

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

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## IN PRAISE OF GUY FAWKES.

BY  
JAMES  
NORBURY

ONCE MORE THE THUNDER clouds of war are hovering like dark shadows upon the European horizon. The tragedy of "a war that was to end war" has become merely a hazy memory, a fact that people feel they are entitled to have nice little sentimental feelings about on November the Eleventh, but which otherwise has ceased to matter.

Already we are educating our children with epic song and heroic story to see it as a glorious adventure, a monument to patriotism; for history books always prefer to see the fantastic stuff of dreams rather than the drab texture of realities. Its actualities and horrors, its uselessness and futilities, its hopelessness and insanity—these things have no place in our minds. Those days when the phantom of death destroyed our noblest and best are too bitter to remember, hence it is much more convenient to forget.

Why do men make war? After reading Mr. Beverley Nichols saga of a pacifist, "Cry Havoc," in which he brilliantly analyses out the fundamental issues that are involved in this all important question, there remains little room for doubt that men uphold war for exactly the same reasons that landlords defend slum property. . . . because it means profits for the interested parties. This war business is not a defence of Nationalism; that is merely the mask the munition mongers hide behind; actually it is a commercial proposition.

After all, if we can afford to offer a few children each year who have died of slow starvation in a slum tenement to the God of Getting There at Any Price, why should we refuse the same idol in the pantheon of Big Business, Efficiency and Commercial Success, a million or so of the flower of our youth when he demands their wholesale slaughter in order that he may store up his treasure upon earth in the form of dividends from munition factories?

You must read "Cry Havoc." I would dearly like to see Mr. Winston Churchill reciting many of the passages off by heart to the startled onlookers in the Strangers' Gallery of the House of Commons. Once its truisms have fully soaked into the muddled brains of the "mad dogs and Englishmen," who so constantly assure us that "war is nature's pruning hook," we should in all probability see the white-hot old

colonels waving white flags in Piccadilly Circus and calling for "peace at any price."

The more I read "Cry Havoc," the more the sheer genius of its author amazes me. Here is a young man with the audacity of Michael Arlen, the piquancy of Noel Coward, whose prose at times bristles with stark realism, and at times has the fragile beauty that belongs essentially to great literature, pleading with a sincerity and passionate splendour that none can deny for the cause of peace.

If Bernard Shaw was the 'enfant terrible' of an age that has passed, Beverley Nichols threatens to become the "child impossible" of the one through which we are passing. Already he is showing those fearless qualities that spell trouble for him if he allows his convictions to dominate for too long.

Let us accompany him on his tour of an armament factory and witness with him the true 'raison d'etre' of legalised murder. We are inside the main office of the factory, "on the walls of the office there was hanging a document which I thought would have been very private indeed. As it apparently wasn't . . . for anyone who walked in there would have seen it staring him in the face . . . it would seem no breach of confidence to reproduce it. It was the firm's estimates. Each estimate was numbered, and each item bore the date when the objects being manufactured were due."

"THIS IS HOW ONE GREAT ENGLISH FIRM . . .

HAS BEEN  
RECENTLY  
CONTRIBUTING TO CIVILISATION . . .  
BY SUPPLYING INSTRUMENTS OF DEATH TO NO LESS THAN FOURTEEN GOVERNMENTS SIMULTANEOUSLY. TWO OF THESE GOVERNMENTS WERE AT THE MOMENT ACTU-



MR. BEVERLEY NICHOLS, WHOSE PACIFIST BOOK, 'CRY HAVOC,' IS THE TALK OF THE YEAR.

ALLY ENGAGED IN HOSTILITIES. YET 'ARMS-VILLE' WAS SUPPLYING THEM BOTH."

And there we have the truth about war in all its naked realism. It pays. The shells that destroy are the powers that spell wealth to their makers, and many of our richest men to-day are living in luxury on blood money that spelt death and disaster to thousands of homes. These are the same men who rant about patriotism, who growl about the post-war generation, who are the pillars of the Church, the upholders of the State. Do you wonder that Mr. Nichols names them "The Bloody International?"

Mr. Nichols is a true pacifist in that he realises you cannot have peace at any price. He has few illusions about the present situation, for he reminds us, "I am fighting in a world whose skies are slashed and tormented by the banners of discordant nationalities. I want to tear those banners down—the reds and the blues and the yellows—because they are shutting out the sun. I want to follow the white flag of peace only. But can I? In a world where Germany is a sullen, straining giant, rattling at the prison bars; where France, like a nervous gaoler struts down the corridors of Europe, jangling her keys in her pockets; where the whole Italian population is being turned into an army, drilled with operatic precision, and where the Russian Limelight bathes both East and West in a strange glow that has never yet been seen on land or sea?"

And yet Mr. Nichols himself has the clue to an answer to all these questions. Why do nations hate each other? Because it is bred into them to do so as they read the falsely recorded history that is taught in the schools. Why is Germany striving to gain renewed power? Because her people have been impoverished in the post war tragedy, and made the scapegoat for other nations' follies. Why is the world in a state of turmoil that threatens the fair flower of peace? Because to-day there are less markets to exploit in foreign seas, and less people to enslave in backward countries.

Why have I fought consistently against the Boy Scout Movement, the Church Lads' Brigade, and similar activities? Because I am convinced that from a purely psychological point of view they implant in the plastic minds of youth a reverence for the military spirit. The excuses the leaders of these movements make for their existence are parallel with the statement the Headmaster of Marlborough College made to Mr. Nichols as an excuse for the upholding of the O. T. C. Corps system in the school.

"The Corps gives the boys something which they cannot get in any other branch of the school activities—Discipline. The habit of command."

"But not the War Spirit?"

"Certainly not."

But Mr. Nichols continues to be a realist. He sees through the silly excuses of the Headmaster and sums the position up as only a realist can.

"When I see a rifle I see something which is for one purpose and one purpose only—to kill. A rifle to me is not a pretty piece of wood and steel, a jolly thing to toss over a boy's shoulder on a summer afternoon, a hearty emblem of patriotism. It is simply and solely a method of killing."

The whole business bristles with tragedy. Wherever we turn we hear men talking of peace, while hidden just beneath the surface, mocking their high hopes, destroying their fairest dreams, is the ruthless preparation for war.

The whole business bristles with hypocrisy. On the one hand Lord Beaverbrook criticises the League of Nations, while on the other he has no time to consider the serious arguments of a man of the calibre of Sir Norman Angel.

The whole business bristles with heartaches. A younger generation are arising whose main objective in life seems to be to line up in queues at Labour Exchanges, or to serve as cannon fodder in the next "war to end war."

Some day we shall have the courage to face up to the terrible truth about war, and to see the essential loveliness of peace. When that day comes we shall re-write our histories, and instead of them being the tragic story of the colossal failures that men have died for in vain, they will be the vital witness of all that noble men have lived for, and achieved. As Mr. Nichols says, "Our history books are merely long and wearisome monotonous on the things which have died or the things which have caused death. The living and the creative, the healers and the liberators, the deathless army of inventors, of poets, and of martyrs—these are given a back place in the pageant. You cannot see the landscape because of flags. You cannot hear the march of humanity because of the beating of the drums. You cannot see the new civilisation because of the monuments and the memorials blocking out the view."

"Cry Havoc" is the gunpowder plot of a modern Guy Fawkes. *It is a war to end war*, that will bring a lasting peace, that will make a new world. It is the voice of youth passionately pleading that the beautiful and enduring things in life might have a chance to peep through and let the light of day into the clouded windows of our souls.

Is it to be a voice crying in the wilderness, the pathetic plea that none will hear for the thunder of cannons, the shrieking of shells?

Listen for a moment to the eloquent voice of youth as it strives to persuade age to uphold the sanctity of life rather than the trading in death. . . .

"Ted died for me. You told him, and everybody else told him, that he was fighting in a war to end war. *To end war*. That was really what he died for. He didn't die for the mess we are in now. He didn't die in order that we should all be at each other's throats again before the willow tree you planted on his grave had time to grow tall enough to throw its shadow.

"Please, father, don't hate me for reminding you of that. Ted wouldn't have hated me for it. Ted wasn't the hating sort. He just did what he thought was his duty. I believe I'm doing mine now in the same way. It isn't as hard for me as it was for him, God knows. But it isn't easy, either. I do beg of you to believe me when I say that.

"Ted would have believed me. He might even have agreed with me. For do you think that he could rest happily if he were able to see me putting on the same old uniform, listening to the same old lies, marching to the same old tunes . . . *to remind him that he died in vain*? For if I have to go through it all again, did he he not die in vain? Please father, you must answer that. And if you answer it wrongly, I'm done, just done."

We must make this new world for the children's sake. They are too lovely to lie mangled and torn on some battlefield. They are too precious to die e'er the bright flame of youth has cast its radiance o'er all. To live nobly is fairer than to die in vain.

# OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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

## OUR EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The Results Lists Book has at last been compiled, and, by the time these notes appear, every Lyceum which entered students for the examinations should have received a copy. Further, the Education Committee will meet on Saturday, 9th September, and during the week-end the certificates of successful candidates will be made out. The Lyceum packets will then be got ready and sent out at the earliest possible moment. The Education Committee is very sorry that there should have been any delay; but ill-health and pressure of work-a-day business have made it unavoidable. We hope that our students will forgive us.

## OUR EDUCATION SCHEME.

I was surprised to be informed, on reliable authority, that at the recent meeting in London, mentioned in the August BANNER, a determined attack was made on the value of our Scheme. The syllabus, it was alleged, is of too low a standard, and the system of examination is sadly out of date. These statements drew forth tributes from several delegates, who testified to the benefits they had received from studying through the Grades; and of course a complete answer is supplied from the number of experienced professional teachers who have taken part in the Scheme as Examiners and/or Tutors, and even sat at the annual exams—and who have found no fault with either the syllabus or the system.

The *Oral Grade Primer* also was attacked, the charge against it being that it was merely a hotch-potch of extracts from the *Lyceum Manual*, and of no value to children. To my mind it would be no disparagement that the items were extracts from the *Manual*, even if the charge had been correct—which it is not. But the strength of the attack was undermined by one of the attackers being driven to admit that he had not read the new Primer, and the attack itself defeated by the statement that only two of the items in the new edition (S.C.R.'s 15 and 100) are taken from the *Manual*, and that all the other items are original—in fact specially written or compiled. One criticism of the Primer, however, deserves to be met. It is that consideration of physical death should be kept from children for as long as possible, and that S.C.R. 100 with its references to death and dying should not have been put in the Primer. To this the reply is that the event of death cannot be hidden from children, especially in our big towns. People die in every neighbourhood; funeral processions are frequently met with in the streets; and in my own case, our Lyceum meets about three minutes' walk from one of the biggest cemeteries in London, and within twenty minutes of four others. In my opinion, S.C.R. 100 is our Spiritualist reply to the physical facts which force themselves on the attention of our children, and is one of the most important and valuable lessons in the *Manual*.

I hope my fellow students won't misunderstand me. The Education Scheme is not above criticism, but one-sided criticism is neither helpful nor constructive; so I hope that, when it arranges its next educational meeting, the London Council will pay the Education Committee—if not its Secretary—the courtesy of inviting me to attend and take part in the discussion. If, as has been stated, my retirement from the Education Secretaryship on 31st December will leave the way clear for a new Secretary with a new Scheme under up-to-date management, I shall be only too willing to do my best to assist in working it. During the seventeen years I have devoted to it, my only aim has been to increase the educational value of the Lyceum system; and if a new Scheme is launched I shall back it up as enthusiastically as progressive Lyceumists all over the Union area have backed up the present one. But *please* let us have friendly, and constructive, criticisms.

A.D.29.

Many thanks to the readers who have written so nicely about (what one correspondent was kind enough to call) my "thoughtful and original treatment of the life of Jesus." I am glad to learn that the series has been discussed in some Liberty Groups, and I hope that the result will be a departure from the two extremes of regarding Jesus as either a myth or a god, and the adoption of him as a normal human being who showed men how to die—and how to live—for their principles. Personally I am always sorry to hear Spiritualists boasting that they know nothing about the Bible, for it is one of the greatest books in the English language and he who has not read it has lost a valuable phase of education. Once we have realised that the Bible is not personally inspired by God (even to the punctuation marks in the Authorised Version) and that it is the history of the religious evolution of a remarkable race, the book will be accepted as a gold mine of spiritual and ethical teachings which no Spiritualist can afford to be without. To all who read these notes I would recommend that they start a careful reading of the New Testament—from the viewpoint of my articles. They would find how fastly Jesuanity differed from Churchianity.

## EXAMINERS' COMMENTS.

I am obliged to hold over the comments of the Examiners in Grades V and I-III to a later issue, as I have exhausted my available space and must not impose on our Editor's good nature and educational enthusiasm. The comments are mainly favourable, but there are one or two that will be helpful to students and tutors, and therefore it is only right that they should appear in this Page.

## 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., 3, Claremont Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

# OUT OF THE PAST

∴ By ∴

SYLVIA BROOKES.

"MISSED IT, BY JOVE!" SHRUGGING HIS shoulders in slight annoyance, Bernard Sandes watched the north bound train steam out of sight, and turning, addressed his companion with the repeated exclamation. The next train left in twenty minutes, but ex-major Sandes disliked the slightest delay, and besides, the hour was late—eleven twenty-five on a raw February night isn't conducive to putting one in the best of spirits even with someone to share such.

"Come along, Dick, we might as well get a bit of warmth anyway," he said, leading the way to a near-hand waiting room.

The place was empty, and the two men seated themselves either side the fire against the table, each idly turning over the leaves of periodicals. Presently Dick Hatton's brow furrowed, and after a few moments he pushed his paper over to the other. "See that, Bernie, a little bit of the old days. Poor old 'Jackers' an' all?"

Ex-major Sandes read the small account, culled from a series of war-time episodes of Lieutenant Peter Jackson, who, after leading his men in the onslaught at Ypres, 1917, in a way that betokened further commission, deliberately shot himself in returning to his own lines. The mystery was cleared up when, soon after, full evidence was found which proved him a spy and traitor to his country.

"You never believed it, Bernie?" asked Dick.

"Never, my lad! Only there was anything excepting his old straightforwardness and that to prove otherwise in the face of 'full evidence.'—But 'Jackers'—never!"

"Staunch to a pal aren't you?" questioned a voice. The two men turned to the waiting-room entrance to see a stranger confronting them.

His legs and feet were encased in equally dirty leggings and field-boots, and though his coat collar was up-turned he was hatless. The two guessed he must have left his 'machine' somewhere while he had a warm up. Night riding's not much fun this time of the year and in such beastly weather too.

"Don't let me interrupt your conversation if it isn't too private," he continued in his boyish voice that contrasted so strangely with the grey-worn expression of his face.

Men are so much more ready to accept a stranger than women, and the three of them were soon on easy terms. Sandes and his friend did most of the talking—digging up the old excuses and their own private theories regarding their late comrade, Lieutenant Peter Jackson. Sometimes the new-comer would advance a theory of his own in such a way that both men would scrutinize him with puzzled eyes ere they answered.

During a pause he asked, "Will you have one?" and drew a packet of cigarettes from his pocket, but his expression changed when he found them soaking and useless. "Not much good, are they?" he laughed, yet returned them to his coat.

"Never-mind," Hatton said, and proffered his own.

As the man bent forward to take a light, the others

noticed a small plaster on the right temple and the ex-major was about to remark on it when the stranger started speaking.

"Lieutenant Peter Jackson was all you still think him, though he did err a little towards the end."

"You knew him then?" both voices questioned at once.

"Yes, I knew him better than most, and I feel somehow it's time I told someone the truth. Well, away back at the beginning of '17 a new batch of men fresh from 'Blighty' came out to France—maybe you'll remember—and about a dozen of these came under 'Jackers' charge.

"Among them was one, a mere kid but a hard little nut despite his lack of years, and for whom his lieutenant formed a deep affection. You know how odd comradeships started and grew in those days. Then, like a bolt from the blue 'Jackers' made a discovery and an awful truth began to dawn upon him.

"Duty and love fought as big a battle within him as any on those bloody fields, and—the stranger paused slightly, pressing fingers to his plastered temple—and love won.

"He didn't know quite how he was going to manage things, but that day in '17 showed him the way.

"The boy went down in the attack 'Jackers' led, and to relieve him of all incriminating evidence after he had died in 'Jackers' arms was easy enough."

The steady grey eyes that fought for a place in Sandes' memory regarded the two men with mingled appeal and question.

"Yes, but—" Dick Hatton's eyes were on his cigarette end as he spoke, "Why did . . . well why did he take his life?"

"Ah-ah!" The sigh escaped the pale lips with a resigned weariness. "I guessed you'd ask me that, yet hoped maybe you wouldn't," he said. "That is another story, but you might as well know it all."

"As Lieutenant Peter Jackson stumbled back to his lines with the others that day, his nerve suddenly went, and in the blackness of a wild despair he blew out his brains. Just that comrades, there was no motive. He'd done what he wanted, but the strain had proved too much, that's all. You see—I know it's true because—I was 'Jackers' and the boy was my only brother." The voice had grown strangely dull, eyes full of pain and a dark red stain oozed and spread through the plastered temple. He seemed on the point of collapse. Sandes and Hatton were already on their feet, when suddenly the door was flung open, arresting their attention, and a hoarse-voiced porter announced, "Your train, sirs." When they turned again the stranger was gone and the eyes of the two travellers questioned as they met.

As the porter closed the door of their carriage, ex-major Sandes asked, "Are we the only two to-night?"

"Yes sir. Nobody been on the station since the eleven-twenty-five went out. Good-night and thank you sir." Pocketing the tip he moved away.

"Well, Bernie, that's that!" Dick Hatton's words held a firm conviction and his companion nodded in silent agreement while the train gathered speed as though to make up for their twenty-minutes' wait.

THE END.



My Dear Boys and Girls,

I know very little about motor cars or motoring, but I believe there is such a thing as a self-starter. Whether there is or not I fully realise there is such a part of mechanism in the human make up, because my self starter does not seem to be functioning at all well just at the present moment. The fact being that I am on my holidays surrounded by many of the wonderful gifts of nature that it seems to be too much of a good thing to try and draw ones attention from it all and settle down to writing a letter to you. Yet on the other hand, in all this surrounding beauty, there is enough subject matter to fill page after page. You have read or heard of glorious Devon. That is where we are at the present. Rugged rocks jutting out into the sea which ever way you gaze while towering cliffs of slate form the background. Many a winding path over tops to pleasant quiet little villages.

This particular part of Devon is not exactly what one could term a children's paradise as it has no sands and its rugged rocks would tempt most children to be too venturesome. Nevertheless children can not be left out of my picture and I am going to tell you a wonderful story of how a little boy and girl endeavoured to bring happiness to the crowds of holiday makers on August Bank Holiday Sunday.

There was a great crowd on the promenade which like all crowds got bigger and bigger, people coming and straining their necks to see what the great attraction was; was it a row, an accident or a police case? Nothing like this, it was just a couple of children about eight and ten years old in the centre of a Salvation Army ring singing a chorus to a swinging tune. As far as I can remember these were the words:—

We want everybody to be happy,  
 We want everybody to be glad.  
 We want everybody to be happy, happy, happy.  
 We don't want anybody to be sad.

You may feel inclined to say I do not see anything very wonderful in that, we do that in our Lyceum Session.

The wonderful part of this story was the fact that within a few moments, the whole crowd had caught up the refrain and were singing it.

Can you picture it I wonder, young men in flannels and cricket shirts, others in plus fours. Young women in gay seaside dresses. Men and women of all ages and descriptions, some, it may be had not been inside a Church or Sunday School for many years, some who would have laughed at the idea of taking part in a religious service in the open air a week ago, but here they all were entering into the spirit of the meeting and singing for the message of happiness. I venture to say that if a man and woman of older years had endeavoured to get such a crowd singing they would have hopelessly failed, but

because it was just two little children, the crowd was captured. Who knows the full extent of their Mission.

I have told you this because I want you to know how valuable you are to our movement, and how much you can do by giving your little efforts in the open Session.

That brings me back to my opening remark, as you will see, my self starter is working much better now, and we are really going strong, in fact it will soon be putting on the brake that will be the trouble, but we have not come to that yet. Let us consider for a moment the idea of a self starter and endeavour to get a lesson from it.

The first idea I want this to convey to you is that we must endeavour to train ourselves to be ready to do our bit. Whenever an opportunity comes along.

How often have you been to a party when volunteers to entertain have been asked for. Usually we find quite a number with the very ready response. Oh! I cannot do anything: of course in most cases this is not exactly what they mean, they really mean that they feel too nervous to do anything in front of strangers, in other words they are not self starters. First one and then another do their little efforts and others follow suit until in the end nearly everyone has contributed some little part to the evening's programme. Here then, we come up against the main defects in that bit of human mechanism I have chosen to call our self starter. The lack of self confidence. Of course there are some who are satisfied to let others carry on while they listen and never make any effort to be prepared. This is a very bad fault indeed and one which should be corrected as soon as possible. We are each just units and we cannot reach any given number if one figure is missing. In the same way no Lyceum can be a perfect success until every member young and old realise that they have a part to play. It may be just shaking hands with a stranger who drops in: even this little task is often of the greatest value although on the surface it seems such a simple thing to do.

I have often heard it said I like that Lyceum because everyone seems to make you feel so much at home, and yet it is so often effected by a shake of the hand and a good afternoon greeting. Every member can be a self starter in this respect, they will not need to fear that they are doing someone else's work for it is a work in which the more the merrier rule applies. Think over a few of the things in your own little lives and as you read this page I want you to ask yourselves, how many times did I apply the self starter yesterday?

PUZZLE.

My first is in shell, but not in rock.  
 My second in cape but not in smock;  
 My third is in apple, but not in core;  
 My fourth is in rules, but not in law,  
 My fifth is in inlet but not in bay,  
 My sixth is in Devon wherein I stay,  
 My seventh is in bracken as also in fern  
 The letters together a place to discern

This month I am going to give three small prizes, for essays on 'How I spent my Holidays,' send your efforts before Sept. 30th, 1933, stating name in full, age, Lyceum.

Ruberrondo,  
 126, Woodlands Road,  
 Isleworth, Middx.

With love,  
 UNCLE BERT,

## ALMOST PERSUADED

By KEN WHITTLE

I AM AFRAID . . . TERRIBLY AFRAID!

Until a few weeks ago I considered Spiritualism to be a lot of absurd rubbish, and its study a humdrum waste of time. That, however, was before I read a little book recently published, which, strangely enough is called "A Challenge to Sceptics."

You see I am afraid that . . . that . . . Well, I have a guilty feeling that I am no longer a sceptic! It's really alarming when you think of it. At least I think it is.

When I first started it was with the intention of pulling Spiritualism to bits . . . ruthlessly tearing it shred from shred . . . and casting the tattered remains into the face of the public, to let them piece the remnants together as best they could. *If they could!* But that, as I have said, was before I read this little book.

"A Challenge to Sceptics," compiled and edited by Frederic H. Wood and published by the *Two Worlds Publishing Co.*, is the brightest, the most interesting and the most practical book dealing with modern Spiritualism that one could place in the hands of a beginner.

It carries with it that faintly sinister mystery of the East. A dark mystical mist of the Orient clings, like some forbidding and alluring perfume from an ancient bygone tomb, to its pages. The heavy smell of incense, the dull crash of cymbals and the weird oriental chants of 3,000 years ago are all there.

Sax Rohmer, thrilling writer of dark supernatural mysteries, was brought to my mind as I read on. Sax Rohmer has always thrilled me—in a fictional sort of way—but here was a book more fascinating and more fantastic than all the adventures of Fu Manchu. Here I was brought face to face not with the fantastic creation of the novelist but with stark reality!

Dr. Wood, in this second selection of articles on the Rosemary Records, has definitely brought the true and sensible sceptic (and by that I mean the man who will confess to being beaten when he sees all his arguments fall to the ground), to a well-built and utterly immovable brick wall. And brick walls such as these are quite impossible to climb.

Lady Nona, priestess of the Temple of Amen-Ra and Rosemary's Spirit-guide, is the dominating character throughout the book. With memories of her Egyptian life and its ancient ceremonies and customs of over 3,000 years ago, she actually communicates with incarnate mortals of the 20th Century!

It is incredible . . . hardly believable. Yet it is true. Her identity has been proved by a hundred language-tests in the long-forgotten Egyptian tongue of about 1400 B.C.—a tongue with which the medium Rosemary was utterly unfamiliar.

Truly a pill for the sceptic. A pill which I may confess at first I found very hard to swallow. But pills are *made* to swallow. . . . So I helped myself to a glass of water *de bonne grace*, as any true sceptic should. And the pill went down quite easily.

The flame of Spiritualism burns on, and, with such creditable proof as contained in this little book, will always burn on. And I, a sceptic no longer, am almost persuaded to Feed the Flame.

## OUR RESTORATION FUND.

Our grateful thanks are due to those who have responded quickly to the above appeal, and we are pleased to acknowledge the following amounts received up to date:—West Melton Lyceum, per J. Hirst, 5s.; F.D., East Southsea, 6d.; W. H. Belcher, Hyde, 2s. 6d.; T. Wright, 5s.; Quarmby Lyceum, 10s.; Bolton L.D.C., £1 5s. 0d.; Accrington, Pearl Street, Lyceum, £2 10s. 0d.; Blackburn, St. Peter Street, £1 0s. 0d.; Manchester, Maskell Street, £1 0s. 0d.; Whitley Bay Lyceum, 7s.; Portsmouth, 1s.; Chesterfield Lyceum, 10s.; A Friend, £10; Heaton and Byker Lyceum, £1 0s. 0d.; T. Ellis, 10s.; A few friends at S.N.U. Conference, 3s. 3d.; Huddersfield, Ramsey Street, £1 0s. 0d.; Daulby Hall Lyceum, 15s.; Manchester, Old Hall Street Progressive Lyceum, 10s. Total, £21 14s. 3d.

A very interesting idea has been sent forward from an enthusiastic Lyceumist and I hope ALL Lyceums will readily adopt it.

## A JUMBLE SALE TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER.

First of all approach your Church for the use of a room and solicit their cordial co-operation in helping to realise a successful "Jumble Sale," in aid of the Restoration Fund. Elect your secretary right away and get the work well in hand. Hold it sometime in November and forward the proceeds to me not later than December 12th.

It is said that "Rubbish is, but useful material stranded in the wrong place," and a "jumble sale" is an ideal medium for the accomplishment of its transformation.

I trust that *every* Lyceum will seriously consider this suggested "United Effort" and try to raise at least £5. Get your workers moving as quickly as possible, and advertise it amongst your friends.

Names of Lyceum collecting officers for weekly amounts have not yet been submitted, but I hope Lyceums are considering this very easy and consistent way of building up quite a reasonable sum.

The "Lyceum Houses Scheme" has developed quite a lively interest in one Lyceum, owing to the competitive spirit aroused. All kinds of ways and means for raising money can be adopted, simple and not costly: the making of cakes, sweets, etc., competitions, parties, etc., and any ideas which can help your young Lyceumists to use their initiative. Given a very small capital, they can raise quite a considerable amount by making small useful articles. I have known 2d. to grow into 5s.

Do not forget the Special Social Efforts. *Now* is the time to commence preparations.

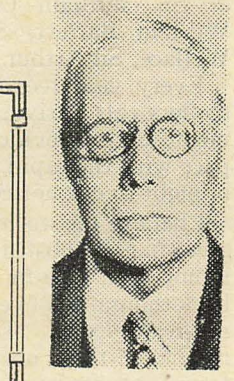
For those Lyceums and Lyceumists who have promised a definite sum, say £2 or over, it has been suggested that it might be convenient to the subscribers to remit same in three or four payments, the completion to take place before the end of December. It would help the Union considerably to receive money as soon as possible and lessen the weight for the subscribers.

The Committee are looking forward to Lyceum collecting officers remitting monthly total amounts.

L. GEORGE, *Hon. Sec.*

85, Queen's Road, Everton, Liverpool 6.

# TO FEED THE FLAME



BY

JOHN  
CUMING  
WALTERS

TIME WAS, AND NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, when the subject of Psychism was food for laughter; when it could be dismissed with a jest, or when it could be condemned as fraud. Such an event as a serious conference for the purpose of considering the moral aspects of life in the light of the problems that arise from psychic manifestations was deemed almost impossible, inasmuch as it was almost universally held that only a few faddists were associated with such movements, and they could be held up to the withering scorn of all commonsense persons.

It was pointed out by Montaigne, in one of his eminently practical essays two centuries ago, that every age imagines it possesses wisdom, and every succeeding age discovers that the vaunted wisdom was folly.

The simple fact is that by nature's law of continuous progress man advances from stage to stage, learning his lessons bit by bit, finding from experience the false and the true, is never long satisfied and pursues the endless quest for truth. This is as it should be, and indeed as it must be. So long as man *thinks* he will *change*; he leaves the old ground to mount to greater heights some unknown and far distant goal is his quest, and though he may never reach it, he moves onward towards it; and that is evolution, as the scientist terms it, or the approach to God, as the theologian terms it.

Less than a hundred years ago there were certain happenings at a little town, Hydesville, which excited general curiosity, some amount of ridicule, a considerable amount of suspicion, and an even greater amount of denunciation. None the less it was the beginning of an epoch. If it had not been for those rappings this Conference might not be being held to-day. They had to be investigated and explained. The task was not easy, but the struggle has not been in vain. Opposition had to be overcome, and it is out of conflict that strength is born.

The event which was to be pricked like a bubble is represented to-day by a world-wide organisation in which millions are interested, which commands the attention of leading scientists and philosophers, and which is no longer ignored even by the most orthodox of the schools of theology. The mighty pioneer work has been done. Now all classes are awakened to the importance of the movements, which, it is realised, touches on the deepest problems the mind can conceive.

A hundred years is a very short period in history, but it is doubtful whether any other radical transformation of thought has been of such rapid growth as that which we term Spiritualism. Yet it must always be remembered these are only the initial stages, and that being so, what boundless possibilities are opened out for the future.

If there are millions interested to-day we may feel assured there will be tens of millions to-morrow. As teaching proceeds, and as experiences multiply, the circles will enlarge and send out radiations in all directions. It is impossible to foresee the ultimate results of the mighty powers now in operation.

Such things do not occur without reason. Why is it that Psychism has secured such remarkable triumphs

and can look forward to more and even mightier results? *It is because it has delivered a clear message for which the world has been waiting for thousands of years*—the message, not confined to words, that there is no death, that life is continuous, and that progress is eternal.

Spiritualism has banished the fear that haunted men's minds that this short life might end in oblivion and annihilation. It has replaced both by hope. It has opened up illimitable prospects for the future. It has explained many of the anomalies of this earth existence, its pain and suffering, its injustices and apparently useless failures. It has given the world a new idea of Heaven and Hell, and demonstrated nature's law, "as a man sows so also shall he reap."

Spiritualism proclaims that every man is the master of his destiny, and the creator of his own happiness or misery. It offers proof in place of texts, facts in place of blind faith. It brings consolation to the bereaved, and banishes all dread of the hereafter. Our task is to bring the truth to those who as yet walk in the shadowy places of doubt, and strive daily to bring into being its widest acceptance.

There is much yet to learn. You have to study the manifestations of nature, to grasp the truths that science brings, to open your minds to wondrous revelations. What do we really know of our organisms, of mental phenomena, of our spiritual potentialities? Our minds are finite, and we are touching on infinite affairs. We are too small, too elementary yet to comprehend the mysteries that surround us. Only item by item can be placed together in the vast design; and step by step can we advance in the abyssal depths.

Problems confront us on all sides, and we only get a glimpse of the possible solution. But it is the indomitable purpose of the rational man to continue the quest, profiting by past failures, and profiting by much pain, ever urged on by the hope of happiness. There is no standing still; the "divine discontent" is the animating force goading us forward.

The march of events, and the inexorable logic of the Psychic case, has combined to bring thinkers of all types on to our side. In 1894 Mr. A. J. Balfour uttered these words, "I think the time has now come when, in all our interests, the leaders of scientific thought should recognise that there are well attested facts which cannot be any longer ignored because they do not easily fit into the familiar framework of the sciences. They certainly call for explanation, and science, if true to itself, should examine them with an open mind."

That was close upon forty years ago. Think of what has happened since then—the publication of Myers' epoch-making work on "Human Personality and its Survival after Death"—and the monumental testimony

of Sir William Crookes, Professor Lombrosa, Sir William Barrett, Sir Oliver Lodge, Alfred Russell Wallace, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—to name only a few.

Every year sees an amazing increase, not in what scoffers call "trivial messages," but in weighty argument, and in evidential facts. We can hardly keep pace with the rapid and multiplying evidences that are brought to our notice from all sources.

I believe the world could not have made so much progress in this most difficult and mysterious subject had it not been ripe for change. Spiritualism itself dates back thousands of years, but the masses of mankind were not ready for it. They clung to their superstitions and religions, they obeyed their priestly teachers, they feared to strike into new paths, and they had not developed their psychical side.

It is all different now. Science and historical criticism have caused men to reconsider and revise their orthodox creeds. Centuries of education have prepared them for self-development and the mounting to a higher plane. It was only at such a juncture that the perception of Spiritualistic truth became possible.

We are prepared, ready and waiting; the revelation has come. Mankind has taken another leap forward, leaving materialism further behind, and reaching towards the finer and ethereal realm where dwell those beings who have cast off "the muddy vesture of decay." Let it be distinctly understood, *we are only at the beginning*, only trembling on the verge, only looking into a vague and blurred domain. Suffice it at the moment that the inauguration has been made and reverence for all time to those pioneers who dared to venture into the uncharted seas against the blind prejudice of the multitudes.

The work before the sincere Spiritualist is complex. Their activities should include the investigation of phenomena, it should deal with the latest pronouncements of science, it should seriously consider psychology in all its aspects, and I think it should not exclude the moral, philosophic, or religious side of the subject. After all, our beliefs have their bearing on conduct, conduct concerns itself with the moral code, and if we teach "there is no death" and that "as we sow so also shall we reap," we ought to make life here a worthy preparation for the life beyond.

Evil is a barrier to progress, it is only by right thought and right action we can hope to move forward with increased capacity, and ever heightening ideals.

I hope the time is near when the partitions between the realms of the living and the so-called "dead" will be so thin that the two realms will seem like one, and we may declare are part of a universal whole. Our friends are but in an ante-chamber of the vast domain awaiting our coming to them in joyful reunion.

I hope the time is near when mankind will feel they are less to earth, and more to that freer and exalted state where there is a wider outlet for their powers, and a greater capacity for noble deeds. It is to such a goal we press forward. Our friends who have learned the Grand Secret call us thither. We are now but learning the way, walking with stumbling feet and with half awakened eyes, but it is the road we must all travel and they, by their messages, are guiding us. The after life is the sublimer life, the life of development, the life of progress. We pass from world to world, the visible and the invisible, but each is as real as the other.

Spiritualism tells us, and convinces us, that the thing called "death" is a second birth, and that it brings with it fresh opportunities. It tells us what to seek, and how to find ourselves for attainment by the building of character. It reconciles us to this brief state of existence, manifests its use, unfolds its purpose. It urges us forward. It establishes an ideal. It sets before our eyes the gleaming hope of ultimate truth. It imparts new and deeper meaning to every event and experience. In places of blind faith it gives us realities.

Spiritualism encourages the aspirations for perfection. And it all works out as an essential part of the only comprehensible scheme, the only satisfying scheme, the only scheme worthy to be deemed of divine origin, and under divine guidance.

I say frankly that if this existence of some seventy years with all its struggles, its pain, its futilities, its thwarted aims, its incompleteness and its sorrows, if this existence were our sum total, it is not worth having. If this is all we come into the earth for, to be "Blown about the desert dust, or sealed within the iron mills," and if "we come like water, like the wind we go," then it is a mockery and a waste; there is nothing to be thankful for, and there is nothing to admire—but much to resent—in the plan that brought us here, and then cast us aside like broken vessels of clay.

It is because I believe in a better fate, because I trust in a divine will, because I think that life is meant to be rich, because I believe that nothing is lost, nothing wasted, and that everything "blooms to profit elsewhere," that I accept the Spiritualist view and look forward to life on a higher plane.

Death takes us by surprise,  
And stays our hurrying feet;  
The great design unfinished lies,  
Our lives are incomplete.  
But in the dark unknown,  
Perfect their circles seem;  
Even as a bridge's arch of stone,  
Is rounded in the stream.

In such a thought we get the impetus to continued endeavour, we know that we shall complete elsewhere what we have begun here.

We do not ask the inhabitants of the other world to descend to us. We strive to rise to them, and they give us their help to do so. They demonstrate the Truths we seek. "The world invisible," said Sir Oliver Lodge, "is never that part of the universe that is beyond the veil, beyond the reach of our present faculties. It is but the continuation of the seen, governed as immutably by law as this, and as much a part of nature, as the hills, the valleys, and the seas." The recognition of this fact led Sir Oliver to add that thus able by psychic means to grasp the hem of the robe of divinity.

And that is my own sincere conviction. We are finding the full revelation of truth about life because we are making clear the truth about death. Every item of evidence is valuable.

Our mission is beneficent for we desire to preach the assuring doctrine that life is good, that it is divinely ordered, that it persists and advances, and that the best is yet to be. We must press forward. Our Goal is the salvation of all humanity, our philosophy is as the light of a distant star ever beckoning the wanderer homewards at eventide.

# 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 a few new members, but I am unable to give you their names as I am writing this in Cornwall, and the Guild register is in Halifax. So I hope these new members will not be too disappointed, but will wait patiently until next month to see their names in print.

## Finance.

The cash in hand I am also unable to give this month for the same reason, but it will duly appear next month.

## Holidays.

Holidays mean different things to different people. To some a holiday must be a continuous round of excitement amidst a crowd of similar people seeking a similar kind of excitement—bathing in a crowded bathing pool in the morning; in the afternoon listening to the band amidst a sea of deck-chairs containing somnolent or chattering humanity; in the evening visiting some dance-hall and dancing lazily or energetically until the early hours of the morning.

To others a more restful type of holiday appeals. To be able to study Nature in her many aspects is all that is needed in order to have that complete recreation which a holiday should supply. To those who live in inland towns the sight of the sea in her ever varying moods is almost sufficient in itself. The varying colours, the play of light and shade on the water as the light clouds pass across the sun, these in themselves give an infinite number of pictures which delight the eye and satisfy the soul, recreative in the best possible sense.

To those who live in our crowded industrial areas, the joys of country life appeal to many as a pleasant and healthful change from the crowded streets and smoky atmosphere of the town. To be awakened in the morning by the songs of birds or pleasant farmyard sounds instead of the blatant hooters from mills and workshops; to wander through fields and rest in the shade of the hedgerows during the day; to retire to rest at night lulled by the soft sound of the wind in the trees as though they, too, were gently stirring in their sleep; all these things touch or awaken a respondent note in us and give us that peace which we need as a contrast to the clash and rush of our workaday life.

Now for the personal note. I, your Guild Leader, have found a beautiful, quaint, little spot in the far south-west corner of England, in Cornwall, not many miles from Land's End. Its name is as quaint and unusual as the place itself—Mousehole. It was the name which attracted me to the place, and I have been amply repaid for the long and tedious journey by the

quaint charms of this little old world fishing village and the beauties of the coastal scenery for many miles round. Here one can enjoy both the charms of the country and those of the sea simultaneously. It is possible to wander through fields and farmyards, and to have the sea, in its most marvellous colourings of blue, green, and purple on one hand, and on the other the golden sea of uncut corn, or to see some already cut and standing in the sheaf ready to be carted to the barn.

For beauty, wild, majestic, austere, the cliffs around Land's End and the Lizard can hardly be equalled on any coast. With the sea shining like turquoise in the sunshine they are a joy to behold. But in stormy weather, with a wild and angry sea and grey skies above they are a terror to the poor fishermen who have to face them in their daily toil. But they make light of their dangers, and, as one said to me in conversation, he would rather face the sea any day than spend twenty minutes in a mine underground. That took more courage than he had, and he had travelled to many countries in a comparatively small craft.

So from Cornwall, the land of tin, pilchards, and cream, I carry away with me many pictures to be enjoyed by "that inward eye, which is the bliss of solitude."

I hope you other guildites have had the type of holiday that appeals to you, and that you will return to your daily labours with renewed joy and vigour.

## Please Note.

By the time you are reading this I hope to have received *all* your entries for the Competitions, and I also hope to be able to say that I am pleased with the number of entries.

I am also pleased to let you know that one of our people has promised to write to the German youth. Thanks.

Don't forget the Guild Leader when looking through your holiday snaps—my collection is growing steadily.

## To Those Interested.

If you wish to join Our Lyceum Guild write to me for an application form (if you have not already got one) and then return it along with P.O. for 1s. for Seniors and 3d. for juniors.

## To those who took the exams.

I am just as eager and impatient as you to learn the results, and next month I hope to be able to tell you what I think about you. With best wishes to all of you for a very successful winter—may every Lyceum have its Guild class this winter.

The Guild Leader,

GLADYS M. HALLIDAY.

28, Moorlands Place,  
Free School Lane,  
Halifax.

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: JAMES NORBURY.

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All correspondence to be addressed to the Editor.  
The Editor does not hold himself responsible for any views stated unless same are signed or endorsed by him. Visitors by appointment only.

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SEPTEMBER, 1933.

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## THE COCOANUT SHY.

AT ONE TIME IT WAS CONSIDERED COMMON-  
place to say that you could not see wood for trees. To-day it is getting equally common-  
place to realise that you cannot find Spiritualism for Spiritualists. While there is every reason why men should carry on a candid controversy, there is no reason at all why men should indulge in cranky criticism. When a man tells me in one breath he believes in the Brotherhood of Man, and in the next commences to belabour his neighbour with verbal fireworks, I feel I am justified in either doubting his sincerity, or questioning his sanity. And since our asylums are already understaffed and overpopulated it seems kindlier to take the first course.

All of which merely serves to point the way to one or two enlightening little examples of the smaller spiritualism of to-day which is tending to obscure from view the larger spiritualism of yesterday.

A few days ago I was turning over the pages of one of our contemporary journals in which a gossip writer felt he was justified in attacking a general secretary. Since the wisdom of gossip writers is often composed of the folly of half truths, one does not take them as seriously as one might do if their follies proved the immensity of their wisdom. This particular gentleman had an axe to grind because his friend had dared to tell us he was not a Spiritualist, but that he considered World Peace worthy of every Spiritualist's consideration. Now, while I can see the sanity of a non-Spiritualist trying to impress us with the importance of peace, I cannot see the justification for a Spiritualist seeing in this an opportunity to declare war on his unenlightened brother. The only logical conclusion I can arrive at is that this learned editor thinks we can create a larger Spiritualism by increasing the inhabitants of the higher spheres the more rapidly we commence firing machine gun bullets.

The fact is that world peace is either a social problem or it is not. And, if it is, any man, either non-Spiritualist or Spiritualist, may be able to enlighten us as to what is the right attitude to adopt towards such a vital issue.

The next witness I will call before the bar of judgment is a Spiritualist of standing, who recently complained to me about my pseudo-scientific attack upon mediums. First of all I would like to inform the same gentleman that when I use my reason in analysing out all the possible causes of so-called phenomenal happenings, I

am not in any way attacking the medium, but am merely using the same common sense I should apply to any other problem that came before my survey. I believe, rightly or wrongly, that sane scientific reasoning is superior to credulous cranky argument. We shall never solve the problems of the next world by assiduously refusing to face up to the possibilities of this one. My friend does not believe in testing mediums, and I do. But because of this I see no justification for his attempting to escape from a rational attitude towards everything, by having a cheap gibe at me for humbly attempting to prove survival, by proving that fraud was impossible when certain phenomena occurred.

I have passed these few sundry comments to draw your attention to a much more dreadful evil than any of the ones we have as yet considered. To-day there appears to be an increasing danger of forgetting the importance of our philosophy by denying the necessity for a careful examination of the vitality of our phenomena. If we take the right turning but are travelling along the wrong road, we may arrive nowhere on the false assumption that that is the only place that really matters.

It is no good opening the front door to criticism with one hand and opening the back door to credulity with the other. Men do not sing psalms of praise to the Glory of the Light, and at the same time echo out canticles in worship of the Darkness.

Spiritualism triumphed in the past because men dared to examine it and found it rang true. Spiritualism is the religion of the present because men prefer the gospel of facts, rather than the phantasy of fictions. Spiritualism is the hope of the future because it proclaims that men of all races are linked in a common unity because of the One Life that pulses through their being.

Upon our shoulders has fallen the responsibility of testing every inch of the pathway we tread from the narrow portals of earth to the wide vistas of heaven that are daily opening before our bewildered gaze. What is called for is a revival of that spirit of tolerance which allows men to differ in opinion without losing hold of the common purpose that has challenged each of them in their individual lives. All around us we see men stumbling amidst crumbling creeds and dead dogmas. And when they turn their troubled eyes in our direction what shall we show them in place of the debris they are seeking to leave behind? Must they witness our silly little quarrels about unimportant trifles, which are in themselves a denial of the very truth we proclaim? Must they see the Goddess of Truth we have enshrined in our temples with her eyes blindfolded because we ourselves have become blinded to the Light that is our heritage?

We as Spiritualists may fail, but Spiritualism will still ring out its challenge to all men of thought, in spite of us, if we betray the Spirit of Truth which should be our Guiding Light as we daily seek fuller knowledge of those ultimate issues around which the fundamental nature of man revolves. It may be true that half a loaf is better than none, but that is no justification for men starving for proof of human survival when the ripened fields of golden grain lie all around us merely awaiting for us to sift the grain of truth from the chaff of falsehood, in order that men may feed on half loaves no longer.

THE EDITOR.

# SPIRITUALISM THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

**W**E LIVE IN A GREAT AGE, AN AGE which is witnessing the dawn of a new dispensation, the birth of a grand and glorious revelation. In the midst of the chaos and confusion engendered by modern civilisation with its decaying social order, and the disintegration of a theological system which has been one of its chief bulwarks, the clear white light of Spiritual truth is penetrating the darkness of ignorance, is illuminating the darkened minds of men, gladdening their hearts and shedding its glorious radiance around.

Modern Spiritualism was born in circumstances of humility, in the home of a poor farmer. Two little children were the central figures in this great unfolding drama of life, yet it is destined to become one of the most potent forces influencing the lives of men and shaping the destinies of nations.

Truly a little child shall lead them.

From its rude beginnings it has swept throughout the whole world, in every country its presence has been felt. It seems as though the flood gates of power were suddenly opened so that men, immersed as they were in material things, might be startled into a recognition of their real origin, nature and destiny, and the reality of the spiritual world. The facts of Spiritualism are the hope of a weary world, a shattering refutation of the preposterous, unproven conclusions of a remorseless materialistic science, and a sure haven of refuge from the conflicting voices of a tumultuous creedalism. They give a joyous affirmative answer to the most cherished hopes of humanity, an emphatic yea to the eternal question which has animated the minds of men since the dawn of time, "If a man dies, shall he live again?" Hope has given place to conviction, faith has been justified by assured knowledge. Spiritualism demonstrates beyond all reasonable doubt the fact of human survival after death. In thousands of homes up and down the country circles are held week by week.

By the kitchen fireside, in an atmosphere of love and peace, the Angel guest is a welcome visitor. As in days of old the hosts of heaven are entering into our midst, sharing our joys and our sorrows, ministering to our various needs, bringing comfort and consolation to the bereaved, strengthening the weary and weak ones of earth and inspiring and guiding the diligent seeker after truth and wisdom.

The facts of Spiritualism reveal that death is not the end of life, but is a wonderful and necessary process in the evolution of life. Death is as natural as birth, it is the great revealer, the great liberator, the portal to the life eternal.

Released from the limitations of its physical vesture the spirit enters into a larger and fuller life, there to unfold the latent possibilities of its nature in all their fullness and beauty. Just as the child is welcomed on its birth into the physical world, so the spirit finds a welcome on its entry into the Spiritual realm. Loved ones who have passed on before await to greet the newborn spirit.

The spirit world is a real world, in many ways it is a replica of earth of a more ethereal substance. There we

BY  
**JOHN S.  
BARNETT.**

find everything that is needful for our further evolution as mental, moral, and spiritual beings. An important difference, however, is the fact that standards of values generally accepted on earth no longer obtain.

Our state is determined not by what we have, but by what we are, not by wealth or fame or social position, but by character.

The inexorable law of consequences demands that the joys of heaven must be fully earned. Every thought, every word and every action has a direct influence on our spirit bodies, determining their texture and luminosity. Progress depends on steady application and earnest endeavour. In persistently striving to eliminate from our natures that which is detrimental to our spiritual progress and cultivating the higher attributes and qualities of the spirit, we are daily and hourly shaping our eternal destiny.

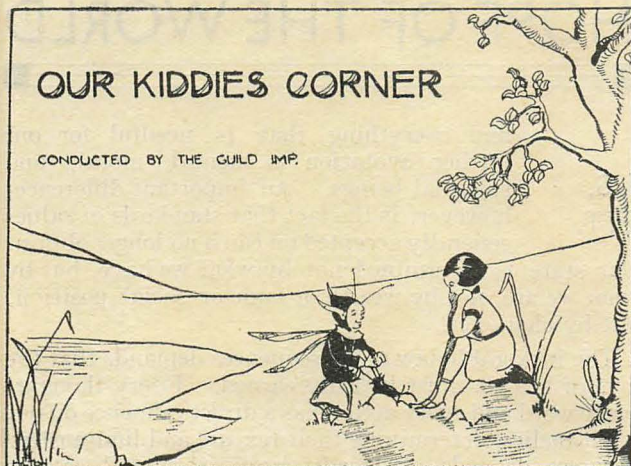
In courageously encountering the trials and difficulties of life, in surmounting the obstacles which confront us from time to time we are thus laying the foundation for the development of a strong and noble character. As the late William Stead has said, "The mission of Spiritualism is to make men spiritual," to bring to humanity a recognition of its Divine sonship and daughterhood, and to hasten the coming of the evolved spiritual man.

Spiritualism reveals the universe to be pregnant with Life and Love, Wisdom and Purpose. Spirit is the basis of all life. Man is the apex of all creative effort, the flower of the evolutionary process, an individualisation of the eternal spirit.

We are Gods in the making, and herein lies our great responsibility, the responsibility of being godlike, of doing unto others that which we would have others do to us, and of working for, and hastening the coming, "Of that far off Divine event, To which the whole creation moves." Progress is the law of life, everything is in a state of becoming.

Spiritualism is thus forcing the world to a consideration of moral and spiritual principles. The spiritualisation of life consists not in withdrawing from the world, not in living the life of the hermit or ascetic, but in allowing our spiritual impulses and experiences to flow into and enrich our daily lives. Social and individual salvation can only be attained by an actual realisation of the efficacy of spiritual values translated into terms of personal and social life. The task that lies before us is a tremendous one, yet it is one that can bring health and healing to the nations of the world. Great forces are arrayed against us, vested interests will strain every nerve in their efforts to stay our progress, yet we need not be dismayed, "for truth is God's and hath a power sacred unto him."

Spiritualism is a religion of life and light, of joy and peace, of wisdom and love, a religion which reveals life as a grand and glorious spiritual adventure leading onwards and upwards to the ultimate realisation of our highest ideals.



Dear Little Imps,

I suppose that, by now, we are all wondering if we really did have any holidays. Isn't it wonderful that one day back at school makes the holidays seem ever so long ago? How lucky we are to have memories instead of forgettories, and that our memories can store up all the lovely bits of our holidays. Snapshots can remind us of lots of our doings, but memories are much more wonderful, for they can save our sayings and thinkings, as well as our doings.

#### THE WONDER BOXES.

Long, long, ever so long ago, strange things happened. People hadn't even thought of schools, and no-one knew anything at all about reading and writing, or of counting anything more than their fingers and toes. For the children it was all very jolly, since no-one bothered about the nine-times table, or about spelling mistakes, and things all seemed very simple. The children had a great time, but, for the grown-ups, there came trouble, and all the troubles arose because people had no memories. No-one was able to remember anything at all for more than five minutes at a time, and things grew into a dreadful muddle.

Men and women would even forget where they lived, whilst the mothers never could remember whether they had just had dinner or whether they should be putting the babies to bed. As to keeping things in their own places—that was quite impossible, and the days went in a great and glorious game of hide-and-seek. The most awful part came when the people grew suspicious of each other, because they couldn't remember to be friendly with their neighbours.

At last, the chiefs of some neighbouring tribes met together to talk over their troubles. A young chief surprised everyone by saying "Let us ask the Wee Folk of the woods and glades to help us. If our people, when they go to bed say: 'Wee Folk, please help us to remember all our yesterdays'—we shall be helped." The idea was such a surprise that the meeting ended with all the chiefs returning home in great glee. The chiefs couldn't forget that message, because they couldn't stop thinking about it. Over and over again, they repeated: "Wee Folks, please help us to know about our yesterdays." They could neither think nor talk of anything else, and it wasn't long before all their people

were saying the magic words, "Wee Folk, please help us to know about our yesterdays." There was no need for the chiefs to ask the people to say the message at bed-time—for chiefs and people alike were all saying it in their sleep.

Of course the Wee Folks heard the message. They could hear nothing else, for even the animals tried to say it, whilst the birds mixed it up with their songs. The Wee Folks felt most important. It seemed that all the world wanted their help—and if it was at all possible the Wee Folks would give their help. But how could it be done?

In the still of the night, the Wee Folks met and discussed how they might help the people to know about their yesterdays. They could even remember the days before the yesterdays, and so they were very sorry for the people who could't remember at all. After a lot of talk an excited Wee One said, "I know. All of these creatures live *inside* houses—we must put a house inside each one of them." "Whatever can you mean?" cried the others. "Just this!" answered Wise One. "People live in houses, birds live in nests, animals have homes. They can all shelter from the rain, but they have no place at all where they can shelter their doings and sayings. They need a house inside of themselves for those things." Another Wee One laughed. "That is quite true," he said, "I should think there would be room for a house inside those funny round heads of theirs if only we can find a way in and out of their empty heads."

The oldest Wee One said. "We can do it. There mightn't be room for a whole house inside their heads, but at least we can put in a very wonderful box, and in it we'll help them to store all the lovely bits of the yesterdays. We'll have a lot of ways into the boxes, but one way out will be quite enough. Let us do it now, with the people who have asked for our help."

Very, very, quietly the Wee Ones moved amongst the sleeping people, and with their clever, gentle fingers, tucked a wonderful box away inside each head. They made an "I see you" road into the box, as well as ways which they named "I-hear-you," "I-smell-you," "I-taste-you," "I-feel-you," and "I-like-you," but there was only one way out. That was a wide red lane, edged with ivory walls, and that lane the Wee Ones named "Let-me-tell." By dawn the wonder boxes were quite ready, and from the first waking till the last sleeping, those boxes began to hoard up "I remembers."

Ever since that magic night people have known about their yesterdays, and have found out all sorts of things that simply must live in those wonderful boxes. They have grown cleverer since then, though the Wee Ones are always wishing that the roads needn't let in the ugly things, and that "Let-me-tell Lane" would never open for the unkind things. Of course sometimes the Wee Ones have fun, and stir up all the rememberings to give us queer dreams. But those are just the young Wee Ones. I forgot to tell you that the very wise Wee Ones who gave the first Wonder Boxes became so big for their shoes that they'd to go to Fairyland to get new ones—and in Fairyland they still live.

Lots of love, Imps,

MEG.

## THE THINGS WE HEAR.

### DELEGATE'S REPORT OF THE S.N.U. A.G.M.

held at Doncaster, Saturday and Sunday, July 1st and 2nd, 1933.

The conference opened on the Saturday morning with a civic welcome. The local Church and Lyceum further extended this, and the President, Mr. McIndoe, suitably replied. Mr. McIndoe, in his presidential address, struck a note which should resound throughout the whole movement. "As the largest organised Spiritualist body in existence, he had no hesitation in saying that, in their view, Spiritualism was a Religion." He had no desire to quarrel with those who claimed spiritualism was a science—it was more—it was both a philosophy and a religion, and they could not divorce the phenomena of spirit communication from the ethical teachings and spiritual implications which rest thereon.

To be accepted as co-workers in any movement we must first and foremost be accepted as a religion. Many interesting comments were made *re* the note struck in the address.

The various reports were given and accepted. All were accepted with very little comment, with one exception—the exponents committee. A lengthy enquiry had taken place *re* the services of Mrs. Duncan, and the committee recommended that the diploma be not withdrawn, which was accepted.

Election of offices resulted in all officers and national councillors retaining their places.

Notices of motion before the meeting were the two recommendations which appeared in our own M.C. report:

(1) That the Joint Education Committee shall be appointed by and responsible to the Council of the Union and that the College Constitution be amended in accordance therewith and any resolutions standing in the books to the contrary are hereby rescinded. Many spoke pro and con to the resolution, upon being put to the vote was carried by 38 for 27 against.

(2) That this Conference authorise the setting up of a small joint committee (3 from each side) from the S.N.U. Council and B.S.L.U. M.C. to promote closer co-operation between the S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. This was carried.

A motion from the Yorkshire D.C. that each church in future which is affiliated to the S.N.U., Ltd., shall be known by the name of the National Spiritual Church.

Many comments were made pro and con upon the position that the passing of such a motion would create, and despite advice and appeals from the Officers and E.C. members, the motion was carried.

Sunday afternoon was devoted to a discussion upon the question "what attitude should spiritualists adopt towards Social and Economic problems." The case was stated by Coun. E. Marklew, and a very interesting discussion took place upon the points raised by Mr. Marklew.

J. SHUTTLEWORTH, *Delegate*.

### NOTTINGHAM AND DISTRICT L.D.C.

The Manor House, Castle Gate, Nottingham, home of Nottingham's own poets and reformers, William and Mary Howitt, was thrown open to us on Sunday, Aug. 6th. There, in beautiful surroundings, out in the open, under shady trees, we held a combined session, led by Mr. Ben Carter, of Halifax.

LEN JOHNSON, *Hon. Sec.*

### LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Quarterly Conference held July 1st, at Batley Carr, Mr. Wainwright presiding.

Welcome to Conference given by Miss French, Batley Carr.

The President delivered an inspiring address.

Roll Call: Officers 5, Fraternal Delegates 2, Area Representative 1, Field Day Secretary 1, Delegates 15 (representing 10 Lyceums), Associates 7. Total 31.

Minutes of previous Conference accepted and confirmed. Correspondence, U.D.C. next meeting to be held in Leeds District. Delegates asked to place this before their respective Lyceums, invitations asked for and reply to be sent in not later than Aug. 7th.

Reports:—D.V.'s accepted. Treasurer's financial statement: Balance and income, £12 12s. 8½d.; expenditure, £6 1s. 11d.; balance, June 30th, £6 10s. 9½d. Field Day Secretary, U.D.C. and B.S.L.U. Reports accepted.

Arising out of the Conference Report it was decided to help in every possible way the financial position of the Union and

instruction given to the Secretary to place it on the agenda for each meeting.

Notice of Motion (Castleford):—"Time is now opportune to recommence the Interchange of Conductors' Scheme and the scheme be put into operation as early as possible." Finally agreed to refer back to next meeting and it be placed on agenda. *Re* financial position, B.S.L.U., agreed to form a small committee to work out a scheme.

No Associates nominated.

Date and place of next Conference. Heckmondwike invitation accepted for September meeting. Vote of thanks to local friends.

Quarterly Conference will be held at Walkley Lane, Heckmondwike, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3-30. Agenda:—Opening Exercise, Invocation, Minutes, Correspondence, Roll Call; Reports: District Visitor, Treasurer's, Leeds District Committee, Field Day Secretary, Auditors, Financial Position B.S.L.U., Restoration Fund B.S.L.U., Progress Scheme Result, Adjudicator's Report, Interchange Conductors, Invitation Annual Field Day, 1934, Associate L.L.D.C., Open Council, Next Conference, Vote of Thanks local friends. Tea will be provided by Heckmondwike friends at nominal charge. All Associates invited.

A. W. HARDING, *Hon. Sec.*

### TEES-SIDE L.D.C.

The Quarterly Conference of this Council was held at the West Hartlepool (Charles Street) Lyceum on 13th Aug. The business was chiefly routine.

The Event Sub-Committee reported that Mr. Norbury had been booked for 24th Sept. The Quarterly E.C. will be held during the morning, and a Consultative Conference in the afternoon. The Middlesbrough (Grange Road) Church and Lyceum were making the usual arrangements for refreshments. The Public Meeting is to be held at 8 p.m., in the Empress Assembly Hall, Albert Road, Middlesbrough.

The Education Sub-Committee reported that 29 Churches had been circularised *re* Suggested Course of Lectures for the session 1933-34. Up to date only six replies had been forthcoming. Lectures are to be arranged to take place at Durham, Shildon, Crook and Middlesbrough (Grange Road). Mr. E. Nellist, D.N.S.C., is to be lecturer.

The Conference closed with the presentation of a wedding present to Mr. and Mrs. E. Nellist (Secretary and E.C. Member respectively). The present was subscribed by the Lyceums constituting the District Council, and was made by Mr. C. H. Roeder (Westminster Chime Clock), and Mrs. Ainsworth (Cake Stand) on their behalf.

As usual, the Council conducted the Afternoon Session and Evening Services.

At Middlesbrough (Grange Road), on Sunday, 30th July, Mrs. C. Lofthouse presented a trinket set and shaving mirror as a wedding gift from the Lyceumists to Mr. and Mrs. E. Nellist. The presentation was supported by Mr. C. H. Roeder (Hon. Life President).

E. NELLIST, D.N.S.C., *Sec.*

### NORTH-EAST CHESHIRE L.D.C.

July 8th, Annual Outing to Alderley Edge. Good turn up, and our only regret was that the rain descended upon us at tea time. July 9th, Anniversary Sessions at Leek. Well attended. Good addresses by Mr. Benson, a Lyceumist. Clairvoyance by another Lyceumist. July 30th, Mass Sessions at Congleton. A good attendance. Conducted by Council President, Mrs. E. Edwards. Key word "Brotherhood." Pearls, recitations, etc., were too numerous to mention individually. Evening propaganda service. Short address by the President, Mrs. Edwards,—Mr. W. Dransfield and Mr. Markham, with recitation by the D.V., Miss P. Swindells.

Aug. 5th, Quarterly Meeting held at Stockport, Chatham Street, Mrs. E. Edwards presiding, and gave welcome to all present.

Annual Outing report and success of balance of £2 10s. od. to funds. B.S.L.U. Conference report by Mr. F. N. Springate and Mr. W. Dransfield. We particularly noted the following: Financial position of Union and request for all Lyceums to make special efforts for funds; less entrants to Education exams. and Guild work, and need for each Lyceum to be active in this way. Constitution Revision report was specially noted and Lyceum requested to set up their own sub-committees to discuss same and report to next Council meeting.

R. A. L. MARKHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

## British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union

44th Annual B.S.L.U. Conference.  
(Continued from August issue.)

### S.N.U.E.C. REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. J. Norbury 66 votes, elected.  
Mr. W. Burrows 62 "

Conference adjourned for lunch.

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference opened with singing of 'Shoulder to Shoulder.'

### £2,000 EFFORT:

Mr. J. Calway moved, Mr. Dickinson seconded,  
**That the raising of Funds for the £2,000 Effort Fund be suspended until the Sustenation Fund has reached a figure sufficient to clear the outstanding liabilities of the Union.**

Mrs. George: Does that mean that the cards I have out are not going to be sent in.

President: The £2,000 Effort Secretary will have instructions to call all outstanding matter in and close the Fund.

Miss Owen moved, Miss Keeling seconded,  
**That the £2,000 Effort Fund be suspended for 12 months.**

Mr. Johnson: If we are to immediately suspend the Fund do I take it that the Trustees are instructed that the accruing interest on the £2000 effort, which is to be used to maintain the dignity of the Union, is on the money already collected.

President: Yes.

Mr. Ainley: What does it mean by the outstanding liabilities of the Union? Does it just mean at present outstanding? We, as a Trading Concern, can never be rid of the outstanding debt.

Mr. Burrows: Roughly £800.  
Voting for Amendment 55. Against 56 lost.  
for Motion 87. Against 21 carried.

Mr. Keeling: I am not quite clear and would like your ruling. Mrs. George had all the threads of the Mile of Pennies Appeal in her hands. She is now off the M.C. and in the ordinary course would not be appointed in any way to have anything to do with it. Would it not be wiser for us to leave it to Mrs. George to call in these things sent out?

President: It is agreed that Mrs. George wind up the £2000 Effort Scheme.

Mr. Calway moved, Mr. Hart seconded,  
**That the £2,000 Effort Report be adopted.** Carried.

Mr. W. H. Shaw moved, Miss Entwistle seconded,  
**That we next take Constitution Revision Report.**

President: I would certainly advise you to keep straight on with the Agenda. Given the right spirit we can get through.

Vote for 67. Against 41. Carried.

Mr. Barrett: With reference to the resolution passed at the Barrow Conference that one hour be devoted to that and all future Conferences for the discussion and presentation of the Education Report. Do we have the President's assurance that that will be given to the delegates?

President: We are bound by a resolution to give at least 1 hour.

### CONSTITUTION REVISION REPORT.

Mr. Norbury: I propose

**That we restrict this business to one hour in the light of all the business that has to be considered.**

Mr. Parker moved,  
**That the whole of the Report be rejected and placed on the Agenda for next Conference.**

Mr. Slimin: Where does this Interim Report come from that the President refers to and on what authority?

President: Mr. Keeling was appointed to speak on this Report. Has Mr. Keeling anything to add?

Mr. Keeling: I am quite sure there are none of you envying me my job this afternoon.

First and foremost I want on behalf of the Committee to express publicly in this Conference, and to ask that it be recorded, that we give our very deep and sincere thanks to the Clerk of the Union, Mrs. Mills, who sacrificed two weekends and willingly and voluntarily agreed to forego any definite pay for these weekends, in

addition to which Mrs. Mills was instrumental in providing billets for representatives on this Committee. We feel the gratitude of the Union ought to be recorded to Mrs. Mills.

I expect the Committee are expecting to get more kicks than halfpence. I am prepared to be kicked as much as you like as long as you will agree we have acted in what we thought were the best interests of the Union. I am asking you and in moving the acceptance of the Report, I want to call your attention to one or two financial facts in order to portray something of the difficulty with which the Committee had to contend. From figures prepared by the office and presented to the Committee we find that for 5 years, 1927-1931, there had been an average net loss per year, that is, we had been spending per year more than our income the sum of £150. Obviously it could not go on and we had to tackle the financial side of the Union and try to find means of adjusting our expenses and income so that these two would approximately balance. If you will add to that average of £150 the fact that last year we lost between £300 and £350 well above the average, as you will see, you will have realised that our position, to say the least was precarious.

It was only after the most careful consideration of all sorts of ideas brought forward for examination and rejected that we finally decided to recommend the per capita tax of 6d. per Lyceumist. I can quite see that there are Lyceumists who will say this cannot be afforded. On an average this represents an increase of 8s. per Lyceum: not a very large amount. I have worked it out for every Lyceum that made returns last year; how much they would be called upon to pay and, so that you may know how the figures are arrived at, I reckoned the amount payable on the old rate: the amount payable at the rate of 6d. per member: I assumed the amount of 4s. to the D.C. per Lyceum as being as far as I can find out a fair average over the country, and then I found the common numerator and worked it out accordingly. There would be an increase by approx. £100. . . two thirds of the £150 loss, and that £50 has got to be achieved by reduction of expenses and for the time being these reductions will have to be very drastic. The salary of our present Secretary is £50 per year less than the salary of the late secretary.

It is also true that we have taken on additional liabilities at the new offices. To arrive at this the Committee decided upon reducing the M.C. from 12 to 8 which we assumed will approximately cover the difference of cost between the Rochdale and Manchester offices. I do not want to go into details. I would much prefer to answer any objections that you raise, but I hope you will recognise that the task was not an easy one. I want to assure you that in our work at our meetings, while there were very strong differences of opinion, there was not a single occasion when the arguments became heated or there was any sign of the Committee falling out. I have never served on a Committee which strove harder to endeavour to accomplish something that seemed at first almost impossible.

We believe the Constitution we have submitted, if tried for the period, which it is due to be tried for—5 years—will help us out of our present position. I would remind you that the Committee deliberately changed its mind about transferring financial clauses into the Constitution so that if our position improved the Bye-Law could be amended.

We are hoping that the Lyceum Movement will respond unanimously to this appeal. I assure you once more, we did our utmost to find some other means of raising funds and failed, unanimously agreeing there was no other way out: that for the time being the fee should be raised to 6d. per member. I will do my best to interpret the mind of the Committee in answer to any question which may be submitted.

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Railton seconded,  
**That the Report be accepted as printed, subject to typographical corrections.**

Mr. Ellis: I rise to oppose the suggested alterations to the Constitution. I reckon there would be an income increase of £85 fees if the present number of Lyceumists continue, but what would be the result of the Capita-

tion Fee? The present register of the Lyceums would be boiled down to the scholars who attend and we should not have the present number of returns. I reckon that £85 would be completely wiped out. Regarding my own District: we should give the Union a penny. At the present time we pay £7 2s. 4d. Under the new scheme we should pay £7 2s. 6d. Out of that the Union would pay the D.C. and the U.D.C. We should benefit to a certain extent but the Union would not benefit in the least. I maintain that the loss would be through the country by having a keen return on Lyceum registers.

Mr. Rolson: Are you open to receive amendments or alterations?

President: It was specifically stated from the Chair last Conference that no amendment could be accepted.

Mr. Calway: No amendment to the present Constitution, not the submitted Constitution.

The President read Mr. Mack's query of the previous year from the accepted minutes of 1932 Conference.

Mr. Calway: There is only one Constitution to the Lyceum Union and that is the printed Constitution and there can be no reference to that, only the newly submitted report.

Mr. Taylor: Giving due consideration and appreciation to the work that has been done by the Committee, and pointing out that in the main the general points agree with the report of the Constitution, I am bound to oppose the particular point, Bye-Law Finance. Whilst we fully appreciate the necessity of increased income to the B.S.L.U. yet we feel in Manchester that this per capita tax of 6d. will mean more or less the automatic reduction of two-thirds of the Lyceums in the Union. One Lyceum pays 15/- to the B.S.L.U. and 6s., to the D.C. Under the new system this Lyceum would have to pay 32s. 6d. I feel that if this per capita tax is put on many Lyceums will have to withdraw from the Union. Two points have to be considered: one, the insolvency of the B.S.L.U., and the other is the automatic strangulations of Lyceums. Then again, automatic affiliation to D.Cs. and U.D.C. we feel that for a democratic body we should not be forced to do anything we have no desire to do. Again, the D.Cs. will probably lose something from 50 to 60% in Fees. We have not the opportunity to raise social functions. The D.Cs. are of necessity forced to make a fee of 6s. to 7s. If they are reduced to 3s. you might as well disband your D.Cs.

President: I must protest. It has been explained that the problems with which we were faced last year were tremendous, and it was just touch and go whether we should have been able to have completed our work before Conference. We have all got our living to earn as well as do our little bit in the Movement.

Mr. Slimin: I disagree that there can be no amendment to this Report. There is no report of any Committee meeting under any Constitution where it is not subject to reference back either by whole or in part. I am standing here today pledged to loyalty to the Committee under false pretences. My loyalty will not stand if you say there should be no amendment at all. I have given my opinion in Committee and because I was in the minority I pledged loyalty to the Committee, but if that Committee is going to say 'take it or leave it,' then I claim the right to withdraw that pledge of loyalty and speak against the Report if I wish.

President: You can adopt one of three courses: accept, reject or refer back. If you refer it back you can state your terms of reference.

Mr. Calway: We can accept the Report and then amend it according to suggestion.

Mr. Markham moved, Mr. Johnson seconded,

**We refer back the whole of the Constitution Revision Committee Report on the grounds that it could not give Lyceums and D.Cs. time for a full discussion on this Report prior to coming to Conference.**

President: The Committee met and have done their best.

Mr. Markham: At last Conference there was promised a Report in January. That promise was not kept and under these circumstances my Lyceum feel compelled to ask me to refer the whole of the Constitution Revision Report back.

Mr. Johnson: I second the motion that the Report be referred back on the grounds of its inadequacy. We were led to believe that this Committee was going to draft a new Constitution which would meet our needs in so far as Lyceums and D.Cs. were concerned. We would prefer something better in its place.

President: That was practically an impossibility. You do not appreciate what has been done on your behalf during the last year. The task was more than hard and we did our best. You have heard that the Treasurer made definite suggestions that the Committee did not meet on the grounds of finance and we had not time to issue a Report in January but, to honour Conference's confidence, that Committee met when they could. We have presented our Report. We are not superhuman. We can only do our best. I want to ask you to think if you can of what has been accomplished over the past 12 months.

Mr. Edwards: It was absolutely impossible to report progression in January. It was simply because of finance that they did not take place before the end of February and you, who are now complaining are responsible for lack of finance to carry on the Union.

Mr. Robson: From my D.C. we do appreciate all the work done yet I must support the reference back. These things are to cover over 5 years and cannot be done by any hasty decision, and a decision today to accept this as it is would be rather hasty and I would like, if it is possible, the referring back that certain clauses might be considered further. There is quite a lot here that does not need touching but there are certain points of it do want referring back. I think to refer it back to the Committee and not be allowed to make recommendations as to what we would like, would be very foolish. If it is possible I would like to have a way cleared whereby we can make clear and definite special points.

President: If you refer the thing back then you will send in your suggestions.

Mr. Robson: Now or at future dates?

President: It is no good talking of amendments until we know what we are doing, I shall have to get the terms of reference back.

Mr. Norbury: I want you, as a Conference, to face the practical side of the issue before you. The facts were the Union's finances were in a hopeless position. Before this Committee could meet under the terms of reference you had set down, we had to have a definite statement of the financial status of the Union. That could not be prepared until certain events had taken place. It was only when we had definite figures to work upon that we could meet. This Committee has cost over £30. Are you as a Conference discussing the possibilities of revitalising the Union, who were only an hour ago attempting to pledge your loyalty to raise finances, are you going to create a need for another expenditure extending over the next 12 months that is naturally going to deplete the funds of the Union. . . or are you going to see the absolute necessity for having a wide outlook upon this Report?

Mr. Le Noury: I am under certain mandates. I do wish that speakers would remember that other Lyceums and D.C. delegates are so placed.

Mr. Burrows: I was personally responsible for asking the President to hold up the Constitution meeting on the grounds of finance, and I promised him faithfully I would take full responsibility at Conference, even if it meant my office. About two weeks ago I went officially to see our Adviser. We discussed the new Constitution and he, as well as I, realised the necessity for the finance. We discussed it as well as we could from every possible angle and his advice was I suggest to Conference that they should refer it back for at least 2 years to give all Lyceums and D.Cs. ample time to discuss all there is in it and then come prepared for what might follow.

Mr. Lang: In reference to our General Secretary. It makes me wonder whether it would not be better to spend money referring back to perhaps losing more money in cutting down Lyceums.

Mr. J. Taylor moved, Mr. Parker seconded,

**An amendment to the amendment :**

**That the report of the Constitution Revision Committee be referred to the Agenda for the 1934 Conference for full discussion.**

Mr. Marks: Most of the delegates appreciate the work that has been put in the Constitution. One or two points are highly objectionable to large numbers of people here. We do not feel we ought to scrap the whole book. Therefore I asked was it possible to refer it back to next Conference for full discussion, excepting that instead of revising our present Constitution we should be revising the draft presented by the Revision Committee.

Mr. Bruce: The whole trouble arises in the first place in refusing to allow this Report to be discussed and amended. Every Lyceum has discussed these proposals found in this Report, because this Report embodies most of the proposals brought at last year's Conference, and we are where we were two years ago. We all agree that the Old Constitution is worthless.

Mr. Burrows: What will be the position of Lyceums? Will they be allowed to send in amendments to the present Constitution and will they be considered in conjunction with the new Constitution?

President: We shall get resolutions upon points raised and, therefore, I cannot see what useful purpose the amendment would serve. The Report is offered for discussion.

Mr. Keeling: I have not spoken to the first motion, to refer back. Our job as a Committee was to produce a Constitution fully satisfactory to the Union. That seems to be perfectly plain. We thought we had done it but our experiences this afternoon point to the fact we have not. I don't want to feel I am speaking against the Committee at all. I feel as an individual that not having satisfied the Movement it would be wrong to force anything. I would like Conference to believe that I am anxious to serve the Movement. May I put this to Conference before any resolution at all is adopted.

It does seem to me that the attitude Conference is adopting is contradictory to what they have previously taken and I would point it out to you so that you can see how inconsistent is your attitude. You are not prepared to pay sufficient to run the Movement. The main objection so far is the per capita tax. You have either to accept the per capita tax or devise other means whereby income to the Union can be subscribed by members of the Union. If, however, this Conference feels that the Movement has not had sufficient time, through causes over which the Committee had no control, if they do feel a period should be given for full consideration, I would support anything that arose that would give satisfaction to the major portion of the Movement. I do not feel we are letting the Committee down in saying that. If we can get a Constitution suitable for working in our own Lyceums by reference back, then, contrary as it may seem, I would withdraw the motion to adopt. Let us have a Constitution that you are going to approve.

I think we ought to be clear before the motion is put. It means this Report shall be referred back, that those who have differences or amendments shall submit them in writing in order that the whole thing will be in order.

President: Couple Mr. Mark's resolution with Mr. Taylor's; refer the matter back, invite Lyceums and Districts to send on their objections and recommendations on the Report for a full and detailed discussion at next Conference.

Mr. Taylor: It would not cover it. Mr. Marks' is a reference back to the Committee: mine is to Conference.

President: You are allowing no place to suggestions from the floor. Mr. Marks' motion says refer it back to every D.C. and Lyceum who will have the opportunity to send in amendments. No Report will be issued but you will issue a report from 1934 Conference.

Mr. Slimin: You are simply going to turn the Revision Committee into a Standing Orders Committee to compiling the Agenda for next Conference. Either that or we allow amendments from the floor. If that had been done today it would have saved all this trouble.

Mr. Dixon: Would it be possible to add a rider to Taylor's motion as follows:—'any suggested amendment to be sent to the Gen. Secretary before 20th March, 1934 and published in the *Lyceum Banner* for April and May.'

President: That is exactly the same position as last year.

Mr. Taylor: I clearly pointed out that I desired the discussion and amendment to the Report of the new Constitution to go under the old rules.

Mr. Robson moved, Mr. Taylor seconded,

**Vote be taken.**

President: I have asked you if you will refer this thing back, state terms of reference, and then you can do something. But you will have to comply with the old Constitution.

**Vote on amendment to amendment**

**That the Report of the Constitution Revision Committee be referred to the Agenda of the 1934 Conference for full and detailed discussion.**

**Any suggested amendments to the Report to be sent to the Gen. Sec. prior to 20th March, 1934, and published in the April and May "Banners."**

Mr. J. Taylor moved, Mr. Parker seconded,

Mr. G. A. Dixon added rider.

For 89. Against 21.

Mr. Keeling: I would ask whether it is quite clear and whether there shall be any challenge next year and any possibility of quibble as to where we stand if this amendment to my motion carries. Am I right in assuming that what it is proposed to do by the amendment is take this Report, treat it as though it were our Constitution for the time being, and submit our amendments to this Constitution and consider these amendments at the next Conference. Am I quite in order?

President: Nobody's mind seems to be clear. Mr. Slimin is claiming that whatever lines you work upon you must work upon the old Constitution. The bulk of Conference says that whatever amendments we are going to suggest we are going to suggest to the Report in order to take these as a basis to work upon in order that we can build up a Constitution that the Movement can accept. May I add to this amendment and rider the reference is to the 'Report issued'?

Mr. Keeling: As long as it is perfectly clear I do not raise any objection to that course of action.

The amendment was now carried with 7 dissentients.

Mr. Dixon: No verbal amendments will be accepted at next Conference.

Mr. Shaw moved, Mr. Taylor seconded,

**That there be placed on record our best thanks to Mrs. Mills for services rendered to the Constitution Revision Committee.**

*Agreed.*

**TRUSTEES REPORT'**

Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Le Noury seconded,

**That the Trustees Report be adopted and progression of Conference.**

*Agreed.*

**BANNER REPORT.**

Mr. Parker moved, Mr. Taylor seconded.

**That the Banner Report be adopted and the recommendations be endorsed.**

*Carried.*

**EDUCATION REPORT.**

Mr. Connor: Whitsuntide being so late this year, a lot of the figures I had to give you have been published in the *Lyceum Banner*. I have been puzzling my head, ever since the time for sending in entries, why some districts do so well and others, because of the economic trouble, seem to do badly. We find N.E. Lancashire has 5 less Lyceums than last year, but more students. London has 4 less Lyceums entered and has dropped 78 students. You cannot follow that sort of thing and I am glad to say in spite of all difficulties, out of 21 districts there are only two, Bradford and Coventry, which sent in no students. Scotland has come back with Edinburgh Assoc. sending in students. It is just a combination of unlucky circumstances that Bradford were not in. Out of 21 areas, which includes Overseas and Area Lyceums, 12 show a decrease and 7

show an increase and 2 are exactly the same as last year.

The figures are:

707 entered; 603 sat.

I have included the Overseas Lyceums because every candidate who enters sits. That makes 618 sitters.

Then again, we seem to have lost all the people who say 'Yes I will go in' and don't turn up. We get now that practically all the people who enter are people who intend to sit and this year between 81% and 82% of the number of entries have sat. This is much higher than before.

Oral Grade	197 sat.
Grade 1	215 "
" 2	80 "
" 3	50 "
" 4	34 "
" 5	27 "

We are still awaiting the Canadian papers to arrive. Calgary entered 13 students but their papers have not yet come to hand.

Last year, if you remember N.E. Cheshire with Liverpool suggested an amendment to the Oral Grade and why the Scheme was handicapped was because when a boy was 9 and sat for junior and senior at 10, he had to wait until he was 12 before he sat for Grade 1. During these 2 years he lost interest. We asked Conference not to accept the amendments. At the same time I said that the Education Committee was considering all these things. We have not a Scheme to put before Conference but we have an idea and outline which we want Conference to sanction and we will present as a Scheme next year. We hear that we lose them at 15 years of age. We have not got them into the habit of looking forward to the Lyceum as a normal part of Sunday.

We talked it over and thought there ought to be something in the kindergarten lines that we could adopt to get our children under 8 looking forward to an enjoyable time at the same time doing them some mental and spiritual good. Miss Lawton and Miss Halliday have promised to draw up a scheme of kindergarten work and they are prepared to draw up the scheme and draw up hints for teaching the scheme. Half the trouble in our work is that people with very kind hearts and poor experience would be quite able to do the work if they knew how to set about it. Our hope is that we shall be able to get out something that will tell teachers how to teach and give them hints as to what to teach.

Then at the age of 8, automatically the children will be promoted to the Oral Groups and during the first year between 8 and 9 study and read the Oral Grade Primer: the Rhymes, stories, etc., of the Oral Grade Scheme and at the age of 9 sit for the scheme. Between 9 and 10 they would be reading the Primer and they would be committing the second half of the Oral Grand Primer and would sit for that at the age of 10. We wonder what we could do to meet N. E. Cheshire's difficulty. We thought of suggesting an extra grade which would go in between. A written grade to come between Oral Grade, which is not written, and Grade 1 which is fully written, and then it would not be such a tremendous jump from one to the other. We suggest to you that something of this kind be done.

Take 3 of the Rhymes which the children have been reading and ask them to learn these three. Three of the stories and ask them to learn these and at the exam. they are going to be asked to tell a story in their own words. Take 3 of the G.C.R.s and they would be asked questions on these G.C.R.s. They will have been reading these for 2 years and only asked this in the 3rd year. Then there are 3 lives in the Primer: let them learn one of these life stories. There would be no need to alter the Syllabus. The whole thing could be done by encyclostyleting and everything could be incorporated. At the exam. they would have to be able to tell a life story in their own words or answer questions on it; write one of the little poems: tell a story in their own words: and answer questions on the

G.C.R. As I say, that would be at the age of 11. We suggest we make the ages:

Oral Grade Junior	9 to 11
Oral Grade Senior	11 to 12
Written Grade	12 to 13

Anybody can wait until they are 11 and no one need wait more than 1 year between exams. for the whole course. I will move:

**That the Education Committee be authorised to prepare the two schemes suggested for presentation to next Conference. Such Schemes not to increase the liabilities of the Union.**

Mr. Keeling seconded this.

Mr. Connor: You are only giving us permission to draw up the Schemes to put before you next Conference.

Mr. Slimin: What is the question before the meeting? The question ought to be the acceptance of the Education Report.

President: The printed Report has been before Conference all week-end. In the middle of his Interim Report Mr. Connor is moving a resolution.

Mr. Connor: In the printed Report is a recommendation from the Education Committee that the Education Secretary on being appointed shall become a full member of the Management Committee. The reason for that is that during last winter there were various misunderstandings arising that led very nearly to disastrous consequences. There had been misconstructions and records were not in the office or were so bare that they did not convey the full message that a full record would have done. Things got to such a pitch that there was a possibility that I would not be able to carry on as Education Secretary. We got together and talked things over and they looked up records, etc. and, on getting the proper view point, we found that what I had done had been not only well inside the authority given to the Education Committee but I had done ever so many things as a matter of courtesy that I was not compelled to do.

The spirit people said then "Why don't you get permission to attend these meetings and tell them what is correct." I told the spirit people it is not quite so easy as that. I've got to get Conference permission. I am now telling Conference and, as a matter of self-protection, I think Conference will give me permission to sit on the M.C. so that any question on Education work coming up I will be there to point out the true facts and figures. This is my 17th year of Education work. I am the only remaining member of the committee appointed in 1919. I have had 14 years B.S.L.U. Education work.

I ask Conference to pass this recommendation of the Education Committee. It is because I want my work to be a pleasure.

Mr. Taylor moved, Miss Keeling seconded,

**That the Education Interim Report be accepted.**

*Agreed.*

Mr. Connor moved, Mr. Keeling seconded,

**That the Education Committee be authorised to prepare and submit to next Conference a revised scheme on the lines outlined by Mr. Connor on condition that such scheme does not involve the Union in any further liability.**

Mr. Hunter: I think we ought to express our very best thanks for the excellent Report Mr. Connor has given.

Mrs. Guy: I beg to state that the Education Secretary cannot be an *ipso facto* member of the M.C. as long as we are still guided by the old Constitution. We have no power to do that which the Education Committee asks us to do.

Mr. Keeling: Is it not out of order to discuss a matter that is strongly out of order?

President: Can your M.C. appoint one representative to sit on and act along with the Education Committee? There is also a reference to the Education Secretary becoming an M.C. member, that it is out of order.

Mr. Connor: When the Conference Report was drawn up we expected the Constitution Revision Report would be adopted and also that there was going to be a discussion on the Report and it would be possible to alter the principle of Committee members, etc., and the thing would have been quite in order.

Mr. Slimin: I deprecate the fact that Mr. Connor keeps telling us 'if you don't do this I shall have to give the thing up.'

Mr. Connor has made out his case for an invitation to be an *ipso facto* member. I think we, as an M.C., in reply, ought to ask Conference to accept our word that all information necessary and all help necessary will at all times be given by the M.C. to the Education Committee and that present arrangements and present agreements are quite sufficient for carrying on the work harmoniously.

Mr. Keeling: I would like to move the resolution. I ask you to consider which is the better arrangement: That a Committee which is elected by Conference to carry out specific duties to have representation on the M.C., and become part of the M.C., or that the M.C. should have representation directly upon all Committees. These are the two principles you have got to consider, and I think it does not need very much consideration to see that through Conference Committees that might be elected from time to time you would tend to increase your M.C. unnecessarily and this is a point we want to avoid at the present time. Ex officio, the President is a member of all Committees of this Union, but that ex officio is not sufficient. An ex officio member can go if he has time, etc. Consequently it seems to me to be desirable that there should be a definite appointment made by the M.C. on to all committees appointed by Conference, so that the M.C. may be kept in immediate and personal touch with the work being done in every part of the Movement. I want you to deal with principles.

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Burrows seconded, (See M.C. Interim Report for Resolution).

Mr. Bruce: I oppose the motion on the grounds that Mr. Keeling's policy is bad. One point is omitted, and that is that the Education Committee is a permanent committee and is carrying on permanent work, and this is the most important work we have to do, and I think rather than the M.C. being on the Education Committee, an official of the Education Committee ought to be on the M.C.

President: It cannot be effected at the present time.

Mr. Tweedale: Either we have to keep two members on the Education Committee or we have got to leave the matter alone. It is definite that we cannot put the Education Secretary on to the M.C.

Mr. Norbury: While I fully appreciate the value of our Education Scheme and realise its importance to the Movement, I think quite calmly we, as a Conference, ought to recognise the need for the general centralisation of our activities. Our objective is educational charitable work. In Art. 3 of Constitution we shall find that one of our objects is the formation of auxiliary bodies, etc. The Education Committee is a subsidiary body, and as such should be subsidiary to the general work of the Union as well.

Mr. Taylor: I wish to point out particularly if the M.C. had their direct representation to the Education Committee we are only putting it to further expense. The members of the Education Committee are specially equipped for the work and have special jobs to do.

President: We are asking you without entering into details. We desire to promote a link between all Conference committees and the M.C. by direct representation. Ex officio representation in the past has proved a failure, and the M.C. are asking you that they shall be empowered to be directly represented on every committee which may now be brought into being. It is for the sake of having a proper report presented. There is no idea of usurping the work of any section, but we of the M.C. certainly feel that we ought to have a fuller knowledge of the interworkings. This is not a new question and it has attempted many times to see the light of day and something has got to be done with it. If you think it is not worth while, turn it down, but if you think that harmonious working is an advantage to the effective running of the general machinery, then accept it.

Mr. Robb: It is a matter of principle to me and I liken the M.C. to the Finance Committee of a local town Council, which will have direct representation to any other Committee. I think we should be well advised if we accept the recommendation of our M.C.

Mr. Ainley: A Conference Committee is appointed for a specific purpose and constituted according to the desires of the Conference. If Conference thinks the M.C. ought to be represented on that particular job, they appoint one or two representatives from the M.C.

President: Direct representation is not ex officio.

Mr. Marks: I liken the M.C. to a business organisation of which our Managing Director is more or less the President. It is quite obvious to me that it is essential for the central body of our Union to be aware of all activities of the Union.

Mr. Connor: No matter how much we talk about the principle I cannot get past the trouble I have had. There has been no disharmony between the M.C. and the Education Committee. My complaint was that in August last year there was an accusation made against me that I was getting handbooks printed and had passed the account to the M.C. to foot the bill. This is untrue. The M.C. at the October meeting passed a resolution forbidding me to order examination stuff unless I got permission of the President through the General Secretary. All I got was just a notification that all orders for printing had to be sent through the General Secretary for the approval of the President. I wrote to the General Secretary and asked him to bring before the November Finance Committee meeting the impossibility of my finding time to do twice as much work, and the Finance Committee did not even reply. I could see that the examinations were going to be held up and that I was going to get the blame, so I wrote to the President and said something must be done or someone else must take the job on.

President: Might I suggest the whole affair be published in the BANNER and then you will all know? (Cries of "No!")

Mr. Marks moved, Mr. Calway seconded,

**The question be now put.**

President: I must ask you to withdraw that motion. Hear Mrs. Guy and then let Mr. Keeling speak to his resolution. There is much you want to dispossess your minds of.

We had met at the office to consider the offer of the S.N.U. *re* taking a portion of the BANNER: Trustees had met on the Saturday previous and asked me to get out a statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Union. I was down at the office and I sent to the Auditors what was wanted on behalf of the Trustees. The Auditor could not grasp the full details I required. I told him what was wanted and said "To your expenses side add about £100 for Education literature." Immediately the statement was made, "I am surprised about this." I said "No matter what you think, this has happened. We have got to foot the bill for this amount." There immediately ran in the minds of those present, familiar with the affairs of the Union, an idea there was an agreement made in 1923. The only reference in the Minute Book of the Union was a small paragraph which gave no details.

We got the statement out and it was issued to the Trustees, and when your M.C. met we made certain of the true position. Mr. Connor thinks we ought to have written him. The M.C. think differently. When we found we were mistaken we found it was through the ex officio representatives of the M.C. not giving reports as they might have done. If you got direct representation then that direct representative must give a report. We are not asking to interfere in the Education scheme, but your M.C. are putting that proposal in order that we can know at the head of the Union what is actually happening.

If you want the whole details then you can be prepared to stop two or three hours.

A statement was made to the U.D.C. meeting that the Education Secretary had done certain things. That report was taken back by delegates and went all round the country and got back to Mr. Connor before we knew in the office. Had we had that direct representative that would not have happened.

If you can send an individual with special definite powers to any meeting then you are going to make your link closer and you are going to help in the work. That is what the M.C. is putting before you.

It cost a lot of hard work to put the matter right. It cost our Acting Secretary at the time a lot of hard work and your Finance Committee had many meetings. We did not ignore the situation, but we were fully aware of the position of the Union regarding money. We are now in honour bound to find another £60 to pay the bill.

I think I have told you enough to make you understand the position. We are not seeking to interfere; we are only asking for the full co-operation of every unit. Your M.C. seriously considered before allowing this recommendation to appear in the M.C. Report. We considered the Interim Report before it came before you and we are of the opinion there need be no hardship, no interfering in any specific section of the Movement. We shall get better unity in the Lyceum Movement if you allow the M.C. to do what we suggest.

Mr. Connor: The failure of the M.C. did not lie with the ex officio members. I sent letters to the General Secretary that were not read to the M.C. It was not ex officio members' fault—it was the General Secretary.

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Burrows seconded,

**Acceptance of M.C. motion in Interim Report.**

For: 66. Against: 33. *Carried.*

Mr. Dixon: Has that agreement been drafted and do the same conditions apply to Finance in connection with the Education Committee.

President: There is no arrangement.

Mrs. Guy: My mind goes back to about April 1924 when the M.C. met at Middleton. Only Mr. Burrows and I left of the old E.C., but to-day Mr. Owen is with us. There is still in my mind and Mr. Burrow's that some definite arrangement was made with the Education Committee and M.C. and that the spending powers of the Education Committee should not exceed £50. Unfortunately there is no trace of any clear record of this agreement having been made. The M.C. have no quibble with the Education Committee's work. It is merely a misunderstanding through the illness of the General Secretary and as a result of a Conference giving to the Education Committee certain powers at the Barrow Conference, and they had no opportunity of putting these powers into being before 1933, when the new book came along. Therefore, that was the only reason why I said "I was unaware of this added expense." And out of that has arisen all this.

Mr. Hart moved, Mr. Wood seconded,

**That Education Report be adopted.**

Mr. Calway moved,

**That the Education Committee shall not expend more than £50 without the consent of the M.C.**

Mr. Keeling quoted the second sentence of Art. 4 of the Constitution. "They shall conduct all the business of the Union between Conferences except such legal business as is especially assigned to the Trustees in the Trust Deed."

**COLLEGE REPORT:**

Mr. Connor moved,

**That the College Report be adopted.**

Mr. Berry: I thought in having to speak to the recommendation of my Council that I might have a difficult task to show you some reasons for our motion, but I want merely to recall your minds to the long discussion you have just heard, and no one after hearing that could possibly deny there had been no causes for friction.

Mr. Connor tells you the fact of the friction has been so far serious to himself as to lead to a breakdown in health. Mr. Connor is very deeply concerned in the College Scheme and the frictions which have occurred in your case, similar frictions have occurred in ours. The College Scheme has run so many years now and our Council is definitely of the opinion that the time has come when some new arrangements should be come to regarding the position of the Committee. We feel in the light of experience that a Conference Committee which is not under any obligation to give a report to us upon its work, we can express no opinion in helping for efficiency of the work being undertaken. My Council are putting before you a proposal: the Conference Committee shall be elected instead of from the floor of Conference, by the responsible Committee of

Management. That means we do not mean they must be members of our Council or your M.C., but they should be responsible to our Council and your M.C. It is to help us to get complete understanding and unity of work in these responsible matters.

Mr. Ellis: I suggest that this recommendation and this resolution are out of order. The S.N.U. have no right to bring any resolution to this meeting.

President: The S.N.U. have brought no resolution to this meeting. This recommendation appears in the M.C. Report. Yesterday you accepted the advice that when we took the Education Report, etc., we would discuss these three recommendations. You have already discussed one. Mr. Berry is secretary of the S.N.U. He is giving the reasons why this resolution has been recommended to you. I am asking you is anyone prepared to move the recommendation.

Mr. Calway moved, Mr. Marks seconded,

**That the recommendation re College be accepted.**

Mr. Nurse: It seems to me that for a long time we have carried on successfully, but this last few years we seem to be drifting towards disharmony and I consider, as a delegate, that if we oppose both these motions we should do the duty that lies closest to our path and let those who have contributed to disruption settle the matter. We get part of one tale and part of another tale and you can see there is a deal of conflict.

President: There is no conflict. Mr. Berry has made a definite mis-statement. It was in a report made to his M.C. that we found we were in this position.

Mr. Berry: What I wished to convey was that just as you had difficulties so had we had difficulties.

Mr. Nurse: I would appeal to the delegates to oppose both motions because I think that as Mr. Berry said there has been misunderstanding, it is that misunderstanding that has led to this.

President: In January we were invited to meet the S.N.U.E.C. to discuss matters relating to the welfare of both Unions. I believe we Spiritualists, if we will face facts, will get on a lot better than we do. The S.N.U. are placing this recommendation before you and it is moved by Mr. Calway and seconded by Mr. Marks:

**That this Conference adopt the same principle that they have a right to amend the College Constitution.**

Mr. Marks: I have a big interest in the College as being one of the late students. The study is useful, but as for the degree, it is not worth the paper it is written on, although the studies you have taken and the lessons you have undoubtedly learned are the finest educational activities we have. The time is now ripe when something shall be done to alter the Constitution. Either let us have a College that will not only give us efficiency, but which will also have a status and position whereby we shall establish a definite standard.

Mrs. Paling: Seeing my name was brought in by your President, I only have to say there have been definite mis-statements made, where and by whom I do not know, in regard to myself. I have never said that I should have to withdraw from the College. I may have said that I have been accused of disloyalty to the College because of my loyalty to my S.N.U. Council. It is my intention to remain loyal to both.

Vote on Motion re College. For: 41. Against: 48. *Lost.*

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:**

Mr. Wood moved, Mr. Burrows seconded,

**Miss Lawton be Chairman; Mr. Connor be Secretary.** *Agreed.*

Mr. Connor: I have only accepted nomination this time so that I can finish the examinations. I shall not remain Education Secretary after I have finished this examination and got my books audited.

Mrs. Paling gave figures for the Advanced Section of the Education Scheme. This year there were 45 entries. 32 sat: 29 were successful.

There are some members here to-day who have gained some of the letters belonging to the College, and there is the special honour of the Exponent's Certificate won by Mr. H. C. Guy. Might I personally congratulate

those who have taken these examinations. The papers were submitted to four examiners on four different standards and those who have been successful have indeed won it.

The President presented Certificates to successful Lyceumists at Conference.

Mr. Hart moved, Miss Entwistle seconded,

**That the College Report be adopted.** *Agreed.*

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Parker seconded,

**That the remainder of the reports be adopted.**

Mrs. Guy moved,

**That time of Conference be extended to 5-5 p.m.**

#### GUILD REPORT:

Miss Halliday: The Report says that there are 151 Guild members: including people who have handed in forms and money there are now 207. That includes two invalid members and 53 juniors. The youngest member has just had his 5th birthday, and the oldest member will be 90 if he lives till August. These Guild members represent 44 Lyceums. If you have read the Report you will notice that Rotherham and Wolverhampton hold Guild Classes, but since then I have heard that Warrington also hold a weekly Guild class, and Darwen have a very lively Guild and I am waiting expectantly for their forms. We have a good balance in hand. This week-end I have received 6s. in donations. Our balance is £1 17s. 8d. I have spent 15s. on suitable stationery for the Guild. There is one question: shall the fee be annual or not? The Guild cannot be a paying proposition unless that fee is paid annually. You can make it 6d. per year and every member will receive a new ribbon each year. Children belonging to the Radio Circle have to pay their fee annually. So will you let me know what you think about that? I have a confession to make. I am one of the people who have not taken the examination this year. My work is mostly mental work and for my spare time I have no relaxation. Some people on becoming Guild members refused to divulge the year in which they were born and the first people to do that were men, not women. There are three men and six women whose age I do not know so they are written down in the register as being 17 years old. I would like to urge on everybody to start Guild Classes. It is quite difficult to go week by week and take those classes for the children. I hope you will receive encouragement from that work. I thank you for the letters and gifts I have received. And remember, if I am a teacher that is my misfortune. There are people afraid to write to me because I am a teacher. I do not worry one bit when I receive a letter whether it is grammatical or not.

Miss Owen moved, Mr. Le Noury seconded,

**That the Guild Report be adopted.**

Mr. Connor moved, Mr. Keeling seconded,

**That Miss Halliday be re-elected Guild Leader.** *Agreed.*

Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Barrett seconded,

**That the suggestions that the fee be annual be adopted.** *Agreed.*

Mr. Keeling moved, Mr. Parker seconded,

**That the rest of the Reports be adopted.** *Agreed.*

Mr. Calway moved, Miss Keeling seconded,

**That the recommendation re small Joint Committee S.N.U., B.S.L.U., be adopted.** *Agreed.*

#### DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE.

Mr. Guy: I have been authorised by Southampton to invite Conference to Southampton for 1934.

President: A written invitation takes precedence. The Conference will be at Liverpool.

Mr. Burrows moved, Mr. Hart seconded,

**That Conference be at Liverpool on 19th and 20th May, 1934.**

Mr. Dixon: I think it is very unfair to put the invitation on one side without consideration. We can thank Southampton friends for their kind invitation and hope they will renew it for 1935.

Mr. Frim moved, Mr. Hart seconded,

**That Conference expresses its thanks to the retiring Officers and extend our heartiest thanks and appreciation to our friends in Manchester for the way they have entertained us during the week-end.** *Carried.*

Mr. Hart: I want to add my personal thanks as President of the Manchester and Salford L.D.C. I hope when the next Conference comes to Manchester we shall be optimistic enough to have fulfilled all our liabilities.

Mr. Le Noury moved, Mr. Guy seconded,

**That at the beginning of each Conference we shall have five minutes' spirit communion.** *Carried with 5 dissentients.*

Mr. Dixon: I have got promises to raise for the Sustentation Fund the sum of £87 18s.

President: I thank you for your attendance and particularly for the spirit exhibited over the week-end, and I declare the 44th Annual Conference closed.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President:	Mr. J. Shuttleworth	68	votes,	elected.
	Mr. J. Slimin	66	,"	
Vice-President:	Mr. J. Slimin	54	63	77 elected.
	Mrs. L. K. George	48	49	59
	Mrs. A. Calway	12		
	Mr. R. W. Marks	22	21	
Treasurer:	Mr. W. Burrows			elected.
Auditor:	Mr. J. Entwistle	49	69	elected.
	Mr. G. A. Dixon	65	52	
	Mr. A. Shaw	8		
	Mr. J. P. T. Calway	11	11	
S.N.U.A.G.M. Delegates:	Mr. J. Shuttleworth.			
	Mr. A. T. Connor.			
S.N.U.E.C. Representative:	Mr. J. Norbury.			

#### CORRECTIONS FROM AUGUST ISSUE.

We regret that on p. 129 of the August issue of THE LYCEUM BANNER the M.C. motion in their Interim Report was not defined. The motion was as follows:

"That all Conference Committees already in existence and all Conference Committees that may be set up at this or any future Conference, shall be subject to discipline of the Management Committee between Conferences. And that in order to centralise and co-ordinate the general organisation and workings of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union the Management Committee shall have full representation on all the said Conference Committees, the same representative serving as a link between the Management Committee of the Union and the various sub-Committees set up at Conference delegated to perform certain duties, and fulfil certain tasks."

#### AREA ELECTIONS.

The election in Area G. should have read as follows:

Mr. Johnson, 87. Elected.

Mrs. Paling, 46.

Substantially placing Mr. Johnson on M.C. as representative for Area C.

#### OUR £2000 EFFORT FUND.

Dear Lyceumists All,

Our thanks are due this month to Sowerby Bridge Lyceum for their donation, through the Mile of Pennies, of £1 rs. od.

There are still a number of cards upon which Lyceums have not reported. Kindly do your best to return pennies as quickly as possible.

With best wishes to all,

LILLIE GEORGE, *Hon. Sec.*

85, Queen's Road,  
Everton, Liverpool 6.