because many of these things have been out of action for some time, while the fogs and heavier weather have caused the soot and dirt to cling to the paint work. Garden products have been having their usual winter sleep.

Then the main lesson I want you to gain from all this is the value of the sunshine. I think we can well afford to compare these things with our everyday lives, and see if we can find any comparison.

Let us take the cricket bat first. I have already suggested you should oil this, for if it has been lying idle for the last few months you will find it will soon start cracking unless oiled; then it will be useless.

Is that not true of our everyday lives? If we allow ourselves to get idle by the neglect of individual efforts, we soon find ourselves unprepared for service when the call comes to get into action.

Then there is the subject of the sunshine showing up the dust. Let us consider the sunshine as the brightness of activities. We will look at this from the point of our Lyceum Session.

There are the boys and girls who are always on the alert to give a pearl, recitation, solo or explanation when requested. More than once I have heard adults say "I wish I had had the training that child has had." You boys and girls then are the brightness or the sunshine showing up the dust which we might well call "lost opportunities to others."

Then there is another little bit of spring cleaning we might consider. There are a few who have allowed the winter months to give them excuses for saying "It is too wet or too cold to go to Session to-day." One gentleman wrote to me this month and told me that by a very simple remark I had made in one of my articles, I had stirred up an idea in his mind which had been laid aside for three years.

I hope, therefore, I shall start someone spring cleaning in its wider applications which are relative to service. I hope, too, you children, when you see mother donning her dust cap and getting down to this business of spring cleaning in real earnest, will endeavour to apply these simple lessons to your own Lyceum activities.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE, No. 193.

Rose Ice Caught History Apple Red Dove.
 "Richard."

PUZZLE No. 194.

- Wearing apparel.
- A fruit.
- A well-known Roman fiddler.
- A shade of brown.
- A trip.
- A flower.

If you discover the correct answers, the first and last letters of each word will give you the names of two well-known Lyceum workers who are always asking for our support.

An old gentleman was having his boots cleaned by a little boy, of whom he enquired if his father was also a bootblack. "No, sir, he's a farmer." "Ah, I see," said the gentleman, "he makes hay while the sun shines."

The moral of this story is a good one regarding the coming month. London and Manchester, I hear, are pushing ahead with Sports Day and Rambling events. I hope others are doing likewise, and that very soon we shall not only be having an Annual Conference, but an Annual Sports Day, when you boys and girls from the various districts will all meet to compete in such events as racing, jumping, swimming and such-like activities. This is an ideal worth aiming at. The springtime is the time to make a start, so "Make hay while the sun shines" should be your motto.

With love,
 Your loving friend,
 UNCLE BERT.

Ruberrondo,
 126, Woodlands Road,
 Isleworth, Middlesex.

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 added 23 new members to our register, and for the first time I am able to say "Hello! Twins!" A hearty welcome to all of you from both of us. Here is the full list:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 115 N. Catterall, Eccles. | J.127 R. Smith, West Vale. |
| 116 M. Catterall " | J.128 J. Hagreen " |
| 117 L. Underwood, Warrington. | 129 G. Last, Lewisham. |
| 118 H. Gledhill, Warrington. | 130 E. Kettle, Warrington. |
| 119 E. Huddlestone, Barrow. | 131 A. Tomkins " |
| 120 L. Golbourne, Stratford. | 132 E. Tomkins " |
| 121 R. Bates " | 133 M. Riley, West Vale. |
| 122 B. Dennis " | 134 A. Gibson, York. |
| J.123 I. Phillips " | 135 M. Gibson " |
| J.124 G. Phillips " | J.136 D. Wilkinson " |
| J.125 I. Manning, West Vale. | 137 S. Smith " |
| J.126 M. Bottomley " | |

Finances.

We are now almost, but not quite, out of debt. Up to date I have received £8 7s. 3d., including 16s. 9d., this month's fees (our invalid Guildite—M. Huddlestone—was *not* charged a fee) and 2s. 6d. donation from Mr. Smith. Our total expenditure has been £8 9s. 10½d., so that leaves 2s. 7½d. still wanting to make our accounts balance. Next month, I am sure, I shall be able to say that our Guild is really paying its way. Thanks to everyone who has helped.

From the Guild Leader in Spirit.

On February 26th it was my great privilege to be present at a trumpet séance at Dewsbury, given by Mrs. L. E. Singleton and Mr. Kirkby, of Reflectograph fame. It was Nellie Kitson who had caused me to be invited, as she wished to talk to me; and the experience was well worth the physical discomfort of getting to and from Dewsbury during the blizzard week-end. Nellie was the last person to use the trumpet, and she showed that she had taken hold by touching her father's photograph, which hung on the wall, her own beads, which Mrs. Singleton was wearing, and the vase containing flowers which I had taken. She conversed with many of the sitters, gave messages for her father and mother (who were not able to be present because of the weather), and gave me advice about the carrying on of the Guild. Amongst other things she said how much pleasure it gave her to have the Guild started again, and she concluded by saying "Give *all* the Guildites my love, and tell them to be true to the Lyceum, for I have found *all* my Dad's teachings true."

I take this opportunity of thanking publicly Mrs. Singleton, who kept her promise to Nellie in spite of illness, and also Mr. Kirkby. I am sure you all join me in wishing Mrs. Singleton, who is one of our Guildites, a speedy recovery from her wearying illness; and in hoping that she will long be spared to carry on the work she is doing.

Our Competition.

Here is the story sent in by Freda Bold, aged 11, of Rotherham, entitled

THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING WISHES.

Joan Walsh, one of the Walsh twins, had got permission from Lizzie, the cook, to make a Christmas Pudding all by herself. At first Joan would not let Eric, her brother, help.

"Too many cooks spoil the broth," she said.

"You are too fond of quoting proverbs," said Eric.

"Oh, well, you can help if you do as I say," said Joan.

"I will," Eric consented eagerly.

"First, we will have to go to Granny Grittle's stores to get the things we need," said Joan. "Go and get the basket from Lizzie." Eric ran to get the basket while Joan made out her list of requirements. Soon they were speeding down the road to the store, where Joan gave her list to Granny Grittle, who supplied her quickly.

When they got home Joan cleaned the fruit while Eric peeled the apples. Suddenly came an angry voice, "Stop it! I say, stop it!" and the apple Eric was about to peel hopped over the table to where a large carrot lay dreaming, and shouted "Tell the King I wish to see him. Some of his subjects have been slaughtered." The apple was very cross and almost breathless.

Meanwhile the twins were so astonished that they just moved a little closer together. They did not know that on King Pudding Spice's birthday all the ingredients of a Christmas pudding have feeling and the power of speech.

The carrot walked up to the tin of pudding spice and took off the lid. As he did so a little man in a brown suit jumped out and enquired what all "the bother" was about. "Please, your Majesty," began the apple, "three good bakers have been cut to pieces by a child for the purpose of making an Xmas pudding. I managed to escape, so I thought I had better tell you right away. I ran to tell Lord Chamberlain Carrot to inform you of my desire to see you."

"You are very sensible," said the King, "this is very serious, really"

"Help! I'm rolling off the table," came the Queen's voice, and several courtiers rushed to her aid.

"Something must be done," continued the King, as if nothing had happened.

"Really, you are very unthoughtful!" said the Queen, glaring at the King in a way that made him shuffle in his shoes.

The Queen demanded to know what had happened, and Carrot explained.

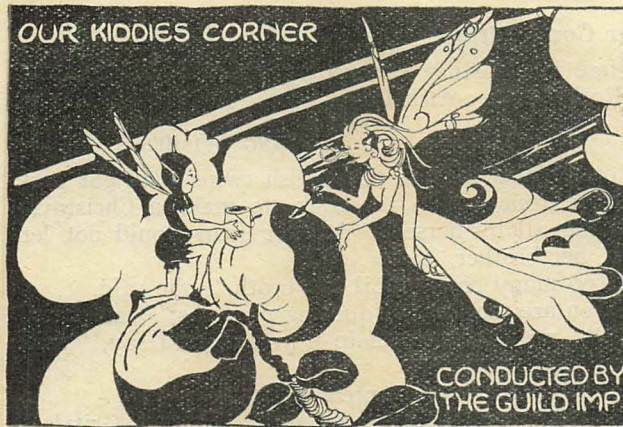
"Consult Fairy Rosebud, who has just arrived," she said.

"Thank you, Nutmeg," said the King, remembering his manners for once.

(To be continued.)

A happy Easter to all of you, may you get plenty of fresh air and sunshine, so that you return to your work or schools full of vim and vigour.

From the Guild Leader,
28, Moorlands Place, G. M. HALLIDAY.
Free School Lane, Halifax.



Dear Little Imps,

This is waking up time for all sorts of things. Mr. Sun, welcomed with bird music, calls out "Wake up, Spring is here. It is time to make ready for all the young folk." Then the excitement begins, when plant folk, and furry folk waken up, whilst everybody else joins in making ready for the young folk. April is a busy month, especially when it brings Easter, for then even the shops have to make ready for the young folks too.

TWO LITTLE CHICKS.

The chocolate shop felt so important. It was Easter-time, and that is quite the jolliest time of the year for a chocolate shop. Other shops may show new clothes, and new curtains, and fancy wall-papers but not one of them can be so gay as the Easter-egg shops.

The shopman locked up his shop and went home for the night. He had only been gone a short time when there was such a stir in that shop. It began amongst the eggs that had fluffy chickens peeping out of them. A little chick said "I have been wanting to get out of my egg all day, but I was so afraid that that man might tread on me." "Me, too!" cried the chick in the next egg. "Let us leave our eggs and have a stroll, I want to see who else lives in this shop." Together they left their eggs and, as inquisitive as chicks can be, started to wander about the shop.

The chickens walked along the counter and peeped in at all the boxes they passed on their way. Being such young and fluffy little chicks, they really did not know very much, and they caused quite a flutter amongst the other eggs. The first chick came upon a box of eggs covered in pretty coloured papers. His own egg had been just a chocolate one, and he wasn't a bit polite. "Whatever are you?" he cheeped. "You look as though you might be eggs, but what a funny colour you are! Are you ill?" "What!" shrieked the eggs. "How dare you be so rude about our lovely coats. Your eggs are not nearly so fine. Go home again, you naughty little chick!"

The chick hurriedly left that box and joined his friend. Together they found the marzipan eggs that look like real birds' eggs. "Who are you?" demanded the chicks. "Oh! we are the Robins' eggs," answered one of them. "Next to us lie the Thrushes' eggs, and near to them are the eggs of the Skylarks and Black-birds. The children like us, you know. We are good to eat."

"Oh! dear, dear, dear!" wailed one chick. "I hadn't thought of that. I don't want to be eaten. Do you?" "No! I don't want to be eaten at all," agreed the other chick. "Let us run away. I won't stay here to be eaten." The two little chicks began to run wildly round the shop, but, everywhere they were met with laughter. The eggs in egg cups laughed until their spoons rattled. The cream-filled eggs just rolled around their box in glee, whilst the chocolates in the cardboard egg shook around the egg as they laughed. Fancy anything in a chocolate shop not wanting to be eaten!

The poor little chicks grew quite sad. They didn't think that being eaten could be funny, and it seemed that they couldn't get out of that dreadful shop. "Let us try the door," cried one of the chicks. "The door is locked. Stop where you are," growled a very proper egg that lived above in a box. "I am jumping into the window," cried the other chick. "Come too!"

Now, in that window there were some very fine eggs indeed, and they were not a bit pleased to find two little chicks jumping about over them. "Oh! please do be careful, you are tearing my coat," called out one egg. "Whatever can they want?" asked a decorated egg. "I hope they won't hurt my roses." "I'm afraid they will spoil my name," murmured an egg with sugar writing on it.

The two little chicks were becoming quite flustered. It seemed that no-one in all that shop would help them. Then, just when they were feeling ever so sad, they found a friend. One chick fell into a box, and found himself sitting by a duckling that peeped from a large egg. "Dear me, what can you want here?" quacked the duckling. "Are you lost?" "No, we are not lost, but we are trying to run away so that we won't be eaten. Do tell us where to go. These eggs only laugh at us." The duckling smiled. "Of course the eggs will laugh at you," he said. "They are *made* to be eaten, and will be sad if nobody buys them. You needn't be frightened. Just climb on to that shelf and talk to Mother Hen up there. I expect she is asleep, but she will waken up if any chickens go near her."

The chicks hurried on to the next shelf, and, sure enough, there was a china hen, sitting on a basket of chocolate eggs. How glad those chicks were to meet a mother hen again, and they quickly told her their trouble. The kindly old hen just smiled and said, "What babies you are! Of course you won't be eaten. Neither shall I. It is only the eggs that the children will eat. No-one would want to eat you. You are made of wool, and wouldn't taste a bit nice. Now run back to your eggs and don't worry."

Two much happier chicks crept back to their eggs, and peace returned to the chocolate shop. The chicks slept until daylight, and awoke full of wonderings as to what would happen. They soon found out, for a strange thing happened in the shop that day. A mother bought those very two eggs and, as she did so, said, "Those eggs will please the twins. They will love the chicks, and will play with them long after they have eaten the chocolate eggs." The shopman picked up the eggs to put them in a bag, and he almost dropped them again, for he was sure that he heard a delighted "cheep, cheep," from two fluffy, woolly, yellow chicks.

A happy Easter, Imps, and much love, from

MEG.

OUR £2000 EFFORT FUND.

Dear Lyceumists All,

I am pleased to say that some Lyceums are still working hard to make the "Mile of Pennies Scheme" a real success by taking a further supply of cards for collection. If there is any possibility of any Lyceum, Lyceumist or friend collecting more pennies please do not hesitate to ask for more cards. Some Lyceums are glad of this opportunity to keep our young folk busy.

I have pleasure this month in acknowledging the following amounts under their respective headings:—

MILE OF PENNIES.—Longton, Stone Rd., Lyceum per R. G. Bourne, 3s. 4d.; Southend and Westcliff, per S. F. Thompson, 6s. 8d.; Manchester, Moss Side, per Miss L. Moulson, 5s. 4d.; Notts., Sherwood St., per A. W. Shipley, 6s. 8d.; Manchester, Moston, per Mrs. Guy, 10s.; Manchester, Eccles, Milton Hall, per I. Williams, 5s. 6d.; Manchester, Pendleton, Ford Lane, per Miss M. Williams, 3s. 10d.; Manchester, Collyhurst, per Miss Temple, 6s. 8d.; Bury, King St., per Miss N. Dean, 6s. 8d.; Bolton, Bradford St., per J. Walker, 6s. 8d. Total £3 1s. 4d.

DONATIONS.—Hirst Lyceum, per J. Stafford, 5s. 4d.; Saltaire Lyceum, per A. Hopwood, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Watson, Liverpool, 1s. Total 8s. 10d.

FOUNDER'S DAY COLLECTION.—Hull No. 1 Progressive Lyceum, per J. H. Rosser, 6s. 6d.; Bolton, Bradford St., per J. Walker, 2s. 6d. Total 9s.

GREETINGS.—I hope all Lyceumists will extend their best thoughts and sincere wishes for many happy birthdays to Emily Chadwick, of Rawtenstall Lyceum, whose birthday is on April 10th, and may we join with all those friends who remembered and knew Mrs. Mary Alice Chadwick, in concentrating on April 22nd on thoughts of love and sympathy to her in her work in the Spirit World.

I am sure that the "Greetings" scheme could become a very profitable source of income to our £2,000 Effort Fund if all Lyceums would consider the method of Birthday Greetings which some Lyceums have adopted. The Lyceum Secretary makes a list of the birthdays of every Lyceumist, and as the appointed day approaches a greeting is extended to the particular Lyceumist(s) on the previous Sunday. In this way the Lyceumists could be encouraged to send their contribution of 6d., during the previous month, to the £2,000 Effort Secretary in honour of their birthday. Please think over this suggestion, and see what you can do. If you are fortunate enough to have a birthday party, why not take a collection and forward it to the £2,000 Effort Fund?

The grand total this month is £4 0s. 2d.

The Conference will soon be here and I would like to make a special appeal to those Lyceums who have not yet contributed to our Effort under any scheme to consider adding their quota to those who have already done their best to make this year's amount a real "bumping total." Please try and forward to me any amounts which you are collecting in time for our May BANNER, so that our report this year will show that the £2,000 Fund has been successfully revitalised and will show signs of continued activity. If possible, post all monies to reach me not later than April 18th.

FEET MAKE MILES.

PENNIES MAKE POUNDS.

I am looking forward to a big response next month.

With best wishes to all,

LILLIE GEORGE.

85, Queen's Road,
Everton, Liverpool.

THE THINGS WE HEAR.

IN MEMORIAM.

FOLL.—In ever loving memory of my dear boy, Douglas, who passed away April 11th, 1919.—Your loving Mother.
Until we meet, my dear one.

NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE DISTRICT.

Annual Meeting held at Heaton Norris, 4th Feb., Mr. W. Dransfield presiding. President expressed his thanks to the E.C. and all members and delegates for the support and help throughout the past year. Mrs. Ennion and Mrs. Howns were both absent through sickness. We observed the usual silence for thought expression for sick members. Messrs. Carter and Moores were elected tellers. Correspondence was passed as read and comment was made *re* Special Committee; Council agreed with Secretary's reply.

D.V. reported visit to Heaton Norris. Accepted with thanks. Adjudicator Miss Ashton presented the report for the Silver Bell, and we are all pleased to congratulate Macclesfield on retaining this trophy for the second year in succession.

Finance report by Secretary, and Auditors' by Mr. Downs, accepted with thanks, pleasing feature being balance carried forward of £6 7s. 3d., an increase of £2 2s. 0d. Many thanks to Lyceums for special efforts donations.

Election of Officers:—President, Mrs. E. Edwards; Vice-President, Mrs. Moulton; Treasurer, Mr. F. N. Springate; Secretary (General), Mr. R. A. L. Markham; Secretary (Minute), Mr. W. Dransfield; District Visitor, Miss P. Swindells; Adjudicator, Miss G. Ashton (Collyhurst); Delegates: United District Council, Mr. J. Davies; British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Conference, Mr. F. N. Springate and Mr. W. Dransfield; Auditors, Mr. W. Downs and Miss Pickering.

Fees are to be paid to the U.D.C. and B.S.L.U. and we are to forward 50% extra to the B.S.L.U. as a donation. This was afterwards made up to 25s. by members' donations after appeal by Secretary.

Annual Outing. It was decided to go to The Wizards, Alderley Edge.

Mass Sessions were arranged for the year.

Resolutions for conference discussed and Secretary instructed accordingly.

Organising for the year. D.V. instructed to visit Leek, with a view to them joining the Council, and the Secretary to visit Denton and Hadfield, to endeavour to open new Lyceums, and to report to next meeting.

We are to nominate Mr. R. A. L. Markham as Area Representative.

Vote of thanks to Heaton Norris for hospitality.

Next meeting, 3-30, at Macclesfield, May 6th.—R. A. L. Markham, Sec.

SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The A.G.M. of the Council was held at Eagle Street Church, Todmorden, on Feb. 11th, Mr. Hudson, President, in the chair. Good attendance from all Lyceums in the district. The President gave a very encouraging address. D.V. reports visits to Dearnley, Halliwell Street, Rochdale, Gilmour Street and Old Hall Street, Middleton. Auditors' report was given by Mr. Carter and Mr. Holt. Sixteen associates were accepted to the Council. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. Carter; Vice-President, Mr. Holt; Secretary, Mrs. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. Dewhurst; District Visitor, Mr. Shaw; Auditors, Mr. Greaves and Mr. Potts.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to retiring officers. Next meeting, Lyon Street, Shaw, on May 13th. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Eagle Street Lyceum and Church for entertainment.—Mrs. Jones, Sec.

TEES-SIDE DISTRICT.

The A.G.M. was held on Feb. 12th, at the Haverton Hill Church. The Annual Reports showed a successful year's working, but still many difficulties to be overcome.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Manchester and Salford D.C. that we see no reason to contest the decision of the General Secretary, Selection Committee.

Rules were presented to, and adopted by, Conference for a Shield Competition, the Treasurer (Mr. Colbourne) being instructed to accept the lowest tender for renovation of present shield. The adjudicators are Messrs. Miller, Massey and Foster.

The date of the November Conference has been altered from the third to the first Sunday.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mrs. E. M. Ainsworth (Grangetown); Vice-President, Mr. J. Sunter (Shildon); Secretary, Mr. E. Nellist, D.N.S.C. (Middlesbro'); Treasurer, Mr. A. H. Colbourne (Middlesbro'); District Visitor, Mrs. M. E. Graham (Shildon); Auditors, Mr. Lee (Shildon) and Mr. Kendall (Shildon); Credential Secretaries, Mr. Kent (Middlesbro') and Mr. Foster (Horden); B.S.L.U. Delegate, Mr. E. Nellist, D.N.S.C.; U.D.C. Delegate, Mr. A. H. Colbourne; Northern D.C. (S.N.U., Ltd.), Mrs. M. E. Graham; Education Sub-Committee, Mr. J. Riley (Shildon).

The afternoon session and evening services were conducted by the Council. As a result, it is hoped that the local Lyceum which was opened on the 15th Jan., will become stronger and join up with us.—Edward Nellist, D.N.S.C., Sec.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD DISTRICT.

A.G.M., Feb. 4th, South Manchester Lyceum, Princess Road, Moss Side.

Roll: E.C., 4; Delegates, 22, representing 16 Lyceums; Hon. Associate, 1; Fraternal Delegate, 1; total, 28.

Mr. J. E. Hart in the chair.

Minutes and Correspondence were accepted. Arising:—It was agreed to endorse the application for membership to the B.S.L.U. by Ashton-on-Mersey Lyceum. Agreed that the Council make arrangements to open Mission Week on April 26th at Openshaw. The Treasurer was instructed to pay B.S.L.U. fees as per last year.

The President's address was then delivered by Mr. Hart.

REPORTS.

District Visiting: All Lyceums have been visited during the year and a good standard is still maintained.

Pooling Scheme: Good progress made. Arrangements well in hand for B.S.L.U. Annual Conference. Financial statement shows balance £20 4s. 8½d. (including 16 deposits, £8); drawn from income, £25 14s. 2½d., and expenditure £5 9s. 6d. Suggested to approach the B.S.L.U. President *re* holding a Massed Session as the most practical form of propaganda, on the Sunday evening following Conference.

Secretary's Report showed a decline in average attendance at D.C. meetings from 33 last year to 25. 16 Lyceums have paid fees for 1932. Annual Sports very successful with over 420 entries; Pendleton Lyceum winning the certificate for the highest points. Associate members, nil.

Treasurer's Report: Income, £10 17s. 3d.; expenditure, £8 18s. 4d.; balance, £1 18s. 11d.; an increase of £1 1s. 11d. on last balance. All accounts, etc., found correct by Auditors.

Adjudicator's Report: Manchester Progressive Lyceum have gained first place for the Shield, 114 marks; Newton Heath Lyceum close second, winning Silver Bell with 113 marks. Mr. Lloyd was again appointed Adjudicator.

All reports were adopted.

Election of officers:—President, Mr. J. E. Hart; Vice-President, Mr. J. Green; Secretary, Mr. J. Taylor, A.N.S.C.; Treasurer, Mr. C. A. Lloyd; District Visitor, Miss K. Ellis; Asst. D.Vs., Misses E. Lloyd and M. Lamb; Auditors, Messrs. Grayson and Shaw (Mr. Grayson 2 years); B.S.L.U. Delegates, Messrs. Taylor and Hart; Fraternal Delegates, Messrs. Hart and Shaw.

B.S.L.U. Nominations:—President: Mr. Slimin; Vice-President: Mr. Marks, G.N.S.C.; Treasurer: Mr. Burrows; Auditor: Mr. Shaw (Pendleton); D.C. recommendation for area nominee: Mr. Marks.

Notice of Motion *re* Associate Membership:—

"That Adult Lyceums (21 years minimum) who have been members and officers of an affiliated Lyceum for three consecutive years shall be accepted as Associate members of this Council on application countersigned by their Lyceum Conductor and Secretary, at the annual fee of one shilling. Acceptance shall be deemed not to carry the power of voting."

Carried with 2 dissentients.

Amendment to D.C. Constitution:—

"That the words 'retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election' be included in Article 5, 'Officers.'" Carried with 2 dissentients.

Meetings: 1933: May 6th, Longsight; July 8th, Droylsden; Nov. 4th, South Manchester. 1934: Feb. 3rd, A.G.M., Newton Heath.

Open Council: The E.C. were instructed to again organise the Sports Meeting in July. The Council resolved to hold an Annual Ramble, the E.C. to arrange same.

Arrangements for Council Presentation to Mrs. Guy were reported.

The Secretary was instructed to draw up further Rota Scheme for Open Sessions, to continue from the present one arranged by Mr. Dixon.

A vote of thanks was passed for the local hospitality.

N.B.—Shield Presentation to Manchester Progressive Lyceum Saturday, March 18th. Social, 7 p.m.

Silver Bell Presentation to Newton Heath Lyceum, Sunday, March 12th. Open Session, 6-30 p.m. Silver collection.

Both these efforts are in aid of Council Funds.—J. Taylor, A.N.S.C., Sec.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES.

The A.G.M., Cavendish Grove, Southampton, Feb. 18th, 3-30, when delegates and associates from Southampton, Eastleigh, Reading, Portsmouth and Ryde were present.

Minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and adopted.

Arising from the correspondence, it was agreed that a reply should be forwarded to the U.D.C. explaining our inability to attend their half-yearly meeting. Devonport to be approached for the return of *Manuals* loaned. Ratification of the payment of B.S.L.U. and U.D.C. fees.

The President's address dealt with the success at the Annual Picnic, with hopes of a repetition this next year.

The Treasurer's report showed a credit balance of 16s. 3½d. on the annual financial statement, and for an interim report, £1 9s. 0d. since Jan. 1st. Auditors' reports given by Mr. McFarlane and Mr. Long. District Visitor's report by Mr. Harwood, who had visited Ryde, Eastleigh, Southampton and Portsmouth.

Secretary's report contained statistical account of Lyceums in the South.

Nomination of Officers. The ratification of the nomination of Mrs. Moule as D.V. was accepted, and officers returned:—President, Mrs. Taylor, A.N.S.C.; Secretary, Mr. H. C. Guy; D.N.S.C.; Treasurer, Mrs. D. G. Hart, A.N.S.C.; District Visitor, Mrs. Moule; Church's Representative, Mr. A. Lawrence; Delegate, H. C. Guy; Auditors, Messrs J. G. McFarlane and E. W. Long.

Invitations received from Eastleigh for May; Ryde, August 13th; Brighton, Nov. 25th. Votes of thanks given by President.—H. C. Guy, D.N.S.C.

BOLTON.

A.G.M., Bolton, Bradford Street, Feb. 25th. Mr. Charnley presided.

Minutes of the last A.G.M. and Quarterly Minutes were read and adopted.

Correspondence was read, in which the U.D.C. requested representation from our Council, but it unanimously agreed that no representation be made.

The President's address was short but interesting.

Balance sheets were handed to all delegates and the Auditors' report was given and accepted with thanks.

The D.V. reports were left over until next meeting, owing to illness. Adjudicator then gave his report of the Shield Competition, which showed that Horwich had won with 263 points; Bradford Street, 256; Westhoughton, 251; Deane Road, 239; Radcliffe, 233.

Election of Officers:—President, Mr. Charnley; Secretary, Mr. T. Liles; Treasurer, Mr. J. Walker. Mr. Walsh was elected D.V. Auditor, Mr. Powers. Nominees for other Auditor to be in the hands of the Secretary by March 31st. The President and Secretary were nominated Delegates to Conference. The next Council meeting will be held at Bury, King Street, May 20th.—T. Liles, Sec.

LEEDS L.D.C.

A.G.M., Feb. 25th, Theaker Lane, Leeds. The Vice-President was in the Chair. Vice-President, Mrs. Hendry (Armley), gave the local welcome on behalf of the Lyceum.

Agreed Mr. Parton be elected Auditor, in place of Mr. Firth.

The Presidential address was given.

Minutes of last A.G.M. and Quarterly Conference accepted and confirmed. Correspondence. Invitation of B.D.C. for Easter Celebrations at Dewsbury be accepted. U.D.C. appeal for financial aid. B.S.L.U. delegates asked to make a point of bringing this before their Lyceums.

Reports. D. Visitor's, Fraternal Delegates', accepted. Yearly financial statement:—G.F. Ac.: income £26 os. 9½d; expenditure £20 14s. 1d; balance £5 6s. 8½d. Field Day Fund

Ac.: balance £21 4s. 10½. Auditors' report accepted.

Election of Officers:—President, Mr. Wainwright; Vice President, Mr. Whitelock; Treasurer, Mr. T. Hirst; Secretary, Mr. Harding; D.V., Mr. Spencer; Fraternal Delegate, Mr. Daisley; U.D.C., Mr. Wainwright; B.S.L.U., Mr. Harding; Area Representative, Mr. Tweedale.

Silver Bell Progress Scheme. Agreed to be carried out as last year. Notice of Motion (Castleford): Scheme of Interchange of Conductors to be placed on Agenda for next Conference. Secretary, L.D.C., reported new Churches: Royston, Lower Cudworth, and Great Houghton. Next meeting: Invitation to Batley Carr accepted. A. W. Harding, Sec.

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.

ACCRINGTON, Argyle Street Progressive Lyceum.—Open Session, March 12th, conducted by Miss E. Tabiner. Recitations: J. Tipping, E. Bartlett, N. Woodhead, J. Heap, B. Bartlett, I. Heap, D. Edmonds, E. Spencer. Solo, Mrs. Tipping. Quartette, Mrs. Bartlett, Knowles, Dunn, Higson.—J. Jameson, Hon. Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session, March 5th. Mrs. Carter, Conductor. Pearls: Dorothy Halsall, Gladys Holmes, Gladys Ormerod, Doris Clayburn, Mr. Ashcroft, J. W. Taylor, Joan Patchett, Mrs. Charnley, Dennis Holinsworth, Joyce Savage, Mr. C. Taylor, Mrs. Wright, Olive Taylor, Harry Salts, William Ashworth, Mrs. Carter. Recitations: Molly Halsall, Alice Wright, Mr. Halsall. Afternoon Service of Song, "Eva." Evening Service of Song, "In Heaven's Name." Reader, Mr. H. Greaves.—S. Carter, A.N.S.C., Sec.

BEESTON.—Prize Distribution, Feb. 5th. The service was conducted by Mr. G. Paling. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Shorrocks to the Lyceumists for good attendance.—G. Paling.

BIRKENHEAD.—Open Session, March 5th. Conductor Mr. Reg. Robb. Individual Items by many Lyceumists. Mr. Squire Spencer, of Blackpool, was present at the Session and after a welcome tendered fraternal greetings. He spoke to the children and expressed himself as delighted at the conduct and efforts put forward by them.—W. Kneale, Secretary.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter Street.—On Thursday, March 9th, we held a Farewell Party to Mr. and Mrs. R. Webb, who are returning to their home in New Zealand, after their visit to England. The party was greatly attended and we gave them a great send off and wished them well. Mr. H. Hopper, the Church President, presented them with a case of fish knives and forks as a token of esteem. On Sat., March 11th, we held a new venture, a bulb show. This was a success.—T. Wood, Hon. Sec.

BLACKPOOL, N.S. Church and Lyceum, Albert Road.—Open Session, Feb. 12th, conducted by Mrs. Danson. Recitations by Eileen Long, Dorothy Wood, Jane Nutter, Lillie Hampson, Charley Wood. Song, Mr. R. Pearson. Feb. 15th, Annual Tea and Concert by the Children; sketch by the Elders. Prize distribution by Mr. A. Chattington. 150 sat down to tea; an enjoyable time was spent.—E. H. Rothwell, Sec.

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—March 4th, Lyceum reunion. About 80 past and present Lyceumists sat down to tea. In the evening St. Stephen's, Kearsley, Prize Band rendered various items, under the conductorship of Mr. James Cannon. In addition to this a sketch was given by the Lomas family.—J. Walker, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—Open Session, March 5th, brought forward a good response from the Lyceumists. Mr. Hardaker reports sale of all Banners.—J. Babbs, Sec.

CALGARY, Canada.—On Feb. 14th a very pleasant evening was spent, when the students of the Lyceum of the First Spiritualist Church, under the leadership of their able Conductor, Mrs. Alice Rushton, entertained their parents and friends, in honour of St. Valentine. Valentines were exchanged, after which a dainty buffet luncheon was served by the elder Lyceumists.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday, March 5th, we held our Open Session. Items were given by the following Lyceumists: Audrey, Norman, Kathleen and Eveline Clements, Glyn and Mervyn Cowell, Joyce and George Adams, Irene and Harold Hobster, Marion Orwin, Shirley Widdowson, Betty Bennett, Vera Rippon, Arthur Marshall, Miss M. Wheatley.—S. Hobster, Session Sec.

CLECKHEATON.—Open Session, March 6th, conducted by Mr. Yates. Recitations, N. Dennis, E. Maun, D. Walker.

Solos: Mr. Horsley, Mr. Wilson. Duets: M. Wilson and E. Brooke, Miss A. Thornton and Mrs. Horsley. Quartette: Mr. Brooke, H. Horsley, G. Hutton, M. Ellison. Lessons were discussed in Groups.—(Miss) M. B. Robinson, Sec.

DEWSBURY.—Feb. 26th, Open Session. Conductor, Mr. J. Whittles. Pearls by Mr. Cooper, Lily Whightman, and Mrs. Singleton. Solo by Louie Gregory. Duets by Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Whittles, Miss A. Bentley and Miss F. Senior, Clarissa Phillips and Vera Croft, Lily Whightman and Margaret Greenwood. Miss G. Halliday, the Guild Leader, was with us.—V. Hartley, Lyceum Sec.

DONCASTER, Catherine St. Lyceum.—Open Session, March 5th, conducted by Mr. Trout. Prize Distribution. Mrs. Webb presented prizes to the following: D. Scottin, Brenda Maltby, Betty Maltby, D. Middleton, S. Middleton, L. Middleton, A. Ball, W. Riley, A. Crossland, M. Scottin, Betty Scottin, V. Bates, M. Bates, P. Bates. Two special prizes given by Mr. Bates awarded to Mary Chalmers and Leonard Middleton.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

EARBY, Greenend Avenue.—March 5th, Open Session. Songs and recitations by E. Hancock, E. Greenhalgh, M. Lea and D. Lea, R. Hancock and K. Hancock, D. Clough, T. Hancock, George Morby, D. Seddon, W. Hancock, Mr. W. Millican, J. Hancock.—A. G. Morby, Sec.

EDINBURGH.—5th March, Open Session, and also a fruit and flower service. There was a generous response of fruit, flowers and toys, and the Sick Children's Hospital benefited. Prizes for attendance were presented to the Lyceumists by Miss Ewing. Solos, recitations and musical numbers were delightfully rendered.—Jean Andrews, Sec.

FLEETWOOD.—Open Session, March 5th. Recitations by Irene Roscow and Tom Wright. Songs by Kathleen Hague, Ruth Harris, Marie Dews, Dorothy Cropper, Irene Roscow, Kenneth Harris, Willie Gibson, John Reeve, and Eric Horan. Solo by Mrs. Parkinson. Pianoforte solo by Doris Parkinson.—L. Vollans.

"FORWARD" Lyceum, Handsworth.—On February 19th Mr. L. D. Frost conducted the Annual Massed Session of Lyceums in the Birmingham District, and presented the Silver Bell to the "Forward" Lyceum, who won the Efficiency Test. Greetings were extended by and to each Lyceum, and a very happy time was spent together.—A. B. Brown, Hon. Sec.

HEMSWORTH.—Feb. 26th, Open Session, conducted by Mr. Green. In the absence of Mr. Wainwright, Mrs. W. Bates gave prizes to 39 Lyceumists. We spent a pleasant time with the children.—Mrs. Bates, Sec.

HULL, Holborn Hall.—Officers for 1933: Conductor, Mr. A. J. Buckton; Guardian, Mr. F. G. Smith; Secretary, Mr. J. H. Rosser; Treasurer, Mrs. Hart; Musical Conductor, Bernard Hart; Captain of Guards, Miss V. Smith; Guards, Jill Deemelow and John Jeffries; Delegate, Mrs. Brown.—J. H. Rosser, Sec.

LANCASTER, Bulk Rd.—Open Session March 5th. Items were given by N. Dobson, K. Jennings, S. Dobson, M. Dodd, D. Hunter and E. Stephenson.—M. Bouskill, Sec.

LEICESTER, Southampton St.—Recitations, Mme. Dehoux, Jack Whitbread, Joan Whitbread, Doris Crondell, Kathleen Crondell. Songs: Rosie Newton, Gladys Warwick, Lily Jayes, Elsie Garrett.—Thomas Kenney, Sec.

LONDON, Brixton.—Weekday Sports Meetings are still continuing. We are now forming a Camping Club, the first of a series we hope to hold at Easter.—F. B. Gross, Sec.

LONDON, Rochester Sq.—On March 5th we visited Bowes Park Lyceum, and participated in a United Session. A series of Whist Drives are being run for the pooling scheme by some of our members, one of which has already taken place, and was very successful both financially and socially.—D. M. Jordan, Sec.

LONDON, Tottenham and Edmonton.—On Feb. 25th, we held a Social Evening, which was a huge success.—L. Canfield, Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—Prize Distribution. The Mayor and Mayoress presented the books. Councillor Potts presided, and Councillor Challinor proposed the vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress. A Concert was given by Lyceumists. Norma Edge and Joyce Challinor presented the bouquet and the buttonholes to the visitors and Chairman.—H. Rushton.

MANCHESTER, Maskell St.—Feb. 26th, greetings were exchanged with the Tyneside Lyceumists by a personal visit of Mr. J. Slimin, A.N.S.C., of Sunderland.

Open Session, Mar 12th, conducted by Mr. A. Henshaw. Mr. Lilliott of South Manchester led the invocation. Numerous items were given by our Lyceumists. Eight Lyceums were represented and greetings exchanged.

On Mar. 18th, the Manchester and Salford L.D.C., represented by Mr. J. Hart (Pres.), Mr. J. Taylor (Sec.) Mr. C. A. Lloyd (Adjudicator), Miss K. Ellis (D.V.), presented the shield to our Lyceum. Mr Hart briefly explained what the shield was for, as many strangers were present. Mr. Lloyd presented the Shield to Mr. A. Henshaw, Conductor of the Maskell St. Lyceum. Before presenting the Shield Mr. Lloyd explained the difficulties entailed in his duties as Adjudicator, and declared that when a Lyceum won the Shield they were well worthy of it. Mr. Henshaw thanked all Lyceumists who had helped us to gain the trophy. Refreshments and dancing followed, finishing a very pleasant evening.—S. Sharp, Sec.

NEWTON HEATH Progressive Lyceum.—March 12th, Open Sessions. At the evening session we had the Silver Bell presented to us by Mr. Lloyd, the Adjudicator. Mr. Green, Vice-President of the M. & S.L.D.C., in a brief speech, called upon Mr. Lloyd to make the presentation. Mr. J. Taylor our Conductor, suitably responded. We were pleased to have with us Mr. Markham (Sec., N.E.C. Council). We had greetings from 8 Lyceums.

NEWCASTLE, Rye Hill.—Feb. 19th, we were pleased to have with us on that occasion the Fowler Street Lyceum Choir, conducted by Mr. Ainley, who rendered a musical programme, followed by a fine and interesting prose address by one of the choir members.—A. Richardson, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH TEMPLE.—A. G. M., Feb. 23rd, Captain Lawrence in the Chair. Officers elected were: Conductor, Mrs. Chambers; Treasurer, Mr. Grice; Secretary, Mrs. Moule; Librarian, Miss Durman; Musical Conductor, Maisie Hodge; Guardian, Mr. McFarlane; Captain of Guards, Iris Grice; Delegates, Mrs. Tindall and Miss Olive Jones; Guards, Sylvia Durman and Bernard Moule.

PRESTON, Moor Lane.—We held our Open Session on March 5th. The children entertained us admirably with songs, choruses and recitations.—Helen Kilner, Sec.

PRESTON, Tenterfield St.—March 5th, prizes were awarded to successful Lyceumists by Mr. C. E. Curtis. Interest is being taken in our new Lyceum Fellowship.—N. Wearing, Sec.

REDCAR.—Open Session March 6th, conducted by our young Lyceumist, Andrew Baird. Pearls and recitations were numerous.—J. Mattock, Sec.

RYDE, Belvedere.—Sunday, March 5th, Open Session. Individual and original efforts by several Lyceumists, both adults and children. Attendance very good.—Annie Hole, Lyceum Sec.

RYDE, Newport St.—March 5th, Open Session, conducted by Miss Reeves. On March 12th we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Bond, who gave us an interesting account of her visit to Brighton Lyceum on the previous Sunday, and conveyed the fraternal greetings of several Lyceums visited.—E. Oak, Sec.

SHEFFIELD, Heeley.—Feb. 5th, Lyceum Day. Open Session in the afternoon, good individual efforts by the children. The evening services were taken by Lyceumists.

At the Annual Meeting of the Sheffield Lyceum District Council at Rotherham on Sunday, Feb. 26th, our delegate was presented with the Silver Bell, the second prize in the Council Banner and Bell Scheme.—H. Truelove, Sec.

SMETHWICK.—March 5th, Miss E. Smith, conducted the Open Session. Pearls and Recitations by O. Evitts, F. Millward, R. Nicholls, J. Evitts, B. Bagnell, B. Edwards, B. Evitts, A. Wade.—T. A. Powell, Assist. Sec.

SOUTH SHIELDS, Fowler St.—We celebrated our 21st Anniversary on Feb. 5th, having a reminiscent Open Session conducted by one of our Founders, Mr. T. J. Robertson, supported by past and present officers with Barnes Road and Cambridge Street Lyceums and a host of friends in attendance. On the Wednesday 200 people joined in the Birthday Tea and Party. Mr. Slimin, Area Representative, presided in the afternoon on the following Sunday, and Mr. Ainley, A.N.S.C., in the evening when a Service of Song, "The Golden Chain," linked the workers of the 21 years with the present Lyceumists, and brought to a close a wonderfully inspiring and successful week of anniversary celebrations.—N.E.A., Conductor.

SOWERBY BRIDGE.—Open Session Feb. 12th, conducted by Miss G. Halliday. Recitations by Cyril Wilcock, Lewis Dean, Herbert Sutcliffe and Mary Holt. A quartette by Connie Smith, Gladys Smith, Kathleen Rushworth and Bessie Holt. Pearls by Bernard Rushworth, Gladys Smith, Mr. Alfred of Bradford, and delegates from Peter Street, Huddersfield and Quarnby.—Miss F. M. Lees, Sec.

WALSALL, Bradford St.—Open Session, March 5th, conductor Miss Wadsworth. Questions by Conductor ably answered by young Lyceumists.—W. A. Hollinshead, Ban. Sec.

WINNIPEG, Polson Avenue.—We held Open Session Jan. 29th, 1933, Founders' Day, when a large number gathered together. On Sunday, Feb. 4th, we held our Open Session and the Temple of Light Lyceum were our guests.—Irene Turner, Sec.

WOLVERHAMPTON, "Zenith Aim" Spiritualist Lyceum.—Sunday, March 5th, Open Session, admirably conducted by Ruth Davies, aged 11 years.—Paul Warrilow, Sec.

CONFERENCE JOTTINGS.

AREA ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Who will have seats on the B.S.L.U. Management Committee).

Approved nominations have been received from the following areas:—

Area.	Candidate	Lyceum
A.	Vacant.	
B.	Mr. J. Miller	Middlesbrough, Grange Road.
	Mr. J. Slimin	Sunderland, Derwent Street.
C.	Mr. J. Le Noury	Sheffield, Attercliffe
	Mr. L. Tweedale	Wakefield.
D.	Mr. E. Aked	Shipley.
	Mr. H. Barnes	Bradford, Laisterdyke.
	Mr. T. Ellis	Huddersfield, Ramsden Street.
E.	Mrs. L. K. George	Liverpool, Daulby Hall.
	Mr. R. A. L. Markham	Ashton
	Mr. R. W. Marks	Newton Heath
F.	Mrs. E. H. Rothwell	Blackpool
	Mr. J. Shuttleworth	Darwen
	Mr. Ed. Thompson	Lancaster, Bulk Road
G.	No Nominations	
H.	Mrs. A. Calway	Eltham
	Mr. H. C. Guy	Southampton.

Ballot Forms have been issued to the Lyceums in those areas where more than one Candidate has been nominated.

The Ballot will take place on Sunday, April 9th, at the Lyceum Session.

The names of all Candidates must be submitted to the respective Lyceums and be voted on by the Lyceumists of voting age then present; all Lyceumists of twelve years of age and over are entitled to one vote.

The number of votes cast for each Candidate shall be recorded by the presiding Officer and entered (in figures) on the Ballot Form which shall be returned to the General Secretary within seven days, duly signed by the Lyceum Secretary and Conductor.

JAMES SHUTTLEWORTH, President.

JAMES NORBURY, General Secretary.

NOMINATION OF B.S.L.U. OFFICERS.

1933-34.

LIST OF NOMINATIONS.

President: Mr. J. Shuttleworth. Mr. J. Slimin.

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. A. Calway, Mrs. L. K. George, Mr. R. W. Marks, Mr. J. Shuttleworth, Mr. J. Slimin.

Treasurer: Mr. W. Burrows.

Auditor: Mr. J. P. T. Calway, Mr. G. A. Dixon, Mr. J. Entwistle, Mr. E. A. Keeling.

The persons who have been nominated without consent are not included in the foregoing list.

JAMES SHUTTLEWORTH, President.

JAMES NORBURY, General Secretary.