

THE LYCEUM BANNER

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OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PAGE.

To all Lyceumists,

In January the M.C. met and seriously considered the different aspects of the Union, and judging from all the reports and information received, without being unduly optimistic, find indications that the turn of the tide is almost if not quite at hand. Gradually the financial position is definitely improving. This, no doubt, is due in some measure, on the one hand, to the very careful consideration of the Union's expenditure, and on the other hand, to the ready response to our appeal for the sale of Manuals.

This position could be furthered if Lyceum Affiliation Fees were forwarded without delay. We hope that Lyceums will act upon this suggestion.

The M.C. recognise that the increase in the sale of Manuals may not be sustained in the same proportion each quarter, but believe that there are still many Lyceums that need Manuals, but have not yet decided to purchase. It is desirable that this purchase shall not be delayed too long. If the united efforts and willing response of the Lyceums continue, there is every reason to believe that greater prosperity is in store for our Union.

The Restoration Fund has not sustained a steady increase since Conference, but the commencement of this year shows signs of renewed effort on the part of some Lyceums to continue their support.

The M.C. are looking forward to a generous response to "Flower Day," and hope **THAT LYCEUMS WILL DISPOSE OF ALL THE FLOWERS.**

The ever recurring question of an increase in the sale of BANNERS is a difficult problem. This question could be very profitably considered by our District Visitors. Lyceumists could be stimulated by them, to become more interested in the activities of the Union, the D.C.'s and other Lyceums. The BANNER is a splendid means by which this contact can be made. Well chosen appeals from the D.V.'s might have a "psychological" effect. It is essential, and the M.C. have every confidence that the D.C.'s will co-operate for the success of the Union. A strong drive in all the D.C.'s should produce a successful result.

It is disappointing to notice a decrease last year in the number of Lyceums and also Lyceumists. The M.C. feel that this is a vital question and have made preparations to again seriously consider the possible causes of this decrease, and to try and find ways and means by which the Union can become numerically stronger. The closing of Lyceums is very regrettable

and after the effort of building up a Lyceum, there should be some way by which it can be maintained. It is of grave importance and deep concern to the M.C. and the question was well considered.

Efforts are being made to keep in personal touch with those Lyceums that have not been able to pay their affiliation fees last year.

We are very pleased to report the splendid work of our Guild Leader, Miss Halliday. Good work is being done in the growing interest of the younger element and is a very hopeful sign for the future. The M.C. recommend "That all Lyceumists become Guildites."

Our best thanks are due to Miss Cleland for her untiring efforts on behalf of our Scottish Lyceums. Here again good work is being done.

In due course all D.C.'s will be asked to consider whether or not they are in favour of resuming the Rota Scheme for M.C. visits. It is sincerely hoped that the Councils will be unanimously in favour of this. There is need for more propaganda in our movement, and one way is by inviting the M.C. to your district and arranging a massed Lyceum Session on the Sunday afternoon followed by a good propaganda meeting in the evening.

A well organised week-end can be very beneficial both to your district and to your Union. It may help the Union financially by covering some, if not all, of the costs of the M.C. meetings. We trust that this question will be well considered and have the full support of every D.C.

Bound copies of the 1934 BANNER will shortly be published. Why not place a copy in your library for the use of Lyceumists? It would also be suitable for a "special prize."

A general survey of the Union this quarter is encouraging to the Officers and M.C., and every effort is being put forth by them to maintain the continued support of all Lyceums. Please help their efforts by encouraging young and old to support the Union by supporting their own Lyceum. We all know fairly well what is needed to keep any Union alive, only very often the actual work is left to a few willing people. May we suggest that all supporters put their very best energies this year into their Lyceum and carry out the spirit of our song—"Shoulder to shoulder."

LILLIE GEORGE,
Vice-President, B.S.L.U.

The Fifth Congress of the International Spiritualist Federation.

HELD AT BARCELONA, SATURDAY SEPT-
EMBER 1ST, TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1934.

AS Mrs. Mack and I intended to be present at the above congress, and the financial position of the B.S.L.U. would not allow of it sending a representative, I volunteered to present Mr. Alfred Kitson's paper—which the M.C. of the B.S.L.U. had decided to forward to the I.S.F.—and to look after the interests of the children to the best of my ability.

In my opinion, the purpose of these Congresses, apart from giving a lead to world Spiritualism, is to allow each nation to become familiar with the psychology, physical and mental peculiarities, and spiritual difficulties of the other nations, and in the case of the B.S.L.U. the status of the children particularly. This report, therefore, will take the form of a general survey of the Congress, rather than deal with the dry side of business meetings.

The weather, during the journey from London to Barcelona, was somewhat typical of the psychological aspect of the Congress. On the Thursday morning, when we left London, the sun was shining brightly and the atmosphere was full of the wine of life. This glorious weather kept up till we were disembarking at Dieppe, when it started to rain. The rain fell almost continuously until we drew near the Spanish frontier, and then King Sol shone once again and we entered Spain in brilliant sunshine. And so it was with the Congress, commencing with a beautiful psychological atmosphere, followed by some unpleasantness, but ending with the brilliant sunshine of love. We were met at the station by the Secretary of the Congress. It was quite an unexpected event and served to assure us of the welcome that would be extended to us by the Spaniards generally. (Or should I say Catalonians). We were not disappointed.

The first meeting was reserved for accredited delegates only, so I could not attend. This is where our Union was handicapped, in that we have seceded from affiliation with the I.S.F. At this meeting the President was elected, our English nominee, Mrs. Hewat McKenzie, not being successful. Professor Asmara, the President of the Spanish Spiritualists' Federation was elected to hold that office during the next six years.

The open meetings on the nights of Saturday and Sunday were of the Spanish propaganda type, the open meeting on Monday being for the presentation of the reports of the progress of Spiritualism in the various countries. It was a peculiar feature of the majority of these reports that they took the form of a propagandist address rather than a report of the progress made. The report given by the British representative, Mrs. Hewat McKenzie, was decidedly the clearest, most relevant and concise. The greatest regret that I had about this latter report was that those who were responsible for its construction did not see fit to include any word about the state of the Children's Movement in England. This again emphasises my regret that the B.S.L.U. Conference decided to withdraw from the I.S.F.

Following the preliminary meetings began the most

interesting part of the Congress (in my estimation), that is, the sittings of the Commissions to discuss the papers sent in. There were only two Commissions this time, one to discuss Spiritualism from the scientific aspect, and the other from the philosophic and propagandist angles. The paper by Dad Kitson, "Spiritualism in Relation to the Child" was included in the programme of the second commission. The small sub-committee in charge of this commission decided that those papers whose writers were present should be given preference over the others. The writer of "Spiritualism in Relation to the Child" was present in accordance with his volunteered promise given to me that he would be present throughout the Congress to assist me. His presence was verified during lunch, on the boat on the outward journey, by the clairvoyant powers of Mr. Ernest Vickers, who I know could not possibly have known of Dad Kitson's promise. Of course, the writer could not present his own paper, I not being a trance speaker, so as I was there in order to do it for him the paper was put second on the list, and I thank Mr. Oaten for placing it there.

The first paper, by Mr. Wareham, was listened to very attentively but when it came to the discussion, there was rather a hot time. Some of the Spanish Delegates thought that we ought to discuss ways and means of propaganda, rather than the paper in question. After Mr. Oaten, the Chairman, had managed to convince them that papers on propaganda came later and that then would be the time to discuss the question of propaganda, quiet reigned once more. Unfortunately for the paper in question, all hopes of discussion on it were at an end, because most of the delegates had forgotten the points which they wished to raise. So it was decided to take paper No. 2, which was Dad Kitson's. I had been very doubtful of the success of the paper considering the atmosphere that had reigned, but everything worked out very satisfactorily.

Unfortunately, during the pandemonium all the Britishers, except Messrs. Oaten, Berry, Mesdames Severn, Mack and myself, had retired to the other commission to hear the very able scientific paper on Mediumship by Mr. Vickers, with the result that there were only Spanish speaking people present. Everybody had cooled down mentally, and had had a drink of cold water to cool themselves physically, so that when it was suggested that they read the paper between themselves, they fell in with the idea. I had been able to get copies of the Spanish translation from the Secretarial Office of the Congress and these were handed round. The result was that the paper was discussed almost line by line. All the delegates were very interested in it, and, after some misinterpretations due to the difference in language had been corrected, they stated with pleasure that they fully agreed with all the contents. It was then agreed that the commission present a motion to the Congress for ratification, the essence being that all countries should be urged to take up the Lyceum Method of training the young and adolescent. The remaining Spanish copies of the paper, together with the English and French copies, which Mrs. Mills had very kindly made for me before I left England, I distributed, according to their respective nationalities, to the people who had not heard the paper read, and who I thought would be most likely to use the papers to advantage in each of their

countries. A copy in each language, together with the bulk of the Education Scheme matter, I put into the care of an English lady, Mrs. Pauline Zardoun, resident for the time being in Barcelona. She is a medium and Propagandist, and promised to do her best to forward the Lyceum System of training in Spain, and anywhere else that her work for Spiritualism may take her. I distributed also, several copies of the "Kitson Memorial" issue of the LYCEUM BANNER, and of the souvenirs of the Model Session held at London in 1928. Unfortunately, owing to Customs and Tariff, I was not able to take as much literature as I would have liked.

The motion on Dad Kitson's paper put forward by the commission was duly proposed before the whole Congress and unanimously accepted.

After Mr. Kitson's paper was disposed of, we went into the scientific commission and were in time to hear the greater portion of Mr. Vickers' paper. This unique paper is one of interest to all Lyceumists, because in the first place, it is the work of a Past President of the B.S.L.U., but mainly because of its value in the study of Mediumship. It was, in essence, similar to that presented by the author at the S.N.U. Conference at Blackpool, 1934, and which is to be published in pamphlet form by the S.N.U. It is of inestimable value to all would-be physical mediums, and I would suggest that all Lyceumists obtain a copy.

One big point of contention at the Congress was reincarnation. The people of Teutonic origin could not accept this belief, and did not see anything in Spiritualism to support it except what can be disposed of by the mediumistic hypothesis. The Latin people were strongly in favour of it. It was agreed to appoint a sub-committee to investigate the question and to report at the next Congress to be held in Glasgow, 1937.

The Spanish temperament is very much different from ours, and at times it seemed as though there would be a rupture in the Congress, but everybody seemed to remember in time that they were Spiritualists, and, as such, must bear with each other's shortcomings. The Spanish people are warm-hearted, generous, hospitable, sympathetic and enthusiastic: but to counteract these good points, they seem to be deficient in organising ability and to have a firm belief that it is never wise to do today what you can leave until tomorrow. One can understand readily how those latter two points would jar on the susceptibilities of the order-loving Britisher. We must remember, though, that of all the nations of Europe, Spain has been the most priest-ridden. The Roman Catholic Church stifles free thought, and by that kills the will to act. The Spaniards have only just rid themselves of this "old man of the sea." In fact, even yet, he has not quite released his strangle-hold. Our sympathies, therefore, must be extended to a nation which has not yet realised to the full its religious responsibilities.

There is one portion of the population of Spain which is wholly delightful, and that is the children. Physically, they are beautiful, with laughing faces and sturdy brown bodies, and their behaviour is just as beautiful. English children could learn many lessons from them. They are obedient to their elders, courteous to strangers, and quiet and unobtrusive in

company. They are not compelled by the government to go to school. I am sure that there is plenty of good work that could be done amongst the children in Spain. The Lyceum System, which I feel they would love, could do much to assist in educating the children in those truths which would lift them above the influence of priestcraft.

Finally, I want to thank through the LYCEUM BANNER, Mr. Berry for his very kindly reference to the Lyceum Work, at the large open meeting on the last Sunday morning. It was the only occasion except in commission and fraternal conversations that the Lyceum was mentioned, and Mr. Berry made the most of it. Also I would like to put on record my appreciation of the work of Miss G. Halliday—the Guild Leader—who so willingly gave assistance in translating into French the necessary amendments in Dad Kitson's paper.

Messrs. Harris and Bedbrooke, too, deserve the thanks of the British visitors to Barcelona for their kindness in looking after what, sometimes, must have been an unruly lot of representatives, although we were a very happy party.

Since arriving home, I have heard criticisms from Spain of the male section of the delegation attending a bull-fight and I want publicly to state that I have no regrets for having attended. I have personally described to about fifty persons individually the horrors and cruelty of this SPORT (?) and shall continue with this work. I wanted first hand information, believing that I could speak with greater authority as one who knows than by hearsay. That was my sole reason for attending. I care neither for bull-fights, not stag-hunting, nor fox-hunting. I learned with great pleasure that there is a section of the youth of Spain who boast that they do not visit bull-fights and have no desire to do so.

In spite of the fact that sleep was conspicuous by its absence, it was an enjoyable time for Mrs. Mack and myself. We had many pleasing incidents that may be told at some future date.

GEO. A. MACK.

On behalf of the B.S.L.U. the Officers and Management Committee have pleasure in tendering their sincere thanks to Mr. George A. Mack, of Runcorn, for the above full and interesting report of the I.S.F. Congress.—J. SLIMIN, President.

(Continued from page 20).

"My Mystery," he cries "is Christ in you, the Mystery among the Gentiles" (see Collosians 1. 27). This *pagan* Mystery whose veil was done away in Christ, rent from top to bottom, says the allegorist, only to be refurbished and restored by ignorance. Had the apostle used the plural word (as in Corinthians IV. 1. XIII. 2) there could never have been a particle of doubt about his meaning. He used the singular because the Mystery of the Christ comprised all lesser Mysteries, and his revelation was confined to the saints, the prophets and the perfect for the reason which forbade admission to the arcana of those to whom it was not given to know the Mysteries whether of Sais, Eleusis, of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Ray Knight in the January issue of the "Hibbert Journal." From an article discussing a book by W. B. Smith, Mathematician, on the origins of Christianity.

WHAT DID THE FIRST CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ?

NO one can read the New Testament without perceiving how greatly Christianity has changed since apostolic times. The worship of our Churches bears no shadow of resemblance to that described in Corinthians and Hebrews. What did the first Christians believe? Dr. Smith has shown the Gospel story to be allegory, but there is something worthier than empty monotheism, and restoration is imperative if Christianity is to escape the fate of Mithraism.

Complete reorientation of our attitude to antiquity is the condition precedent of understanding its scriptures. It was the age of religion as is modernity that of science, and it must be recognised that the men who gave us all the creeds, all the moralities, and all the arts of life—*nugae*, to which modernity can add nothing of its own,—knew more about psyche “Mind life,” than we whose attention is centred on matter. Science is of the environment, impersonal and public, but religion is of the ego, personal and private, and the difference of subject entailed a corresponding difference of expression.

Not only was sacred secret; psychic or spiritual truth could not be expressed in words borrowed from the world of sense except by means of metaphor, and without a parable the teacher spoke not to the multitude. He had no choice; *logos* could only be conveyed by *muthos*, and whether the *muthos* was intelligible parable or unintelligible myth depended on the hearer's understanding. St. Paul, however, did not use parable, the reason being that he was not speaking to the multitude but writing to a chosen few previously instructed by word of mouth and familiar with his technicalities. These are naturally misconstrued by the uninstructed, and the apostle's letters (never intended for publication) have been further obscured by the changed significance of two important words.

“Prophecy,” did not mean prediction, but utterance in ecstasy; while “Mystery” was not a name for something undiscoverable but for experiences to which the chosen few had been or were to be admitted. Both words import the state now called dissociated consciousness, which as we know from the *Phaedrus*, the *De Mysteriis*, and other sources was systematically exploited in the Mysteries. Things invisible to common eyes were seen, words heard impossible for man to utter—not otherwise has religion ever been revealed—and if the ancient writers may be trusted, the experiences called for no small degree of purity and courage.

St. Paul continuously declares that he is revealing mystery, and the men who dwelt within a day's journey of Eleusis, the worshippers of Artemis and Attis, assuredly understood him to mean the word in its then accepted sense. The Mystery God was Kurios; Paul's Christ was Kurios. Those admitted to the Mysteries were *teleiois*; Paul's disciples were *teleiois*. Ecstasy was practised in the Mysteries. Paul enjoyed that state and urged his disciples to do likewise. Death and resurrection was and is the central theme of all the Mysteries, savage as well as civilised; death and resurrection is the central theme of Paul's epistles. Perfectionment and union with the divine were the Mystery ideals; perfectionment and union with the divine were Paul's ideals.

(Continued page 19, col. 2).

POINTS FOR PROSPECTIVE SPEAKERS.

COPIED FROM A PAMPHLET ENTITLED “LESSONS ON MEDIUMSHIP” BY J. B. TETLOW.

Speaking.

1. Learn the value and use of words, as they are the tools used by the tongue.
2. Get a knowledge of the order and construction of an address.
 - (a) Introduction.
 - (b) Definition.
 - (c) Argument or Comparison.
 - (d) Application.
3. Not only read, but study intimately, some acknowledged writer, such as Emerson, Carlyle, Macaulay or St. Paul. Read only the best writers to create a style.
4. Spend at least two hours each week in writing impromptu letters and essays to test your own progress.
5. Read up any subject in which you find an interest, not to write an essay or make a speech, but to learn how to develop and use your mental forces.
6. When writing impromptu do not stop to criticise what you are writing—do that afterwards—but write just what comes to you. Order and correctness will grow as they become fixed quantities or habits of your mental nature.
7. Cultivate, normally, a sense of the orderly, cleanly and the beautiful, and never rebel against your instincts on these matters so long as they make for the desired end.
8. Try at all proper occasions to speak impromptu by always mentally assuming an attitude of listening, as if your mind was receiving something from a person present. Cultivate the habit of ready response to any question a friend may put to you. Seek and make opportunities for this exercise.
9. Cultivate a habit of writing and speaking from rough notes. It will help to create order in your remarks, method in your writing, and give a correct direction to your inspirations in harmony with the law of mental association.
10. Circle sitting is good so far as it is genial and helps to create the receptive conditions in your mind and a discriminating impulse to do your work aright.
11. Self consciousness is always a hindrance to good speaking. Abandonment to present conditions and inflowing thoughts and impressions is the true road to success.
12. Note your perceptions of what you feel and believe to be true. Live and speak accordingly. It opens your impressional and intuitive nature and refines your psychic currents, giving power to your verbal utterances. Conviction is the strongest asset a speaker can have. Carlyle says “No man can be great who is not sincere.”
13. Cultivate the sympathetic side of your nature, as it awakens the psychical and the spiritual and makes you more and more impressible.
14. Learn to concentrate, or the art of withdrawing your attention from the external, and noting only mental and psychic impressions.
15. If you seek spirit people to help you in your work you must desire the spirits. Be willing to be mentally influenced by them and render obedient service to their desires.



My dear Boys and Girls,

The past month has been a very gay one with its Xmas and New Year's parties. Auntie Ruth and I have attended quite a number of these happy events and have been delighted with the progress shown by Lyceumists. At quite a number of parties, in addition to the usual frolicing games, most pleasing entertainments have been arranged; in these we have seen with full results what you can do when you have the opportunities given you. Dancing Troupes, Step Dancing, Entertaining Sketches, Singing and Elocution have marked a new feature which I feel sure will add interest to you all.

It is a very old complaint with quite a number of both old and young people, that when asked to take part at a party they have to reply, "Oh I cannot do anything." In most cases it is because they have never trained themselves, and while I can appreciate this excuse from some of the older members, I would like to suggest to you children that to-day is your golden opportunity to avoid such excuses having to be made by you. This, of course, does not only apply to requests at parties, it has a much wider application. It can refer to nearly all walks of life in which we are almost sure to travel at some time or another during our journey in life. I often repeat to myself that simple and yet very wonderful quotation of our Manual which says, "When you go out in the morning, to begin the work of the day, don't neglect the little chances you find along the way." Usually the explanation given to this reading is rightly taken on the lines of the good Samaritan but I want to try and suggest a new line of thought to you, so that next time you are called upon to explain this reading you may see some new lesson.

It is quite true, of course, that actions count more than words, therefore even a smile may have a far reaching effect upon a sad heart; a cheery word may be a comfort to that school chum who is going along the road crying because he or she is cold. Assisting in carrying the load for someone is a noble deed. I hope such things become a daily practice to you.

Now let us take the one sentence by itself and endeavour to see how far we can apply it to ourselves.

"When you go out in the morning, to begin the work of the day, don't neglect the little chances you find along the way."

First, I want to suggest that we do not neglect the little chances of learning lessons which will help us; in this I am thinking of something apart from the daily school lessons. I want you to keep a look out for object lessons from nature and those things we see along the way. Let me try and give you a few illustrations. It is a bitter cold morning, it has not been

very easy to leave our nice warm beds, but we manage to conquer this and set out on our way to school or work. Here I think we have many lessons to gain. I will give you two. The first, it should make us appreciate the comfort of home. The second, it helps us to appreciate to the full extent the signs and hopes of Spring and Summer.

I expect most of you have to pass a high brick wall on your way to school; it is very old and dirty; it does not seem to convey any lesson to our mind, but suppose we came up against it with no means of getting round it. What would you do? Why there would only be two ways out, to climb over it or go back. That nasty little sum which will not seem to come right is as the brick wall, it is something we come up against, which we have to get over, or give up, it needs courage to face it. We reach the Crossing and here we find the new Belisha beacons erected; do they not convey a lesson of warning to beware of dangers ahead, which we may avoid if we will accept their silent message? In like manner we should be prepared to accept lessons of life from those who have greater experience than ourselves. The pillar box on the corner of the road can convey the lesson of love messages. The ladder propped up against a house reminds us of the ladder of light, and thus a thousand of the common things of everyday use can come under the heading of little chances of learning useful lessons of life. I hope you will look for these; you will be surprised how much enjoyment you can get out of a walk by using your eyes. I call them "Object Lessons of Everyday Life." Remember our Guild motto, "We live to learn and learn to live."

PUZZLE 214.

At the time of sending this letter to printers I have not received your efforts, but hope to do so by the end of the month.

PUZZLE 215.

I heard a Lyceum singing one of our Musical Readings, it referred to **SLAVERY, ERROR, OPPRESSION, TRUTH, AMBITION, YOUTH**. Can you find the number for me please.

THE HAPPY BAND.

"They who are happy cannot live by themselves." This is true, because the happy boy or girl, man or woman, knows that true happiness comes into one's life by service to others. This brings joy to life, and the happy man shares his joys with his fellows, thus finding the brighter side of life.

This month I have received some details of Lyceum work in America. I hope to deal with this in another letter, but here is a verse received from "The Progressive Thinker of America."

Go out, go out, my children,
And take the sorrowing in;
Youth is the time, my children,
Youth is the time to begin
In deeds of loving kindness
Your Father's love to win.

With love,

UNCLE BERT.

Ruberrondo,
126, Woodlands Road,
Isleworth, Middlesex.

OUR LYCEUM GUILD

AIMS. To be progressive, To develop ourselves.
MOTTO: "We Live to Learn and Learn to Live."

Dear Guildites.

This month I am very happy for I have a nice long list of new members to introduce to you Here they are.

J410 G. V. Barnes, Chaucer St., Nottingham.	424 Mr. Cox, Chaucer St., Nottingham.
J411 A. C. Purday, ,,	425 G. Farnsworth, ,,
J412 G. M. Merreywether, ,,	426 M. Barnes, ,,
J413 D. M. Merreywether, ,,	427 Mrs. Purday, ,,
J414 R. Farnsworth, ,,	428 Mr. Purday, ,,
J415 E. M. Smith, ,,	J432 T. Hardy, ,,
J416 W. J. D. Smith, ,,	J433 R. Hardy, ,,
J417 M. E. Smith, ,,	J434 A. Jarvis, ,,
418 Mr. Ellis, ,,	435 H. Dransfield, ,,
419 Mr. Morley, ,,	436 G. Hardy, ,,
420 Mrs. Smith, ,,	429 E. Hough, Blackpool.
421 Mr. Smith, ,,	430 Mr. Giles, Plaistow.
422 L. K. Edwards, ,,	431 N. Edy, ,,
423 F. A. Jones (Junior), ,,	

Now, isn't that a good list with which to begin the New Year? Included in that list is our *very, very* youngest Guildite, for Junior Member 411, Ann Christine Purday, only decided to come into this world of ours on Christmas Eve, and so she was just in time to become a Guildite along with her mother and father. Wouldn't you all like to join me in sending our very best wishes to Ann Christine and her proud parents?

Congratulations to Chaucer St. Lyceum, Nottingham, which now has 26 Guildites, and to the conductor and treasurer of Plaistow Lyceum, who are the first from there to break the ice and become Guildites; and good wishes to the one new member from Blackpool.

Finances.

On Dec. 10th the balance in hand was £8 16s. 9½d. and since then I have received 16s. Senior fees, 2s. 9d. Junior fees, 8s. 9d. renewal fees, 9d. transfer fee, and 6d. donation from Mr. W. G. Giles, G.N.S.C., so that the total income is £10 5s. 6½d. The total postage since December 10th is 10s. 6d. and a new duplicate receipt book has cost 9d, so that the balance in hand now is £9 14s. 3½d.

Renewal Fees.

Renewal fee forms have all been sent out. I must apologize for not having kept my word and let you have them to begin the New Year with. I couldn't manage it, as I took five days holiday for Christmas, but you got them after you had done a full week's work (I hope) when you would be rolling in wealth. I must compliment Stratford, West Melton, Nottingham (Chaucer St.) and Darwen on the prompt manner in which they paid their renewal fees. In fact Stratford gave me quite a shock (pleasant though it was) as theirs came by return of post.

There is no renewal fee due from you, Calgary, as last year you paid for two years.

I hope that you other Lyceums with Guildites will keep me busy sending out receipts during February.

To all Junior Members.

When I was going through the Guild Register, and writing out the lists of members at each Lyceum, I also made a list of all you people who are not much too old to be juniors. I have told some of you before, but very few have taken any notice. So once more for your benefit I publish the names of all juniors who are now 12 years of age or over. Usually I find that folks of 12 reckon themselves very old indeed, and are not keen on mixing with the very youngest. But I expect this time the snag is the 9d. that has to be paid to make you into senior members. So read through the list to see if your name is there (that is, if you have forgotten how old you are) and then see what you can do about it.

Freda Bold, Ethel and Arnold Thorpe, Connie Skidmore, Kenneth Cartwright, Nance Pierson, Margaret Wright, R. A. and J. M. Willoughby, John Dean, M. Bottomley, J. Hagreen, Irene Brimelow, Elsa Markham, D. G. Watts, A. Foster, Olive Ollier, R. V. Myers, K. Locking, E. Hollings, N. Hutchinson, A. E. Tillotson, H. Darby, G. Asheroft, C. Hirst, Dorothy Dunn, A. G. Sparkes and G. H. Sabey.

If I have made any mistakes in this list write at once and give me a good telling off.

To Student Guildites.

I was very pleased indeed to read the names of 59 of you in the Results Book, which, after all, came as a Christmas present. I am really proud of you members of my family, and I heartily congratulate each one of you on the work you have put in, and the results you have achieved. Thanks also to those Guildites who have acted as tutors or teachers. Your help is very much needed and is invaluable, so that I hope it will be as freely given this year.

To you Guildites who could not take an examination last year because of your age I say "Keep on getting ready. You can never know too much about the subject you have to study. But don't get swelled-headed whatever you do, for that will probably lead to an unpleasant surprise. Work quietly and patiently and give everybody a pleasant surprise when you are allowed to take the examination."

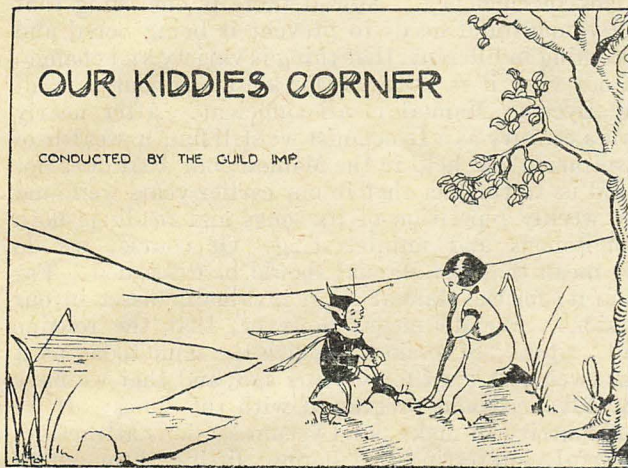
I hope that many more than 59 of you have made up your mind to have your name in the Results Book for 1935. Just three months are left for your final preparations, and remember whatever you desire to do in the name of education *can be done if your desire is strong enough.*

Sick Guildites.

I am sorry to have to report that Gwendoline Monks is still very seriously ill. You remember she came home before Christmas suffering from rheumatic fever, which has affected her heart. The latest news is that on the 10th of January she began with diphtheria in addition. So Guildites, please send helpful thoughts to Gwendoline and her mother at Wath-on-Deerne.

Will someone at Derby please let me have the latest news of Mr. Higginbottom? A post-card with the required information will do quite well.

(Continued on page 29).



Dear Little Imps,

Isn't it good to sit by the fire on these cold evenings? Outside the weather may be playing all sorts of pranks, and February may be filling the dyke, or freezing all the ponds. Once by the fire these things don't matter at all, for there, the cosy, rosy, warmth weaves its own fairy spell. The gleaming coals are full of pictures, whilst every little fire-sound tells wonderland stories to those with ears that hear. Next time you have nothing to do, just try sitting quietly by the fire, and, who knows, perhaps the fairyland folk will teach you the magic of the fires.

TOLD BY THE FIRE.

Alec and Enid had been ill, and now they were slowly getting better and seemed to have such lots of time and nothing at all to do with it. After six weeks in a bedroom, even the jolliest of book seems rather dull, and Alec, especially, was very tired of chasing bits of jig-saws across the counterpane. The children were twins, and so, of course, had been ill together. Enid had started the illness first, and Alec not to be outdone, had caught the same little germ so that he shared all the fuss of his sister's illness.

Now, on a grey February day they sat by the bedroom fire and wished for something exciting to happen. Mother had made a lovely roaring fire for them and Alec felt too tired to do anything else at all but just stare at the flames. Enid idly nursed her doll and agreed, with all her heart, with Alec when he said, "Oh! I do wish a really, truly, exciting adventure could start." Yet, nothing at all seemed likely to happen and he stared moodily into the flames.

All at once he called out "Enid, look quickly into the fire. It is all so funny!"

Enid leaned over towards Alec, and, with shining eyes, stared at where he pointed in the fire. "A castle!" she gasped. Alec nodded, and whispered "Sshh! We mustn't let them hear us. Let's just watch and see what happens." Quickly, but very quietly, the twins drew their stools together in front of the fire, and Alec slipped his arm around Enid as they watched the castle in the flames.

What a wonderful castle it was! Surely it had been designed in fairyland. Each gleaming wall ended in a pointed turret tower, little red uniformed soldiers guarded the top of the walls, and others stood sentry beside the massive gates. Outside the walls the moat

seemed dark and deep, but the bridge that crossed the moat seemed alive with the red-coated soldiers. Surely something extraordinary was about to happen!

Alec clung more tightly to his sister, but neither spoke as the tale in the fire went on. Suddenly, all the little red soldiers stood to attention, as, quite slowly, the castle gates opened, and out came the strangest little procession that ever left a fairy castle. Led by a white elephant, the procession crossed the bridge and moved towards what seemed like the dark-tree-covered slopes of a mountain. Following the elephant there were more soldiers, but not one carried a gun. Instead, one row carried pick-axes whilst the other row bore large shovels. Four and twenty soldiers who had changed their guns for tools! Behind the soldiers filed a line of black skinned servants, each carrying a lovely box of precious things. "Gold and silver!" whispered Alec. "Yes, and see the jewels," replied Enid. Again they watched that strange procession and smiled as, at its end they saw a true fairy tale prince and princess each riding on a snow-white horse.

Fascinated, the children watched that quaint procession reach the mountain side. One part of the slope seemed to be bare of trees, and it was to this part that the procession went. Just as the elephant arrived there, the children saw that really it was a great door that led into the heart of the mountain. Could there be still another fairyland inside the mountain? The soldiers lined up on each side of the path whilst the treasure laden servants stood back a little to allow the prince and his lovely princess to ride right up to the great doorway of the mountain. A curious green stone formed the handle to that door, and, just as the prince slowly moved that green stone, the doors swung wide open showing a huge, shining, black cave. The cave was quite black, and yet, in some queer way, it did not seem dark, and the children weren't a bit surprised to see, seated there, as if quite at home, Old King Cole, complete with pipe, bowl and fiddlers three.

The King stopped his fiddlers and put down his pipe as he rose to welcome his visitors. "What would you be?" he roared, and looked wonderingly at the servants and the tool-bearing soldiers. The prince bowed as he said "If it please you Majesty we came to barter with you!" "Aha!" the king rubbed his hands gleefully. "What can you bring me in exchange for my riches?" he asked. "We have brought you our wealth. We would exchange it for some of yours," replied the prince. The prince pointed to the lovely white elephant with strength to do the work of ten men, and to the treasure boxes carried by his servants. "There is gold and silver, and precious stones," he said. "Take them all, but give permission for my soldiers to dig and delve for your riches."

King Cole smiled with pride. He loved all the finery that the procession brought to him, and quickly consented for the red-coated soldiers to find out his wealth. They used picks and shovels with a good will until both prince and King said "Enough. Bear to the castle your burdens." The procession reformed, but how altered it was. Gone were the elephant and all the riches. Instead, four and twenty begrimed

(Continued on page 25).

THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: ERNEST A. KEELING.

ALL MATTER SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION must be addressed to the EDITOR, "Lyceum Banner," 8, Knocklaid Road, Tue Brook, Liverpool, 13.

Opinions expressed in the "Lyceum Banner" do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or of the Union, and are published solely as matters of interest.

ALL ORDERS AND REMITTANCES must be sent to the Gen. Secretary, B.S.L.U. Hollins Chambers, 64a, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3. (Office Hours, 9 to 12-30 and 1-45 to 5-30. Saturdays 9 to 12-30).

The *Lyceum Banner* is supplied at 1/9 per dozen copies (13/12) up to four dozen. Additional half dozens may be ordered. All orders for four dozen copies and upwards are supplied at 1s. 8d. per dozen. All parcels sent post free. Single copies, 2½d., post free. Accounts due quarterly. Orders not later than the 23rd of each month. Annual subscription, post free, 2s. 6d. To Canada and the United States, 72c. Foreign currency taken.

Postal orders and cheques should be crossed and made payable to the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union. The Gen. Sec. will not be responsible for Treasury notes sent through the post unless same are registered. Bankers: Martins Bank, Ltd.

FEBRUARY, 1935.

A PROPAGANDIST CORPS.

THE decline in the number of Lyceum members which has been noticeable for a number of years is a matter which calls for serious reflection. Although the point has probably been considered more than once by every District Council, we have not yet heard that a solution has been found. We feel that this will not be done until we have traced all the causes of the decline and given careful consideration to the application of suitable remedies.

In the earlier days of our Union, when Lyceums were being formed and brought into affiliation there was a natural and steady increase, but it is a mistake to assume that the problem of leakage did not then exist. We can recall the question of "how to retain adolescent Lyceumists" being discussed at least a quarter of a century ago and we anticipate that that particular aspect, which seems common to all junior movements, will always remain with us. There will always be a percentage of youths and maidens who will find new interests and diversions as they pass into adult life. We think it is too often true that our Churches do not fully appreciate the immense value which lies in the enthusiasm and ambition of the younger generation and consequently they neither welcome nor encourage eligible Lyceumists to enter into and help with the Church activities. Even if this were not so we still think that many Lyceumists would pass out of the movement and we must, therefore, be prepared to face that fact and apply ourselves to the task of examining other causes of loss so that we may not only make good the "natural" leakage but, if possible, increase our numbers.

The problem may conveniently be divided into four parts—

1. Keeping the Lyceumists we have got.
2. Obtaining new members in existing Lyceums.
3. Bringing into affiliation Lyceums at present outside the Union.
4. Opening new Lyceums in Spiritualist centres where none exist.

We have referred to the first part in a previous article in which we pointed out that many Lyceums lacked originality and enterprise. We are afraid there are some instances in which we should also find

a lack of efficiency. Now if there is one thing that the young mind needs to prevent it being bored and becoming indifferent, that thing is variety and change. In our view it is little use for adults to contend that the Lyceum Manual is all sufficient. After nearly half a century as a Lyceumist we still find a wealth of inspiration and help in the Manual, but that does not blind us to the fact that in our earlier years we found the weekly repetition of its songs and readings both monotonous and uninteresting. Of course, we do not mean that the Manual should be discarded. Far from it; for the Manual is an invaluable asset in our sessions. We do mean, however, that the routine and "ritual" of sessions is much the same today as it was twenty or even forty years ago, and that we have not advanced and progressed with the times. If we can contrive to make our Lyceum sessions attractive, cheerful, interesting and happy, lifting them out of the monotonous rut, then we believe we shall have gone a long way towards solving parts one and two.

We have to consider, of course, the lapsing of members through financial circumstances arising from the industrial situation in our country, but we do not think any of our Lyceums are likely to discourage members from attending merely because they happen to be poor. It is their presence which is wanted and they should be made to feel so by the equal warmth of their welcome and by unostentatious acts of kindly comradeship and fellowship.

There still remain parts three and four of the problem, and in these there is a wide field for propaganda effort. This should be organised systematically, and if the U.D.C. was truly representative it is a work which they could well undertake in co-operation with the Management Committee. The Country might be mapped out into suitable areas and District Councils and Lyceum Conductors and Officers enrolled in a corps of propagandists under a national leader. A complete list of Spiritualist Churches without a Lyceum should be provided and every possible effort made to induce them to give the "youth" movement a trial. Tactful perseverance would result in the starting of many new Lyceums and if these were carefully nursed by continuous assistance they would eventually grow in strength and become self supporting. The same corps of propagandists could attack the problem of the unaffiliated Lyceums. Having discovered the reasons why they are not in membership they should endeavour to adjust any differences, making recommendations to the Management Committee where necessary.

We are sure there are many competent Lyceumists who would be willing to join such a corps, and if an effort can be made on the lines suggested we have little doubt that the result would be most gratifying.

**10,000 SHILLINGS
WANTED.**

HAVE YOU GIVEN YOURS?

EN PASSANT.

We regret it is necessary to again remind Lyceumists that the business and editorial departments of the Lyceum Banner are now entirely separate. All orders, cancellations, payments, notifications, etc., etc., must be sent to the General Secretary, B.S.L.U., Hollins Chambers, 64a, Bridge St., Manchester 3.

Reports, articles and any other matter intended for publication should be sent to the Editor, LYCEUM BANNER, 8, Knoelaid Road, Tue Brook, Liverpool, 13.

Although Conference will not be held this year until June Lyceumists should remember that the 23rd. March remains the last day for receiving items of business intended for the agenda. Do not forget that the revised constitution stands as unfinished business, and if it is to be dealt with satisfactorily it will occupy a considerable portion of the available time.

We have been very surprised to learn that some Lyceumists do not like the word "Dictator" and it has been suggested that this word prevents them from submitting a contribution under the heading "If I were Dictator." In case there may be some foundation for this we invite articles on "What to do to improve the Lyceum Movement."

Those of our London readers who have not already seen this will get a laugh out of it.

Thwarted Aspirations: Overheard at Highbury.

"'Wot a pity the Spurs didn't get 'old of old 'Ulme."

"—Yus. An' wot a forward line they would 'ave 'ad with 'Ulme, 'Owe, 'Unt, 'All an' Hevans.

 IMPORTANT.

TO THE LYCEUM SECRETARIES.

It is our intention to publish the Lyceum Lists in the March issue of the LYCEUM BANNER.

If you are a new Secretary and have not yet sent in the change to the General Office will you please do so at once. We want to ensure that the Lyceum Lists will be something like correct, and it is only with your individual co-operation that we can do so.

LYCEUM SECRETARIES, PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR LYCEUM LISTS, AND SO ENSURE EFFICIENCY IN YOUR CORRESPONDENCE.

 TRANSITION OF MRS. M. E. CADWALLADER.

Many British Lyceumists will remember Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, who passed into spirit life at 1-45 a.m. on Monday, 24th December, 1934, and whose remains were taken to Philadelphia, where the funeral services were conducted on Friday, 28th December, at the Bair Funeral Home.

Mrs. Cadwallader was a very keen Lyceumist and Spiritualist. She succeeded Mrs. J. R. Francis in the Editorship of "The Progressive Thinker," at the close of 1910, and was for some time the Superintendent of Lyceums in the U.S.A. She had visited Great Britain on several occasions and was a highly esteemed delegate at International Conferences. Although the loss of her physical presence will be keenly felt, we feel confident that in the fuller spirit life her indomitable spirit will continue to work in the cause of Truth.

MR. JOHN MARSTON.

We regret to report the passing to the higher life of our veteran worker Mr. John Marston, of Stockport, on Dec. 17th, 1934, six days before his 84th birthday.

Our arisen friend was well known for 40 years as an active Lyceumist and Spiritualist.

Cradled in Methodism, at Churchstoke, Montgomeryshire (when he came to Stockport to follow his occupation as a wheelwright) he possessed a virile body and mind. He was soon made a leader in Trade Union and Reform movements, but later followed a single-eyed devotion in the Cause of Spiritualism.

As far back as April, 1915, our friend was the subject for the LYCEUM BANNER "Portrait Gallery." His advent into Spiritualism was brought about by attending an Open Session; although some of his children had been Lyceumists for a few months. After attending a number of services, and reading many books on the subject, to the delight of himself and his wife, they discovered they could obtain evidence in their home circle. Mrs. Marston was well known as a platform worker for a number of years.

Mr. Marston then joined the Lyceum, soon becoming Secretary and afterwards Leader, Ass. Conductor and Conductor. The late Mr. Thomas Edwards was a contemporary for the first fourteen years, both of them representing Stockport on the old Manchester and District Lyceum Council.

In 1907 Mr. Marston was appointed D.V., by the M.C., and held the appointment until District Councils were made responsible for the expenses. During his term of office he helped to promote the North E. Cheshire District, serving as President and Vice-President. Over a number of years he has been delegate to Conferences, both S.N.U. Manchester Group and Lyceum conjointly, he has served the Church as President, Trustee, and most of the time as Financial Secretary, also as Librarian up to a month ago.

His favourite quotation was "The Workers Win." After service at Chatham St. Church, conducted by Mr. J. Chamberlain of Manchester, on Dec. 20th, his remains were laid at Cheadle Cemetery, Cheshire.

All who knew our arisen friend are sure he will have won that home which he has been weaving and building by his constant and persistent efforts to further the Cause of Spiritualism, which will indeed be one of tranquility and satisfaction at having done one's best whilst travelling the mundane plane of earth.

G. BROWN.

 (Continued from page 23).

soldiers, and a line of black servants marched proudly home bearing—Coal.

King Cole bowed to the prince and princess as they thanked him, and the children heard him say. "My black diamonds are worth all your gold and precious gems. They will give you warmth and light, and all the joys of the fireside."

"How wonderful," whispered Enid. "How true!" said Alec.

What do you say, Imps?

Lots of love,

MEG.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN MANCHESTER.

THE Management Committee held the quarterly meeting in the Union's Office, Hollins Chambers, 64a, Bridge Street, Manchester, 3, on Saturday and Sunday, Jan 12th, and 13th, 1935.

Mr. J. Slimin, President, was in the Chair. There was a full attendance of Members. The meeting opened with an invocation by Mr. Barnes.

After the President had explained the reasons for the Committee meeting in Manchester it was decided that we place on record our appreciation of the work done by Mr. Taylor personally, and ask him to convey our thanks to the District Council for the accommodation provided for M.C. Members.

Questions were asked on the Minutes and the Finance Committee were instructed to enter thoroughly into the question of overhead costs.

A few points about payment and non-payment of affiliation fees were raised and satisfactorily settled.

The Finance Committee are considering several Services of Songs which are in circulation amongst the members of the Committee.

In matters of correspondence Miss Cleland had again submitted a report of the Scottish Lyceums, and the M.C. expressed their thanks for her efforts.

Five District Councils had had reports from their District Visitors regarding the non-payment of Fees by Lyceums in their district, and had reported to the Management Committee. This was in response to the M.C. appeal to District Councils to send their D.V.'s to enquire into circumstances. The reports were accepted with thanks.

There were several letters from the S.N.U. Ltd., among them being one stating that they would include a circular for the B.S.L.U. in the next circulation to Churches. This has been done and all Churches have now had the circular. Thanks were expressed to the S.N.U. for their kindness.

The President explained the position regarding a Joint Meeting and he was instructed to write to the S.N.U. President on this matter.

A further letter from the S.N.U. was dealt with and Mr. Burrows presented his S.N.U. E.C. Report. After thorough discussion it was decided that the Management Committee re-affirm their decision of the October, 1934, meeting, "That under present circumstances and conditions the consideration of the question of fusion is inopportune," and that the S.N.U. be acquainted with this decision.

Voting: For 8. Against: 1. The resolution carried.

Further correspondence from the S.N.U. resulted in the Management Committee deciding that we see no reason why we should refuse their statement that the Council had not officially discussed the matter of an alternative Education Scheme.

It was agreed that the S.N.U. of Canada have a full statement of accounts and a request be made for immediate payment.

The Treasurer reported a total income for 1934 of £1198 7s. 4d. Expenses £1177 17s. 2d. The Treasurer's cash balance at the end of 1934 was £33 2s. 11d. The amount owing to Wadsworth and Co., on Dec. 31st, 1934, was £469 13s. 2d.

At the end of 1933 the Treasurer had a cash balance of £1 13s. 3d. and the amount owing to Wadsworth & Co. was £672 18s. 5d. This showed a reduction of the debt to Wadsworth & Co. by £203 5s. 3d. The Treasurer's cash balance is also considerably larger.

It was stated that the Treasurer's report was the brightest presented at the end of the year for the last six years. All the M.C. members felt very confident that the Union had reached the turning point and was now on the upward grade. **LYCEUMISTS, HELP TO KEEP YOUR MOVEMENT ALWAYS ON THE UPWARD GRADE.**

The report of the Finance Committee was adopted.

In the general report the statistics on Dec. 31st were Lyceumists, 10516. Lyceums 230. On Dec. 31st, 1933, the figures were Lyceumists 11281. Lyceums 240. This means a loss of 735 Lyceumists, and 13 Lyceums. This serious loss led to it being decided that falling membership have a special place on the Agenda for the next M.C. meeting for serious and constructive discussion.

The Nomination and Ballot Forms for Officers and Area Representatives are to be duplicated.

In the Publishing Report it was found that during 1934 the sales had been almost as well sustained as during 1933. Since the price of Manuals has been reduced sales have soared.

LYCEUMS ARE ASKED TO SUSTAIN THE SALES, SO THAT THE REDUCTION IN PRICE WILL BE JUSTIFIED. Keep up your efforts, you are doing well.

As Lyceumists know, the stock of Badges is nil, and all Lyceumists have been asked to submit designs for a new Badge if they favour the innovation. The M.C. considered designs and samples and ultimately the Secretary was asked to get exact coloured designs submitted by firms, for consideration at the April meeting.

The monthly order for BANNERS is 2900. We appeal to Lyceums to sell the *LYCEUM BANNER*. **IT IS YOUR PAPER AND ONLY YOU YOURSELVES CAN MAKE THE SALES RISE.** Do your best.

The order for the binding of 1934 Bound Volumes is to be put in hand as quickly as possible.

Mrs. George reported a total income of £162 5s. 8d. to the Restoration Fund during 1934. Expenses were £5 2s. 6d. Added to the Fund during 1934 £157 3s. 2d.

Boxes of buttercups had been despatched to 250 Lyceums, and the M.C. are hoping for a record response to the Flower Day Appeal.

During 1934 there have been donations of 15s. 7d. to the £2,000 Effort Fund.

Seventeen applications under the Ainsworth Home of Rest scheme have been dealt with, 12 Lyceumists having actually gone to seaside places for recuperation.

The Guild and Education Reports were accepted with thanks.

The President reported that Mr. Mack had very kindly sent a report of the I.S.F. Congress and this would eventually appear in the pages of the *BANNER*.

The Trustees report was accepted and adopted.

Mr. W. Burrows, Mr. J. Taylor and Mr. G. P. Robson were appointed members of the Standing Orders Committee.

(Continued on page 30).

THE RESTORATION FUND.

To all Lyceumists,

I have very much pleasure in reporting a decided increase in the Restoration Fund this month. May we hope that this will continue, and those Lyceums that have not yet donated will be encouraged to make a good start this year by contributing something, however small, to the Fund.

You will notice by the different reports in this issue of the BANNER that the outlook of the Union is a little brighter, but very much more is necessary, and can be done to strengthen every department of the Union, if efforts are steadily continued.

I am sorry to know, that on account of pressure in other directions, it has been necessary for some Lyceums to return all the Buttercups. It makes one think that there is a great amount of work to be done in some districts, and also emphasises the need of propaganda if we are to stimulate and revive these Lyceums.

We sincerely hope that every Lyceum will do its utmost to dispose of all the flowers. It may not have been possible up to Founders' Day, but perhaps with a quiet determination and persistency, and an explanation of the benefits of building up the Union, many friends may be willing to donate "something" in return for a Buttercup. This would be very much appreciated.

It is difficult when one is appealing on behalf of a fund like the above, not to reiterate oneself from month to month, and I am sure all of you must be tired of reading that *donations are still needed*, but this could be stopped; these tiresome appeals could be made unnecessary if "*a very special urge was made this year to raise enough to clear all our liabilities and start afresh.*"

I believe it can be done: I do not think it is too much for which to hope, if we have sufficient vision and determination.

I still believe in "Where there's a will there's a way." If we collectively concentrate upon this, it is sure to lead to definite action for the benefit of all.

DONATIONS: Our sincere thanks are due to the following for their donations:—South Shields Lyceum, per Mr. Smith 5s.; Heeley, Woodseats per Miss V. Spooner, 15s.; Armley Lyceum per Mr. W. Wainwright, 4s. 9d.; Wakefield Lyceum per Miss M. Johnson, £1; Mrs. Guy, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Taylor 10s.; Mrs. L. George 10s.; Mr. H. Barnes 14s. 8d.; Govan Association for (Buttercups) per Mr. Wyllie, 7s. 4d.; Total £4 9s. 3d.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS. We extend our heartiest greetings to Mrs. P. Carter, the conductor of Bacup Lyceum, whose birthday was on January 1st. Unfortunately the request to publish this came just too late for last month's BANNER, nevertheless I trust the greetings will be just as welcome.

It would be gratifying to see at least half a column of greetings in next month's BANNER, and would considerably help the Union. Please send along your birthdate before the 18th of the month previous to your birthday, accompanied by sixpence, and your greeting will be published.

With the best wishes for success in every Lyceum.

LILLIE GEORGE,

Hon. Sec.

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

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISM AND CHRISTIANITY.

By JAMES LE NOURY, G.N.S.C.

(Continued from previous issue).

We see that the disciples who should have been so loyal to him, they who freely acknowledged him to be their master, and the only son of God, were mute at the time of Christ's persecution. It is evident that not one of the twelve lifted a single finger to aid their Saviour. After all, the wonderful parables that Christ instanced, his remarkable philosophy, and the marvellous cures that he made were as nought to the disciples when the hour of need arose. One wonders if they were fit persons to teach the gospel of Christianity. A further significant fact emerges at this point: in several cases the gospels mention the crowds that Jesus drew by His ministry. Yet after all the healing that He had performed it seems very strange that not one person is recorded as having the pluck to do or say something in Christ's defence when He was charged with calling Himself the King of the Jews. Rather does it not say that the multitude cried for Barabbas?

It is very probable that none of the disciples could either read or write. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are, "according" to them, not definitely by them. If this is correct the compilation of their part in the episodes of the life of Christ would have to be told to someone else. This may very probably account for the discrepancies that arise. The account of the visit to the sepulchre is given differently by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I am told that there are perfectly good reasons and explanations for the acknowledged differences and am accordingly directed to this man's theory or that person's idea of the correct construction of the particular passages. Indeed the quotation "In my Father's house are many mansions," has been given as many definitions as there are words in the statement. Each statement is, we are told, in accordance with the divine revelation. But if this book is the book of truth, if it is God's word, why then the necessity for explaining away any of the verses? Why so vague, so ambiguous, and so misleading? Why should eminent theologians dispute over the interpretation of this book?

From time to time people are urged to follow the spirit of Christ. What is that spirit? Are we to follow the spirit of losing our tempers, as Jesus did in the Temple, showing our ignorance (as in the fig tree incident) teaching our elders, as He did at the age of 12, or denunciation of the present-day Pharisees, whom Christ reviled because they preferred to worship in their own way. Is administration by healing? is fasting? is a parable? or what is the spirit of Christ?

Jesus, so the Christians teach, died to save the world from sin; He lived and died for our sakes. That He died to save sin is a very disputable matter. His Life did not make a very great effect on the people of His day, otherwise they would have prevented the crucifixion. Indeed such a ridiculous charge of being the King of the Jews would have never been brought against Him. Nor has the Church of Christ any reason to congratulate itself upon its record, it has done no more good than any other religious sect. The clergy,

direct mediators between God and man, have nearly always proved to be one of the greatest stumbling blocks to progress. Wars for and on behalf of Christianity have been all too numerous. Militarism is still alive within the Church's ranks.

Despite the fact that no very great impression was made upon the populace by Christ's teaching, it would be churlish to deny that Jesus had done some good. For that reason alone we should be grateful to Him, and His life's work does demand careful consideration. But why this example, admittedly noble, should mean our prostration at all times I do not pretend to know. If Christ did give His Life for us, so did 10,000,000 souls a few years ago. It is perfectly true that all these lives were not Christ-like, but they gave, as Christ did, the most valuable thing they possessed—their lives. Yet I see few people prostrating themselves for the 10,000,000, but many for the One.

Yet another strange thing should receive our attention. The Romans were a most methodical people, and a race of business people of exceptional ability, but, so far as can be ascertained, no single item of the trial or life of Christ has been recorded in their records. It is very extraordinary that notable people, including historians, philosophers and even theologians, have completely ignored Him in their writings. Records of Pontius Pilatus and other eminent people of that time have been preserved. It must be remembered, of course, that time and time again ancient records have been confiscated, Churches pillaged and razed to the ground. Religious documents and anything in relation thereto have specially suffered. On the other hand religious zealots have hidden valuable treasures, and only revealed them at a safe time.

Very probably it will be objected that out of a life's work such as that of Christ, that the criticisms are few, and incline in some cases, to be superfluous. Each of the points mentioned taken by themselves may not seem of important consequence, but when placed together they "give one furiously to think" as the French say. Unless the case,—the whole case,—be examined, then a fair verdict cannot be returned: hence the value of each small point.

Most Christian people tend to forget that the whole of the New Testament was written, compiled, and published by those who were staunch adherents to the Christian theology. Is it reasonable to assume that the authors and compilers of such a work would allow any unfavourable impression, whether true or not, to be raised. Rather would every effort be made to suppress any doubtful references. We question these things to-day because of our advanced knowledge and understanding of other theologies apart from that of Christianity. In Christ's time and indeed until the dawn of the 19th century most people were illiterate.

Despite all these objections it is fully recognised and readily admitted that the teachings embodied in Christian theology do contain some excellent morals. This does not mean to say that this ethical wisdom is an indication of the truth of the happenings recorded in the testaments. I once read an excellent series of articles on living a good life by an "ex" rogue, three months later he was in prison for another offence.

A local preacher, who is fairly well known to me, and myself, were chatting on the divinity of Jesus. I told him that I believed in personal responsibility

and could not therefore accept Christ as my Saviour. I asked if it would be possible for me to go to heaven. After considerable hesitation, due to a respect for my feelings I suppose, he replied that unless I was prepared to accept Christ as my Lord and Saviour then I was doomed to a life hereafter of eternal damnation. But supposing, I queried, that I make every possible effort to do good, honestly and sincerely attempt to live a righteous existence, and still do not accept Christ. The former reply still stands he informed me. Supposing, I next asked, there was a man who was a drunkard, who swore, ill-treated his wife and children, thieved and gambled, got into debt, and altogether led a bad life, if he, on his death bed, repented of his sins, would he go to Heaven? Providing he meant his repentance he would be granted pardon for his sins and be given everlasting life, was the answer I received. This is the work of a God of Love, and a Prince of Peace. No, I am not a Christian.

Lastly. For the ethics of Christianity that we—avowed Spiritualists—are able to incorporate in our own democratic teachings, let us all welcome such additions. Let us resent no one who wishes to worship God through the medium of Jesus Christ; nor is it desirable that anyone should insist that we must accept the leadership of Jesus Christ. Remember, above all, we preach religious freedom and toleration, and as a student in these matters I am fully prepared to grant it.

PEARLS.

A man will never get to heaven who desires to go there alone.

If you cannot win, don't whine.

Your words and actions are your public representatives. Choose them well.

Do not despise your situation. From every point of earth we are equally near to heaven and the infinite.

As good wine needs no bush, so good actions are their own interpreters.

It is better to lose and keep your honour, than to win and lose it.

To love is to serve; who loves best serves most.

It's always as well to remember that the other fellow may be right.

It is better to be praised by one's own works than by words of another.

Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.

In appraising our own follies, most of us find it easy to adopt a broad-minded attitude.

PROF. SOLLNER.

JOHN S. BARNETT, A.N.S.C.

WHEN we turn to the Continent we find, in Germany, still another distinguished man of science taking a deep interest in the study of mediumistic phenomena, in the person of Prof. Sollner, Professor of Astro-Physics and Astronomy at the University of Leipzig.

Prof. Sollner also profited in his investigations by the invaluable assistance and wise counsel of several of his scientific colleagues, most notable of whom were Professors Weber, Fechner, and Scheibner, all men of the highest standing in scientific circles. Sollner was already familiar with the previous work done by Sir W. Crookes and Prof. A. R. Wallace in their investigations, and was content to leave the subject in their capable hands.

An opportunity, however, was afforded him of meeting the American medium, Mr. Slade, and this he accepted. This opportunity he utilized to repeat an experiment made some years before by Baron Reichenbach and Prof. Fechner, on the super-normal displacement of a magnetic needle by a human sensitive, and to his intense delight the experiment was successful.

On the following evening he gathered together several of his scientific friends for the purpose of demonstrating to them this confirmation of Prof. Fechner's experiments, and again he met with success.

Physical phenomena was also obtained, a pocket knife that lay on the table was levitated several times, a bed was moved two feet from the wall although untouched by human hands, and a large strong bed screen was smashed in two by a force which was afterwards estimated to be equal to 198 cwts., or the strength of two horses. Encouraged by the great power of the manifestations Sollner then decided to try an experiment with an accordion similar to the one recorded by Sir W. Crookes in his experiments with D. D. Home. He placed a bell on the floor under the table, the accordion was then handed to Slade who held it, by the keyless end, in his right hand while his left hand lay on the table. In the full view of the sitters the accordion suddenly began to play while the bell rang out a violent accompaniment.

Slade then handed the accordion to Prof. Scheibner who grasped it in a similar manner, and again it began to play, the bell also continuing to ring violently. The success of these experiments prompted Prof. Sollner to initiate a series of ingenious experiments suggested by his hypothesis of a fourth dimension in space.

In his discussion of the fourth dimension, Sollner points out that our conception of a three-dimensional world is not innate, but acquired by our intellectual process. Our sense-perceptions take place at the surface of our bodies, and are therefore strictly two dimensional. He says, "we have come to the idea of a third dimension in order to overcome the apparent inconsistency of facts, of the existence of which experience daily convinces us." He further argued that just as a three-dimensional being possesses capabilities and powers superior to any conceivable two-dimensional being, so an intelligent being living

in a space of four dimensions should be able to produce effects visible to three dimensional beings, some of which can be theoretically predicted. These effects include the passage of matter through matter, the removal of objects from enclosed and sealed receptacles, the interlocking of two wooden rings, and the tying of true knots on an endless piece of string or leather. Sollner says, "It followed that the real existence of a four-dimensional space can only be decided by experience, i.e., by observation of facts."

Sollner records some interesting experiments of the production of the impressions of hands and feet upon sooted papers; he wished, however, to take the matter one step further and obtain such impressions within an enclosed space. For this purpose, in the absence of Slade, he procured a book-slate which he lined with sooted papers.

He then explained to the medium, that if he was correct in his theory of the existence of intelligent four-dimensional beings in nature, they should be able to make such impressions on the interior of the closed slates. Slade readily consented to try the experiment, although he entertained some doubts as to its probable success.

The basic facts of the experiment were, the room was brilliantly lighted, the closed slates lay on the lap of Prof. Sollner and were carefully observed by him throughout the experiment.

After a few moments, Prof. Sollner noticed on two occasions a distinct pressure on the slates. In about five minutes three raps on the table signified that the experiment was concluded. The slates were then opened revealing on one side the impression of a right foot and on the other the impression of a left foot.

(To be concluded next month).

(Continued from page 22).

To All Guildites.

Please accept my hearty thanks for all the wonderful messages and expressions of good-will so many of you sent to me at Christmas and the New Year. It was nice to be remembered, and you can never guess how much it helps during the year. It makes the sacrifice of leisure time well worth while.

Arisen Guildite.

I have just been informed that Guildite 179, Mrs. Fallon, of Darwen, passed to the Higher Life in December 1934. I am sure you will join with me to wish her well in her new life, and to send sympathetic thoughts to those of her family left behind.

May success crown the efforts of each one of you in your Lyceum or National work.

The Guild Leader,

28, Moorlands Place,
Free School Lane,
Halifax.

GLADYS M. HALLIDAY.

TRANSITION.

Mrs. Jackson, 27, Deramore Street, Moss Side, Manchester, after a long and painful illness, passed into Higher Life, Jan. 9th, 1935. Sadly missed by friends and Lyceumists at Maskell Street.—H. Ball, Sec.

OUR READERS' VIEWS.

The Editor welcomes correspondence on matters of general interest. Letters *should* be as short as possible and not exceed 400 words.

The Editor, THE LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,

Recent contributions in the BANNER have caused me to reflect on the position of the whole "movement." Our "dwindling numbers" are due not particularly to political drivel, but to lack of spirit. I have known Lyceums and Churches be almost on the point of closing down because of the vile corruption in their midst. What wonder is it, that our numbers dwindle?

As a religious movement we have not the vision and zeal of the Pioneers. We would be better if we were persecuted for our religion. The Pioneers have made chairs for us to sit upon, and we have found them very comfortable.

The economic circumstances of the day are finding out our principles. The Spirit is dead. The constant appeal for funds proves it.

If we would attend to the Spirit, the movement would look after itself, we should have no need to beg. We should be happy (and why shouldn't we be?) Our numbers would grow. Why shouldn't we try?

With every good wish,

ALFRED GUY.

The Editor, THE LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,

I cannot allow article No. 1. on "If I were Dictator" to pass without some encouragement for its support. The writer of that article gave suggestions which should be noted by every enthusiastic Lyceumist.

As a keen enthusiast in Lyceum work, I *must* state that our Lyceums certainly need to be revised in order to cope with young people's mental development and thus to arouse interest and loyal support among Lyceumists.

I will make special mention to the Missionary Idea, Fusion with the parent body and consideration of the children's interests as these were clearly brought out by the writer.

In regard to the first, I think that is one of the best means of improving and stabilising the Union. The astuteness of the Christian teachers has gained for them universality of Christianity, and a great part of their Missionary teaching was carried on by the establishment of Sabbath schools. Having had overseas experience, however, I am able to state on behalf of overseas youths that, like their brethren in this country, they are definitely refusing to accept the *lies* forced upon them about Christianity.

They do not want to grow up as Agnostics and Atheists but they will only accept the doctrine of a religion founded on truth and sincerity. There can be no doubt that spiritualism offers such teaching. Since, therefore, the Lyceum gives its followers an extensive training on the principles of this religion, and the Lyceum is without doubt the cornerstone of the Spiritualist church, is it not just that the Universal

brotherhood of man should be made manifest through a world-wide establishment of Lyceums? There is a great field unexplored for Lyceum Missionaries in foreign countries.

I will turn next to Fusion with the parent body. It is beyond me to know why the church should treat the Lyceum as a separate body. When those grand old pioneers, Andrew Jackson Davis, Alfred Kitson and others founded the Lyceum Movement, one would think they intended that the children trained therein should, when they reach adolescent life, become active members of the church and hold offices of trust.

The fact is that the majority of the members of the Spiritualist church are people who have been attracted to Spiritualism merely by and for the phenomena. They retain their Orthodox Christian ideas and are not interested in the philosophy of Spiritualism, a training which is given in the Lyceum to all its members from children to adults. The result is, that these Orthodox *Die-hards* occupy all the offices in the church and give no encouragement to trained adults of the Lyceum to join the parent body. I would therefore suggest that rules should be made whereby officers of the parent body must have a Lyceum training. In this way the parent body and Lyceum would work in harmony and fusion would eventually be made possible.

Finally I turn to the third point. This question of "Consideration of the Children's interest" is so ably discussed by the writer that there is not much to add. A close observation of our Marching and Callisthenics, however, will certainly disclose that they are in need of a radical revision, with better music. One cannot doubt the fact that children are given a better Callisthenic training in the elementary schools than they get in the Lyceum. The youthful mind requires activities that change with the progress of the mind in order to hold its interest. In addition to organisations simulating Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, I would advocate the giving of entertainments with attractive plays two or three times a year.

Lastly I would advocate for the Liberty Group the teaching of Ethics and Psychology along with the Philosophy of Spiritualism. If these suggestions are treated as realities, the Union would be well established and its financial stability would be assured.

Lyceumists all! May I appeal to you to co-operate and build on the foundation laid by those noble pioneers of the past in order that the Universal brotherhood of man may become a reality rather than a dream.

Representative, Edinburgh Lyceum.

(Continued from page 26).

The compilation of the 1934 Conference Minutes was left to the President and Secretary.

Sheffield L.D.C. are to be approached for an invitation for the April M.C. Meeting.

The Rota Scheme for M.C. visits was discussed and Lyceum District Councils are being approached for an expression of opinion regarding this matter. If D.C.'s are generally in favour of the scheme then the Finance Committee are to arrange details.

Mrs. George was appointed B.S.L.U. delegate to the U.D.C. Meeting in March.

A. MILLS, Gen. Sec.

LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BIRMINGHAM LYCEUM D.C.

We held our Council Meeting at Walsall Church on Jan. 12th last. There was a very good attendance, conditions were most harmonious, and business dealt with was very satisfactory. One item of interest was the arrangement of the service for the presentation of the Silver Bell, awarded in the Birmingham District for efficiency amongst all Lyceums. The District Visitor's report also was very pleasing, as several Lyceums shewed big improvements. Our next meeting is the A.G.M., Feb. 9th, at the "Forward" Church, 29, Soho Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD L.D.C.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held at Quarby, on Sunday, Feb. 10th, 1935, to commence as near 10-30 a.m. as train service will permit.

Nominations:

President—Mr. T. Ellis, and Mr. H. Baxter.
Vice-Pres.—Mr. H. Baxter and Mr. W. Burrows.
Sec.-Treas.—Miss G. Halliday.
D.V.—Mr. G. Buttle, Miss B. Lee.
Auditor—Mr. Baxter.

Please see that every Lyceum is represented, and so help to make the day a success from every point of view.

G. HALLIDAY, Secretary.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

DISTRICT VISITOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

Hull, Dairycoates. Oct. 7th. Eight adults and 45 children. This Lyceum needs more adults and requires groups because the interest of the children, whose ages are from three to fourteen years, wavers.

Royston. Oct. 14th. Ten adults and 23 children. This is a newly-formed Lyceum, only having been in operation a year, and too much cannot be expected. A good all-round session and splendid progress made. Congratulations, Royston; keep it up.

Leeds, Brunswick Place. Oct. 21st. Twelve adults and 22 children. A fairly good session. Steps need correcting in marching and children's group, consisting of 22 from three to 16 years, should be divided.

Heckmondwike. Nov. 4th. Seven adults and 11 children. A good chain of lessons, but lacking in questions.

Liversedge. Nov. 11th. Eight adults and 26 children. This is an old Lyceum with a new membership consisting of children of school age. A promising Lyceum.

A. DAISLEY, Junr., District Visitor.

Please note new address: 15, Creshell Street, Elland Road, Leeds, 11.

LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23rd, at Theatre Lane, Armley, Leeds, at 3-30 p.m.

Will all Lyceums see they are fully represented at this Conference. Important Business for discussion at this meeting. Associates cordially invited. Tea provided at moderate charge.

A. W. HARDING, Secretary.

LONDON LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Special Lyceum Meetings attended by Council Officers during the month. Bowes Park, Bromley, Hampton Wick, Kingston, Little Ilford. These meetings have been well supported by Lyceumists and Church members.

WEDDING AT BURY.

On Tuesday, Dec. 18th, 1934, Miss Nellie Dean, Conductor of the Bury Lyceum, was married to Mr. C. L. Mountford, of Birkenhead. Mr. F. Hepworth and Mr. J. Slimin, President of the B.S.L. Union, performed the ceremony.

A very happy party of relatives, friends, Church members and Lyceumists, met in the Bury National Spiritualist Church, and kept up the revelry till late in the evening.

On behalf of the Church Committee and Lyceumists, Mrs. Carr, the oldest Bury Church member, presented the bride with a clock. Mr. Slimin presented her with a "Spiritual Songster," on behalf of the Lyceum. It is the custom in Bury to present every Lyceumist with either a "Songster" or "Manual" upon getting married.

AROUND OUR LYCEUMS

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

ACCRINGTON, Pearl St.—Sunday, Jan. 6th, Open Sessions and Annual Prize Presentation to Lyceumists for good attendance. Councillor Holding, of Church, presented the prizes. In his remarks he said that the Lyceumists coming up to recite reminded him of when he was a boy attending a mission. He had recited about three times when a gentleman gave him a penny; not to be subdued he said, "Thank you, sir, but I know some more yet."—W. Taylor, Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session, Jan. 6th, Conductor, Mrs. Carter. Pearls: Gladys Holmes, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Carter, Joyce Savage, William Ashworth, Kenneth Halstead, Joe Aspden, Mr. Turner, Edward Pettitt, Maud Lord, Albert Garard, Molly Halsall, Joan Patchett, Mrs. Halsall, Mary McKenna, Edna Taylor. Recitations: Joyce Savage, Molly Halsall. Reading: Mrs. Lord, A. Garard, Mrs. Halsall, Mr. Halsall, Mr. Turner, G. Holmes. Songs: James Taylor, Dennis Holinsworth, Kenneth Halstead, Percy Kemp, Douglas Clements, Harry Salts, Mr. Ashcroft, Lillian Ashcroft, Lottie Taylor.—S. Carter, A.N.S.C., Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—On January 6th the Election of Officers for 1935 took place. Conductor, Mrs. Harding; Asst. Conductor, Mr. E. Edwards; Secretary, Mr. R. Robb; Asst. Secretary, Mr. A. Thompson; Treasurer, Mr. E. Edwards; Musical Conductor, Mr. H. Whiteley; Asst. Musical Conductor, Miss E. Thompson; Marching Conductor, Mr. Taylor; Callisthenics Leader, Mr. A. Thompson; Group Leaders, Mr. Kneale, Mr. Robb, Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Harper. We are pleased to say that two of the sick Lyceumists have returned to the Lyceum.—R. Robb, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter St.—On Sunday, December 30th, we held our Open Session, which was fairly well attended. Solos by Clara Railton and Hazel Holding, recitation by Alice Parker. This being the last Sunday of the year we chose as our final song, "The Old, Old Year," which was well rendered by the whole Lyceum. Our speaker for the day was Mrs. Arkwright, of Blackburn. A really enjoyable day for all.—S. Lightboun, Sec.

BLACKPOOL.—A Social was held on Boxing Day, when Father Christmas paid a visit and presented each young Lyceumist with a present. A very enjoyable time was spent with the children and friends.

On Jan. 2nd another happy time was spent with the children in games and dancing.

On Sunday, Jan. 6th, Mr. Squire Spencer named the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, giving him the name of Alan, with the spirit name of "Alan the Courageous." Flowers were placed on the child by Jimmy Carter, Arthur Connor, Peter Connor, Dorothy Wood, Charley Wood, Ilene Long, Edith Connor and Vera Higson. A very pleasing sight.—E. H. Rothwell, Sec.

BRADFORD, Laisterdyke.—Open Session, Jan. 6th, Conductor, Mrs. Sugden. A good response by the Lyceumists made a good start for the New Year.—F. Babbs, Sec.

BURY.—Open Sessions, January 6th. Good attendance each Session. Conductor, Mrs. Mountford. Keen interest displayed in questions and explanations of various readings. Recitations: M. Cherry, I. Howarth, Mr. Powers. Solos: Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Moore, Miss Seafie, Miss Blackley. Annual Tea party, Concert and Prize Distribution held on January 1st.—Mr. F. Oseman, Sec.

DARWEN.—Dec. 24th, 1934. We held our usual Christmas Party. Everybody tried their best to return the good wish of everybody else, "A Merry Christmas," with the result that the party was a success.

Jan. 1st, 1935. Our Annual Lyceum Party to start off the year with a spirit of comradeship which we hope to maintain during 1935.—E. Entwistle, Ban. Sec.

DEWSBURY.—Election of Officers, Dec. 30th:—Conductors, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss J. Nixon, Miss L. Gregory, Mr. W. Oakes; Delegate and Secretary, Mr. E. Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. Barton; Drill Instructor, Mr. V. Hartley; Guards, W. Johnson, M. Dyson, J. Hirst; Leaders: Marching, C. Hirst, M. Dyson, D. Joy, W. Johnson; Registrars, Messrs. A. Holdsworth and

W. Dyson; Group Leaders, Misses M. Nixon, N. Nixon, and L. Shaw and V. Hartley. Votes of thanks were accorded to retiring officers. A successful operetta, "Jan of Windmill Land," was given on Jan. 5th. Credit must be given to all who took part for the splendid efforts put forth; also to Miss N. Whitworth and Mr. Horne, Pianists; Mr. E. Wilson and Mr. J. Whittles, Coaches; Mrs. Gregory and Miss A. Bentley, Dress Supervisors. It was Lyceum Annual Effort for Building Fund.—E. Wilson, Sec.

DONCASTER, Catherine Street.—Open Session, Jan. 6th. Sunday afternoon, conducted by Miss Johnson; assistant conductor and invocation by Mrs. Maltby; the following Lyceumists taking a part: L. Middleton, B. Scotting, M. Taylor, B. Maltby, D. Dunning, B. Smithson, A. Ball and Mr. King. We enjoyed a good session.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

EARBY.—Open Session, Jan. 6th. Songs and recitations were well given by E. Greenhalgh, C. Eaton, Alf. Geo. Morby, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Bradley, Mr. W. Millican, D. Eaton, Geo. Morby, Mr. George Bradley. A successful Session to open the new year.—Alf. Geo. Morby, Sec.

HALIFAX, Alma St.—Officers: E. Thorpe, E. Danetey; M. Danetey, A. Thorpe, C. Thorpe, K. Chapman, N. Oakes, A. Burrows, E. Burrows, B. Fawthrop, Mrs. Wilby, Mrs. Barwell, Mrs. Dracup, Mrs. Dewes, Mrs. W. Burrows, Mrs. P. Chapman, G. Halliday, J. A. Burrows, A. Chapman, J. Wilby, W. Burrows.—P. Chapman, Sec.

HEELEY, Woodsats.—We held our Children's Christmas Treat on Jan. 5th, which was well attended and was a success throughout. A small sketch, given by the adult Lyceumists, was well received by the audience. Each young Lyceumist received a present from the Christmas Tree and an orange, an apple and a bag of sweets. Children who were not Lyceumists also received gifts.—Miss V. Spooner, Sec.

HIRST.—After a splendid tea on Boxing Day, Miss Shears ably presented the prizes for attendance. Edna Foster moved the vote of thanks, supported by M. Potts.—J. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

HOLLINWOOD.—On Dec. 24th we held a Social and Dance. Much fun and merriment were caused by the arrival of Father Christmas. Adults and children gave him a real hearty welcome. Toys and fruit were given to all. Jim Bradley's Dance Band was in attendance and dancing was thoroughly enjoyed by all.—J. Fairbotham, Sec.

LANCASTER, Bulk Road.—The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the above Lyceum was held on Sunday, Dec. 30th, 1934, when the following were elected:—Conductor, Mr. Bleasdale; Assistant, Miss E. Lake; Secretary, Mr. A. Stephenson; Guardian, Miss Bouskill; Assistant, Miss G. Procter; Musical Conductor, Miss E. Stephenson; Assistant, Miss D. Bleasdale; Capt. of Guards, A. Stephenson; Guards, D. Bleasdale, Joan Turner, F. and R. Dennison.—A. Stephenson, Sec.

LEWISHAM.—On Dec. 14th we had our Annual Christmas Party. Fifty sat down to tea and all enjoyed the fun and frolic.—E. Last (Mrs.), Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—Our Tea and Christmas Tree on Dec. 23rd, for our Lyceumists, was very successful. The tea and presents had been given by Lyceum Leaders and Church members. Songs and dances, arranged by Miss Swindells (who had trained the children), were delightfully given. Mrs. McLeary and Miss Hulley were accompanists. Mrs. George Challinor presented the presents to each Lyceumist. She was thanked by Councillor Potts. Games were played afterwards, and a bag with sweets, orange and toy, given by two Church members to the young Lyceumists, finished a happy evening. Our thanks are due to all who helped to make such a success.—H. Rushton.

MANCHESTER, Cheetham Hill.—On Jan. 1st we held our annual tea party. 75 present fully enjoyed the tea, games, and concert by the Sunshine Kiddies. Father Christmas came to distribute presents, and a happy time closed with the presentation of prizes by Miss Hunt.—W. Wedlock, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—Officers, 1935: Conductor, Miss M. Hart; Secretary, Mr. H. Beeston; Treasurer, Mr. L. Hibbert; Marching Conductor, Mr. J. E. Hart; Musical Director, Richard Hart; Librarian, Mrs. Wood; Guardian and Capt. of Guards, Mr. Lowe; E.C. Delegates, Mrs. Wood and Mr. Wolstencroft; Council and Conference Delegates, Miss G. Entwistle and Mr. H. Beeston; Auditors, Messrs. Hart and Krumreen; Callisthenic Leader, Roy Hewson; Group Leaders and Sick Visitors,

5—9 Miss Watson. 10—12 Miss Parker, 13—16 Mrs. Wood. Adults, Mr. Wolstencroft; Guards, Messrs. W. Templehead and D. Reade.

MANCHESTER, Maskell St.—On January the fifth we held our Annual New Year Party, which was a most successful affair. Following our usual practice we handed to each Lyceumist a free ticket. After tea we entertained the younger ones with various games; this was followed by a short sketch, entitled "Uncle John from Yorkshire." We have to thank our old friend Mr. Swindells, who is the life and soul of our dramatic section, for the success that attended the production. There were also several juvenile individual items, dancing, and a very successful imitation of Florrie Ford. This was followed by the annual distribution of prizes with some small present to everyone present, bags of apples, oranges, and nuts then being distributed. Thanks are due to Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Vernon and Miss Shaw for their personal gifts to the evening's success.

On January the seventh we held our annual business meeting. The balance sheet shewed we held cash to nearly five pounds to commence the activities of this year. The following officers were elected for 1935: Conductor, Mr. Bartley; Secretary, Mr. Ball; Treasurer, Mr. J. T. Ashworth; Assistant Conductor, Miss Spencer; Guardian, Miss J. Carson; Musical Conductor, Mr. Swindells; Marching Conductor, Mr. Street; Callisthenic Leader, Mr. Carson; Librarians, Mr. Bridgeford, Miss A. Sharp; Auditors, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Swindells; Delegates to Council, Messrs. Ashworth and Skelton; Delegates to Conference, Mr. J. T. Ashworth.—pro. Mr. Ball, J. T. Ashworth.

OLDHAM, Central.—We have had a good time during Christmas and New Year. Good company at socials. During the month of December we had the naming of the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ogden, material name Harold Ogden, spirit name "Victor." Ceremony conducted by President.—John Woods, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH TEMPLE.—We held our Christmas Tree Party on Jan. 4th, when there were approximately 100 guests. Mr. McFarlane was our ideal Father Christmas. A suitable gift was presented to Mrs. Chambers, our popular Conductor. Everyone received a gift off the tree and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all.

PRESTON, Moor Lane.—Open Session, Jan. 6th. The children rendered recitations, and, at the request of our absent Lyceumist, Miss Cooke, they sang "Open the Door for the Children" in unison. A splendid Session.—B. Nickolaus, Sec.

ROYSTON, New Street.—Naming ceremony performed by Mrs. Fowler, on Sun., Dec. 23rd, 1934. Name of child, Derrick Arthur Clark.—Mrs. Waugh, Sec.

STOCKPORT, Chatham St.—Sunday, 6th January, Lyceum Day. Morning and afternoon Lyceum Sessions. Evening service taken by members of Lyceum. Excellent day spent.—G. Brown, Sec.

WAKEFIELD.—Election of Officers, Dec. 2nd: Conductors, Mesdames Harding, Teal, Messrs. Armitage and Teal. Secretary, Mrs. Spurr; Treasurer, Mrs. Denison; Guardian, Miss Johnson; Musical Conductor, Miss Harding; Asst. Conductor, Mr. Mellor; Captain of Guards, Miss Johnson; Guards, Misses Spurr and Ely, Masters Teal and Spurr; Group Leaders, Mrs. Harding, Messrs. Spurr and Armitage; Callisthenic Conductors, Masters Spurr and Teal; Sick Visitors, Mesdames Harding, Teal, Spurr; Representative Church Committee, Mr. Harding; Auditors, Mr. Mellor, Miss Harding; Delegates, Mesdames Harding and Spurr; Librarians, Misses Hargate and Spurr.—Mrs. Spurr, Sec.

WINNIPEG, First Spiritualist Church Lyceum.—We held our Open Session on Sunday, Jan. 6th, and a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all present. Pearls, recitations and solos were rendered by Mr. V. S. Orchard, Mr. and Mrs. H. Forrest, Mrs. A. Parkinson, Olive Forrest, Daisy Knox, Eileen and Edith Nichols, Marguerite Kinghorn, Raymond Parkinson, Daphne and Brian Orchard. We wish to extend to Lyceumists everywhere our sincerest wishes for a happy and successful New Year.—O. Forrest, Sec.

From All Lyceumists—Old and New—
ONE SHILLING FOR THE B.S.L.U.