

THE

# LYCEUM BANNER

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JANUARY, 1938.

PRICE TWOPENCE

## President's New Year Greeting and Our Management Committee Page

**A**N admonition, often given and with which all my readers are doubtless familiar, urges us never to attempt to mix business with pleasure.

An old joke, now in the 'chestnut' stage, goes even further and advises that when pleasure interferes with business we should give up the business.

In spite of all this, however, I intend to attempt what many say is inadvisable and some declare to be impossible; mingle pleasure and business.

The pleasure lies in my having the opportunity of giving through the pages of the BANNER; and for the fourth successive year, my heartiest greetings and best wishes for a truly Happy and Prosperous New Year to all Lyceumists.

The business side of my article is included because I am endeavouring to include in one communication, New Year Greetings and our M.C. page.

Each year brings a renewed feeling of hope for a brighter and better future and hopes persist because desires remain with us. We all have one great common characteristic—the longing, or wishing, for something bigger and better than we have ever known before. Wishes, however, remain "Beggars' steeds" unless we put forward a conscious and continued effort to make them materialise. Even then they often thwart their own purpose because they are selfishly directed.

"I wish that I"—is the preface of too many expressions of self-seeking desire. Our New Year greetings to each other should serve to banish, at least for a time, this narrow, introspective mood; for they are all good wishes for the happiness and well-being of others.

Yet there is a still more comprehensive desire which can include ourselves in the welfare of all whose lives touch ours. If, *we* desire that *we*—could be made the introduction to all our expressed wishes for 1938 the New Year should be one of real prosperity.

There would still remain the need for that conscious and continued effort already mentioned, but our task would be lighter and more pleasant because we would find the joy of 'United Effort.'

The need for united effort; more 'united' and more 'effort' than the past year has shown, is the urgent call that the M.C. page portion of this article must emphasise. If 'we desire that we' shall continue as a progressive Movement it is necessary that we commence the year

with a revival of enthusiasm and determination; first to make good the failings of the past, and then to build forward to a greater Movement. Further, the united effort referred to must be one in which every Lyceumist, from the President to the tiniest tot, in our poorest Lyceum, must take part.

Here are a few of the difficulties facing your M.C., and their recital should serve to show the urgency of what has already been written.

**Membership.** In Spite of appeals and much hard work on the part of our Local, District, and National leaders the membership of our Union continues to fall. The root cause of the decline is difficult to trace but the remedy appears to lie principally with our Lyceum and Church members. If our Movement is not attracting new members it is probably because its attractiveness is not being shown by those in the Movement. Of course it is understood that, in some cases, our Lyceums have not the opportunity of being seen at their best because of restrictions and difficulties consequent on circumstances connected with the Church to which they are attached. Spiritualist Church officers and members could help considerably if they would strive to realise that our Lyceums can only work within the scope allowed by our Churches and encourage Lyceum activities more. Then it would be up to our Lyceumists to make the most of the opportunities provided and the inevitable result would be an increased membership of our Union.

**Banner.** The Finance Committee, which met early in December, gave long and serious consideration to the BANNER report presented to them. It was recognised that the point has been reached where, because of the continued fall in circulation, the financial loss is more than the funds of the Union can bear. To appeal for further effort and support through the pages of the BANNER itself was agreed upon as being unfair. Those who purchase and read our paper are playing their part nobly and well and it was decided to appeal to a wider field.

The Union as a whole must shoulder its responsibility and a request has been sent out to all Lyceums and District Councils to make the present position and the future of the BANNER a subject of consideration at an early meeting and forward the result of their discussion to the M.C.

(Continued on page 8.)

# THE MOST WONDERFUL MACHINE IN THE WORLD

By M. F. LOWE, Ph.D., B.Sc., A.K.C., F.R.G.S.

**T**HIS is an age of machines. We do everything by machine and the more we can invent and use, the happier we seem to be. Those of you who have bicycles, or whose fathers have motor cars, know what great care has to be taken to see that they are looked after properly, yet I wonder how many of you have ever realised that each one of us has been put in charge of the most wonderful machine that has ever been, or ever will be, invented. "Nonsense," you will say, "I haven't any machine." Oh yes, you have. Each of you has a body, and the body from one point of view is a machine doing what you, who have been placed in charge of it, tell it to do. If you look after it properly it will serve you faithfully and well, but if you neglect and treat it badly, it will give you nothing but trouble and pain.

In this talk I want to tell you of some of the marvellous ways in which the body works, so that perhaps you will take more care of it in the future.

First of all, there is the bony scaffolding, or skeleton, upon which the rest of the body is supported. This may be divided into three parts, the legs and arms; the bony box, called the thorax, which contains and protects the heart, lungs and so on; and the skull, which is another bony box which keeps the brain from being hurt.

Now the baby has exactly the same number of bones as the fully grown adult, but as you grow up your bones grow bigger too. Wouldn't it be nice if we could have houses that grew as the size of the families living in them grew? This is the first thing we have found that our bodies can do which men have not been able to copy. But as your bones are growing they are still soft—green the doctors call them—and so they are very liable to crack, just like a green twig will crack if bent, rather than actually break if you get a nasty fall. Of course they will break if they are strained badly enough and then you will have to keep the limb in splints until the bones have mended themselves.

Notice that you have two bony boxes, one to protect your brain, the other to keep your heart and lungs from harm. These three organs are essential for life and so they are carefully protected from injury.

Now let us look inside these boxes. The smaller one, which contains the 'mould' for our head, contains the brain. This is a wonderful organ and so complicated that nobody knows exactly how it works, or what happens when we think. All that we do know is that certain parts of it look after certain of our activities; thus, for instance, there is a part which looks after our speech, another part works when we see things with our eyes, and still another, just behind the forehead, is in action when we think, as, for instance, when we try to do our work at school. That is not all, for still other parts control our breathing, our hearts, the digestion of our food, the muscles by which we move our legs and arms. We don't actually 'think' when we move a finger, but the brain has to work all the same. We don't actually 'think' when we breathe in or out, but if our brains did not 'tell' the lungs to work they would stop and we should die. This part of the

brain which works automatically and looks after those things which have to go on continually throughout our lives, lies at the base of the brain and in our spinal chord, which runs down the series of hollow bones which we call our backbone, or spinal column.

The brain is able to 'communicate' with the rest of the body by means of 'nerves.' These nerves are tiny fibres which connect with the muscles, the skin, and, in fact, with every part of the body. They have been likened to telegraph cables and really this is a very close likeness indeed, for not only are they constructed like a cable with a conducting core in the centre surrounded by an insulating layer, but they also carry electric currents called 'nerve currents.' These currents can be picked up by the means of special apparatus something like a radio set and a series of clicks is heard in the loudspeaker as the muscles, say of the arm, are moved. As the arm is moved quicker and quicker, so is the number of clicks increased.

Now let us look inside the bigger of the two bony boxes—the one that forms the chest. First of all is the heart, which is really a pair of pumps working side by side. The left side pump sends the blood round the body, the righthand one pumps it through the lungs, where the blood is purified. The blood leaves the heart by big tubes called arteries. Soon these split up into finer and finer tubes called capillaries. Some of these capillaries are so narrow that they are finer than a hair and cannot be seen by the naked eye. You cut several of these capillaries when you cut your finger, because every part of the body is absolutely honeycombed with these tiny tubes. After a time they gradually join together to form bigger and bigger tubes till at last they all unite into one which leads the blood back into the right side of the heart.

When the blood has reached the heart again it is full of impurities which it has washed away from the muscles which have been working. It must now be purified, so the right side of the heart pumps it through the lungs. These consist of two 'bags,' one on either side of the chest, and filled with innumerable tubes, some carrying blood and some the air which has been breathed in. The walls of the blood vessels are so thin that the impurities in the blood can get through into the air passages, where they join on to the oxygen in the air to make carbon-dioxide, which is then breathed out. The blood, however, cannot escape, and when it is purified it goes to the left side of the heart ready for another journey round the body.

Now, what does the blood do? Well, it has four main jobs. First it has to take oxygen from the air, via the lungs, to the muscles of the body; second, it has to remove the impurities formed as a result of the movement of the muscles. Its third job is to take food from the stomach to the parts of the body that need it, and, fourth, it has to try to destroy any germs that may have entered the body either via the nose or mouth or through a cut that may have been made in the skin.

I have no more room to describe any more of the parts of the body, though some are really more  
(Continued on page 15).

# Founder's Day Programme.

## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

**E**ACH year attention is drawn to Founder's Day. Do we fully realise its importance and significance? Will you accompany me on a short retrospective journey?

You little ones, how you look forward to a journey in a Char-a-banc, and when it reverses you shout "Oh! it's going backwards." Why does it go backwards? The driver wishes to achieve some object. May I be the driver? I wish to go back, but to stay there. Oh, No! True Lyceumists do not do that. They go forward. In this instance, we are only going back to find what we have missed; to try to get some of the enthusiasm that the PIONEERS possessed and which is so essential for any Movement if it desires to continue its journey.

With great speed we reach August 11th, 1826. What happened? A little baby boy was born, who later was named Andrew Jackson Davis. When he was a boy, he had five months schooling. Did you say "My word! he was lucky?" No! of course not; Lyceumists would not say that, they realise the usefulness of knowledge and would attend school whenever they could. A. J. Davis was a true Lyceumist, so after leaving school he continued his studies, and these, together with Spirit Influence, made him into a very clever man. He wrote some very learned books and practised as a Doctor. He did something more than that, he travelled during his trance state, into the Spirit World. He saw how the Spirit Children were taught. He then told some of the earthly people about it and they agreed that it would be fine to try to teach the earthly children on somewhat similar lines. So the first Lyceum was opened on January 25th, 1863, at Dodworth's Hall, No. 806 Broadway, New York, U.S.A. And we are, on January 30th, 1938, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Birthday. Three-quarters of a century celebration will be ours. What are we going to do about it? Is it not worth while to have a good birthday party? Are we going to let A. J. Davis and the other Pioneers down? Shall I answer for you? *No! we will not let them down.* One of the very important ways to assist at present is to call for bumping collections on January 30th, 1938. It will please the Pioneers if these collections are sent to the Lyceum Union to help the present builders of the Union. Shall we all do our best?

To keep our ALFRED KITSON'S memory green, let us associate him with this birthday. It would have embarrassed him if he had been on the earth, but now that he sees from the Spirit World, he realises how we meant it. I suggest it would be nice to arrange some

marches for that day so that letters may be made representing A. J. D. and A. K. linking the two sets of letters with the Chain march. They have been done in our local Lyceum without much difficulty and with very little practice, even with only a few Lyceumists. I commend the marches to your officials to try out before the Anniversary. The bigger Lyceums should find it easier.

SESSION.			
O.S.	416	S.S.	181
S.C.R.	3		
M.R.	202	S.S.	64
Special Marches with explanations.			
G.C.R.	121		
C.S.	363	S.S.	92
GEO. A. MACK.			

**Description of Marches:** Platform is at the top of the room. "A." March in double file down the centre of the room. At the bottom, divide, one file turning to the right and the other to the left. When the two leaders meet again at the top, each file separates, marching in a straight, but oblique, line, one to the right bottom

corner of the room, the other to the left bottom corner; mark time. This should now give the appearance of an inverted "V." Three or four little children placed to form the bar, completes the "A."

"J." From "A" each file continues till it reaches the top of the room; single file down the centre, leader turns right, forming the curve of the "J." Two children at the head and two at the tail finish off the "J."

"D." Form two deep; march in twos anti-clockwise round the room. At the top right hand corner, the two leaders separate, the outside file making a straight line to the bottom right hand corner, the other making a half circle from the top right hand corner to the bottom right hand corner, the two leaders meeting there, the whole marking time when they get equidistant, forming "D."

From "D" form two deep and do the usual Chain March.

"A." Repeat as previously described.

"K." Form two deep; march in twos anti-clockwise round the room. Half way down the right side, turn left, cross to the left side of the room; the two leaders separate, one file marching to the left the other to the right. When the leaders meet, again they immediately separate one file marching to the left top corner, the other the left bottom corner; the leaders mark time, the Lyceumists spacing themselves equidistant, forming "K."

Lyceums will find it better if the leaders will reach their objective each time, as quickly as possible, to give their files who are marching slower, chance to adjust their distances better. The leaders should mark time without command when they reach their objective.

# Lyceum Annual Flower Day.

## January 30th, 1938.

Lyceumists and Friends,—

“All the great and wise and good whose names we read in the world’s history have laboured for us. We have entered into their harvest. We tread in their footsteps from which blessings grow. We can undertake the sublime task which they once undertook.”

How very aptly does this portion of G.C.R. 121 express the duty of all Lyceumists at this time of the year.

On January 30th we shall, once more, celebrate “Founder’s Day.”

Of what use are these Annual Celebrations unless they be of direct benefit and value to our movement?

Our Pioneers gave ALL for the advancement and progress of Lyceum work, and to-day we are all in the position to express our gratitude for everything that they tried to accomplish.

Do we appreciate their work in a practical way?

Do we desire to extend that work so that those who follow *us* will have cause to be grateful?

Our Union is the CENTRE of all Lyceum Activity.

We therefore appeal to YOU to give your help and encouragement.

DO NOT FAIL TO BUY YOUR FLOWER.

DO NOT WAIT TO BE ASKED.

DO NOT ASK “HOW MUCH ARE THEY?”  
DO GIVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

It is our desire to raise £100 on our 5th Annual Flower Day, and we request each Lyceum Secretary to make every possible effort to dispose of the Emblems that will be sent out to you this month.

We look to *you* for the highest success. *Please* accept the duty with enthusiasm.

All returns should be made as early as possible to Mr. J. Taylor, 13, Ridgefield Street, Failsworth, Manchester. Postal Orders should be crossed “& Co.” and made payable to B.S.L.U. Restoration Fund.

We desire to express our gratitude to the following Lyceums for donations up to Dec. 20th:—Blackburn, St. Peter Street Lyceum (Donation) 10s.; Fulham Lyceum (weekly pennies), 2s. 5d. Total: 12s. 5d.

This is the lowest total for any month during the year, and we sincerely hope that every Lyceumist will open the NEW YEAR of activities with increased efforts for the support of our Union.

May 1938 bring Prosperity to all Lyceumists, Lyceums, District Councils, and the B.S.L.U.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

JOSEPH TAYLOR,  
Hon. Secretary.

## THE LYCEUM COURSE OF ESPERANTO.

### PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

The PERSONAL PRONOUNS are: Mi, I, me; Ci. Thou (Seldon used); Ili, he; <sup>A</sup>Si, She; <sup>A</sup>Gi, it; Ni, we; Vi, you; Ili, they Oni, they, we, people (the French *On*).

The accusative takes the termination N.

### POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS.

These are formed by adding A. to the personal pronouns. MiA., My, mine. Lia. his, Via. Your, yours, etc.

Like adjectives they take the plural J. and the accusative N. SIA is a reflexive pronoun, referring back to the sentence or subsentence in which it occurs.

### POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES.

Instead of having special forms, Esperanto uses the regular possessive adjectives preceded by the article. Examples. The large book is mine. La granda libro estas (is) *la mia*. Yours is large, mine is small.

*La via* estas granda, *la mia* estas malgranda.

They have theirs, but not his. Ili havas *la sian*, sed ne *la lian*.

I have my books. Mi havas *miajn* librojn.

### SIMPLE TENSES OF AN ACTIVE VERB.

#### AMI. TO LOVE.

Indicative Present. Mi amas. I love. Vi amas. Li amas, etc.

Past. Mi amis. I loved, etc.

Future. Mi amos. I shall, (will) love.

Conditional. Mi amus. I should love, etc.

Imperative. Amu. (vi understood.) Love. Li amu. Let him love.

Active Verbs to be memorised. Conjugated as above. Lerni. To learn. Trinki, to drink.

<sup>A</sup>Mangi, to eat. Iri, to go. Diri, to say. <sup>A</sup>Marsi, to march. Kanti, to sing. Atendi, to wait. Inviti, to invite, Fermi, to shut. Shribi, to write.

### CONVERSATION PIECE.

Johano: <sup>A</sup>Cu vi iros kun me al la “Lyceum,” (n) ye (yea) dimanco, Mario?

Mario: Jes, <sup>A</sup>gi estos tre agrabla, kamerado! La kantoj, la marsoj, kaj la lecionoj esplacas al mi.

Johano: Mi ankau! <sup>A</sup>Gi estas tre bona por la korpo kaj la menso, kak ni lernos iom de la veron.

Mario: Vere! Me pensas ke la spiritistoj estus tre felicaj. <sup>A</sup>Gi la revido!

Johano: Adiaŭ, mia amikino!

### TRANSLATION.

John: Will you go with me to the Lyceum on Sunday, Mary?

Mary: Yes, it will be pleasant, comrade. The songs, the marches and the lessons please me.

John: Me also! It is good for the body and the mind, and we shall learn something true (something of the truth).

Mary: Certainly! I think that Spiritualists are (should) be very happy. Au revoir!

John: Goodbye, friend. (pal).

HYLDA BALL.

# The Lyceum, 1865.

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

As we step forward into 1938, we endeavour to consider the present position of our Movement in comparison with the standard it had reached at the time we became members.

Few of us can draw a true comparison with the conditions which prevailed near the date of its origin.

Having been fortunate to secure the loan of a *Lyceum Manual* of the above date, I point out some of its main features which governed the early Lyceums.

Let us therefore consider a few aspects of this Manual. A small book measuring three and a quarter inches by four and a half inches, its thickness about one inch.

On its first page we are told it is "The Children's Progressive Lyceum, A Manual" with directions for the organisation and management of Sunday Schools, adopted to the bodies and minds of the young, and containing Rules, Methods, Exercises, Marches, Lessons, Questions, and Answers, Invocations, Silver Chains, Recitations, Hymns, and Songs, original and selected by Andrew Jackson Davis: following with this verse.

"A pebble in the streamlet scant  
Has changed the course of many a river,  
A dew-drop on the baby plant  
Has warped the giant oak forever."

Its contents contain several of the articles as found in our present *Officers Manual*. Such as "An Idea of the human Mind," Bye-Laws, etc.

Then there are three hundred and sixty-five brief utterances for lessons, following are a few samples.

"I'll love to always speak the truth  
And will commence now in my youth.

I want you to be happy children  
As the birdies in the wood,  
Always singing pretty love lays  
Always cheerful, always good.

Gentle playmate skipping free  
To the meadow come with me

God gives us nuts, but He does not crack them for us.

Let thy life be a song of praise.

A truly noble nature cannot be insulted.

Jesus said suffer little children to come unto Me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mary had a little lamb, etc.

There are thirty-seven Silver Chains and a series of Questions and Answers, such as we use to-day, all containing a bright and uplifting message.

The hymns and songs also bear a cheery note, including "The Picnic Song," and "Truth is Marching on" set to the tune of "John Brown's Body," while other songs are set to the music of "Rosa Lee," "Dixie Land," "Carry me back to old Virginny," "My old Kentucky Home."

The National spirit was evident in both song and flags. Something we do not seem to have in some centres to day, the chorus of "The Flag of our Union" shows this:

"The union of lakes, the union of lands  
The union of states none can sever,  
The union of hearts, the union of hands,  
And the flag of our nation forever.

Each group when marching was headed with the National flag "The Stars and Stripes" to which was affixed a target denoting the group represented.

Two interesting pledges were part of a Lyceumist standard of the early days; they are:—

"Believing that smoking, snuffing, and chewing are uncleanly, unhealthy, demoralising, unnecessary and expensive, I hereby pledge to abstain from the use of tobacco in all its forms. Totally and forever."

The second one was:

"I hereby solemnly promise to abstain from the use of Intoxicating Liquors as a beverage, and I also hereby promise to abstain from the use of all vulgar and profane language."

A most artistic text card then in use is certainly worth mentioning, headed Children's Progressive Lyceum "Thy Kingdom Come, How to bring it."

1. In the morning arise resolved to do nothing against, but everything for the kingdom of Heaven on earth.
2. Happiness for all being the object—let every action during the day spring from such well conceived and well developed thoughts as lead to its attainment.
3. In the evening retire—at peace with yourself—at peace with the divine principles of Universal Love and Wisdom.

"Thy will be done, How to do it."

1. Be instructed by the past, and by all it has brought you.
2. Be thankful for the present, and all its blessings.
3. Be hopeful for the future, and for all it promises to bring you.

"Observe these Rules and the Harmonies and the Angels of Father God will be with you and Peace on earth and Goodwill towards man be realised."

Social activities for members after business meetings did not appear to be quite so free and easy as we know them to-day.

"An hour of Social Interchange."

If the hour of the evening be not too late after adjournment it will be found promotive of mutual friendship and good-will to engage in parlour pastimes and innocent amusements in which all can with propriety freely and cordially participate. We have derived much strength and encouragement from these social and joyous reunions.

The young ladies and gentlemen of the Lyceum together with older officers, have thus become better acquainted with each other, and as a consequence, more united and strong in the beautiful cause of progressive education.

Duties of the Leaders. Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the Leaders to attend punctually and preside with gentleness and loving kindness over the little ones assigned to their group.

They shall each keep a Group Journal in which may be recorded the full name and address of each member.

They may give members permission to invite their playmates subject to Conductor's or Guardian's approval.

They shall visit absent members and parents of their members. Finally the meaning of Marches is given as "These Movements are designed to represent the interlocking of friendship and true affection."

# OUR LYCEUM GUILD

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

Dear Guildites,

As soon as possible after you are reading this you will be able to fill in the new application forms. Before you do that please read through the aims and rules, and then, if they appeal to you, and you think being a Guild member will help you in your daily life fill up the form and return to me. Of course, you Lyceums with Guild classes already in existence will be able to enrol as Guild Branches straight away. But being a member of a Guild Branch will not stop you from also being a Guild Associate.

## Finance.

Once again there has been no income for the month, but the usual expenditure of postage, which amounts to 4s. 1d. So that the balance in hand now, on December 20th is £11 5s. 7½d. Next month you will hear what printing has cost, and what money, if any, we have left in hand.

## S.O.S.

Since last Conference I appealed for the help of Guildites in compiling a list of holiday addresses. I asked you to let me have the address of the place you could recommend to other people. It is rather interesting to learn that only one Guildite has been quite satisfied with the homes where holidays have been spent. Anyhow, only one woman has troubled to reply; and she has given me addresses for Combe Martin, North Devon; for Shanklin; and for Whitley Bay. I have filed these so that next summer they will be there, if anyone would like them.

I have also had one reply about plays that have been given by Lyceumists. This comes from Mr. J. Railton, of Blackburn, who tells me "that the Blackburn Lyceum has had a successful Dramatic Society now for five years. The players are known as "The Imperials," and at present are busy rehearsing "The Ghost Train," which will be produced in March. When they first began they did the following plays from Abel Heywood's catalogue—"Three Half-Crowns; "Pearly Pearls;" "Luck of the Draw;" and "Meet the Family." These plays cost 9d. each from Abel Heywood & Son, 37-61 Lever St., Manchester; and as you will no doubt know, there are no royalties to pay for the production. Beginners will find that these are just the ones they want. But when they have had more experience like "The Imperials" they will probably become more ambitious, and will tackle plays on which royalties have to be paid. The plays now produced by Blackburn cost £15 a production for three performances. *But* they receive a great amount of pleasure from it; and the Lyceumists are kept together."

I am sure Mr. Railton won't mind my telling you about his personal experiences. So here goes. He has been a member of an amateur society since he was

eight years old; having played child rôles, juvenile leads, leads, and character and comedy rôles. He has played as an American, Italian, Scotchman, Irishman, Jew, and Frenchman. He says "I have had a little experience, but on the stage you are always learning, and I have picked up many a good points from the raw beginner. Hard work has to be put in, though it's a great life, and I would not be without my plays for a lot."

Mr. Railton is willing to give help to anyone who needs advice, and so, if you would like to write to him ask me for his address.

He also informs me that "The Imperials" have played at many Lyceums in their own district for travelling expenses only, and they are still willing to do that for any Lyceum.

So I am sure some of you will be pleased to hear of that offer, and will no doubt avail yourselves of it.

My thanks for your help, Mr. Railton, and may others follow your example and let me know what they have done; for I daresay there are others who have also staged plays.

## Guild Classes.

The Guild Class at Batley Carr is still going strong, meeting every Tuesday evening. Two of their Lyceumists were at Dewsbury at the Open Session after all, but were too shy to give greetings. But I did not think that I was such an unapproachable person that they dared not speak to me afterwards.

Harpurhey class still meets, and the Guild leader there wrote to give me the date of their party. The letter arrived one morning just as I was leaving for work, I opened it and read it; but I do not know what happened to the letter after that. I have searched everywhere for it, but find it I cannot. So please accept my apologies that I have not replied.

I have not head news of any other Guild class during the last month, but perhaps I shall hear of parties and jollifications.

Good luck to all of you in all your endeavours!

## Stamps.

Thanks to all of you who have sent stamps along, and to those who have sent direct to the hospital. Please carry on with the good work next year, and help to swell the funds of the Children's Hospital.

## To all of you.

Please be patient in waiting for the new application forms. Owing to the Christmas rush these will not be ready as soon as I intended. Seeing they are to be late, and the January M.C. meeting is early, I am sending the estimate to them for their approval, and for their advice re quantities to order. So it will probably be the end of January before any of you receive a form.

Let your New Year resolutions be ones that you are likely to have a chance of keeping, and, above all, resolve that you will do all in your power to make Our Guild a success, and a power for good, both in your Lyceum and home lives.

The Guild Leader,

28 Moorlands Place, GLADYS HALLIDAY.  
Free School Lane, Halifax.

EXAMINATIONS  
20th FEBRUARY  
1938

# B. S. L. U. EDUCATION SECTION

FORWARD  
ENTRIES  
AT ONCE

## A Happy New Year to All Our Lyceumists!

### EXAMINATION DATES IN 1938.

B.S.L.U.—All Grades.—Sunday 20th February, or (by arrangement with the Supervisor) the Saturday or Monday of that week-end.

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

A price list of Educational Handbooks, issued by the B.S.L.U. (obtainable from the General Secretary Mrs. A. Mills, cash with order), will be found on the outside back cover of this issue of the BANNER.

### URGENT NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

Have you sent in the names and fees of all your Lyceumists who have decided to sit for the examinations next month? If not, will you please do so AT ONCE. It is absolutely necessary that this matter is not delayed, otherwise, it may mean disappointment at the last minute, and nothing is more disastrous to an enthusiastic student. Every entry should be forwarded not later than January 11th. This is the final date.

Secretaries, will you please speed up. Collect the names and fees (if these are not paid by the Lyceum) of all candidates, fill them in on the List of Candidate's Form—each Grade in a Group by itself and headed by the Grade number (Grade I, Grade II, etc.) with a space of three lines between each Group of names—and forward the list to me with the Fee Form (which explains itself) adding 2/6 to the fees for examination expenses and postages. When the examinations are over you will receive from me the marked papers and certificates and a free copy of the Results Book.

Some Lyceumists are under the impression that this additional 2/6 is *solely* to cover the cost of the Result Book. This is not so. It is to *help* to meet also the cost of stationery, certificates, and all other printed matter in connection with the scheme.

The present financial state of the Union makes it almost imperative that the Education Scheme must be self-supporting and the committee is doing its best to achieve this object. It *can* be done if all Lyceums recognise the necessity of sending in as many entries as possible. The same number of circulars and quantity of stationery have to be sent to every Lyceum, regardless of whether there are no entries, one entry or even fifteen entries. Naturally the more entries, the greater the income to the Scheme and this helps to cover the cost of the circularisation.

The essential aim of the Scheme, of course, is "the education of Lyceumists," but if the Scheme *can* be self-supporting why not help to make it so.

### DON'T FAIL TO SIT.

The committee is relying upon all Lyceumists who are at present studying for the February examination to enter their names at once, and above all, to *sit* for

the examination. If prevented by sickness at the last minute, do not fail to notify either the Lyceum Secretary or the Supervisor, when arrangements may be made to take the re-sit exam. in October, but we hope that every student will be quite well, fully prepared, able to sit for the grade they are studying, and come out with high marks.

### TO BE READ TO STUDENTS.

#### How to do your best at the examinations:

1. The most important detail, of course, is that you should have thoroughly studied your text-books and thus obtained a sound knowledge of all the subjects set for examinations.
2. Avoid getting nervous by
  - (a) Being well in time on Examination day.
  - (b) Having a good pen and plenty of ink and blotting paper.
  - (c) Reading carefully the instructions on your candidates' form.

Then settle down to the examination.

3. After filling in all the necessary information asked for on the Examination Sheet, read your question paper carefully through, several times.
4. Make sure *how many answers* are required.
5. Answer first the question you feel is the least difficult and follow in order of difficulty.
6. Divide your time for answering the questions so that you leave sufficient to read your paper through in case you wish to add anything further.
7. Don't forget to leave several lines between your answers.
8. *Think* before you answer, and make sure you have quite grasped the question.
9. Write as clearly as you can.

If you are well prepared by having a careful revision of the Handbook and Manual Selections and follow the above suggestions then there is no reason why you should not do well at the examination.

Work hard and make up your mind to pass well. The best success to all students.

LILLIE GEORGE,  
*Hon. Education Sec.*

### SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

ALL the text books needed for the B.S.L.U. Examinations are supplied from the General Offices, MRS. GEORGE DOES NOT STOCK OR SELL ANY HANDBOOKS.

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

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

THE GENERAL SECRETARY, B.S.L. Union, 41, John Dalton St. Manchester, 2.

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

The Secretary, MRS. L. GEORGE, 85, Queen's Road, Everton, Liverpool, 6. Oral Grade: Mr. J. SLIMIN, 69, Newcastle Road, Sunderland.

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: ANNIE H. MILLS.

ALL MATTER SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION must be addressed to the EDITOR "Lyceum Banner," 41, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

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ALL ORDERS AND REMITTANCES must be sent to the Gen. Secretary, B.S.L.U., 41, John Dalton Street, Manchester, (Office Hours, 9 to 12-30 and 1-30 to 5-15. Saturdays 9 to 12 noon).

Visitors by appointment.

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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.

JANUARY, 1938.

## "1938."

LOOKING back over the past history of our Movement, we find much of interest.

We recall to our minds the names of those who were responsible for such an organisation being formed. Following them as though in one long procession are the men and women who carried the banner forward but who have now entered the higher life.

Although it may be said by some "we knew them not" their interest has not ceased to shed a ray of light upon our work of to-day.

Then comes those who are still in the body, who appear to have grown weary in well doing. While others there be who continue to give of their best year in and year out always in service.

Looking forward we face the future with either the spirit of hope or the shadow of fear in our minds, Bishop Watson once said "Planters of trees ought to encourage themselves, by considering all future time as present; indeed such consideration would be a useful principle to all men in their conduct of life, as it respects both this world and the next." The forest of trees planted by those we have recalled to our minds have become neglected in many parts of our Movement; thus it is that there are to be found those who enter this new year with a shadow of fear in their minds as to the future of our Cause.

To remove such fears we require a new band of workers who will start planting trees of hope before the old forest sinks into decay.

Planters who link up the present with the future, those who have a full realisation that they are linking up with a strong spiritual band of inspirers who have a desire to rebuild our organisation to become a world force.

Then with Longfellow "let us not look mournfully into the past, it comes not back again; wisely improve the present, it is thine; go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear and with a manly heart."

If you should have fallen by the wayside, lost interest, your enthusiasm almost dead, remember there is a cause which needs your services more now than in any other time of its history.

Its future is in the hands of those of the present age, those who are ready and willing to sacrifice time in caring for the young.

Hundreds of Churches have still a closed door to children. Many due to lack of workers. It might be you who holds the key which will unlock the door and let the children in.

"1938" brings with it a clarion call to all Lyceum-ists to enter the year with great hopes for revival.

Many stumbling blocks of the past are being removed from our pathway.

The spirit of unity in service is taking hold of our various sections.

The vision of a Greater Movement is seen before our eyes.

The failures of the past are being swept from our midst, the outlook is bright before us.

It remains for us as individuals to make this year the turning point in our history. Let us then fail not in our undertaking, but go forward with determination to win through.

(Continued from page 1.)

Where our 'loyal' readers can help is by insisting that the request is not overlooked or shelved.

**Inter-relations.** The resolution of last Conference, instructing the M.C. to explore the possibilities of promoting closer harmonious working arrangements with the S.N.U., has been acted upon and hopes run high that, very soon, an agreed scheme of inter-working may be submitted. A draft scheme has been prepared by the M.C. and offered to the S.N.U. Council for their consideration. The Council, in turn, will instruct the S.N.U. section of the joint Inter-relations Committee and at the meeting of that Committee in February, it is confidently expected, a final drafting of recommendations for both A.G.M.'s will be formulated. On both sides a spirit of willingness to find a mutually satisfactory agreement is evident which augurs well for a final success.

**Home Fund.** This matter is still under consideration by the Trustees of the Union but present indications are that controversial points are being cleared away and an early settlement can be expected.

If we, as a body, and working hand in hand with our friends of the S.N.U., determine on that 'United Effort' mentioned earlier in our remarks 1938 should be a great year for our Movement; A truly 'Happy New Year.'

J. SLIMIN,  
President B.S.L.U.

(Continued from page 9.)

has previously spoken on the motion before the meeting.

- (2) It can be debated in the same way as any other amendment. (Owing to its 'mythical' nature it naturally follows that the debate continues on the original motion.)
- (3) It cannot be moved to an amendment.
- (4) If carried (under the words "That that Question be not now put), the meeting has decided not to vote on 'that' Question (the original motion) and proceeds to next business.
- (5) If the 'Previous Question' is negatived the Chairman immediately puts the original motion to the meeting.

# PROCEDURE.

## ARTICLE IV.

By J. SLIMIN, A.N.S.C.

An outline of rules and suggestions for the conduct of meetings, especially those held under the auspices of the Lyceum and Spiritualist Church Movements.

### THE QUESTION "STATED" and "PUT."

A POINT in debate which does not receive the prominence it deserves is that there is a distinct difference between "stating" and "putting" a question.

The Chairman should 'state' the Question whenever requested to do so and as often as he considers it necessary. Provided this rule is not carried to the point of irritation or frivolity, the repetition involved can be very useful, for it serves to emphasise the meaning of the Question and disclose its true intention. It also acts as a check on 'wandering' and tends to keep discussion within the bounds of the subject matter of the Question.

In 'stating' a Question, the Chairman reads out the written motion or amendment and allows the debate to proceed. When a Question is 'put,' its reading is immediately followed by a request that the votes of the meeting, for and against, be recorded.

### FORMAL MOTIONS.

Mention has been made of Formal Motions and these may now be dealt with.

Five, only, need be considered here, as only in very exceptional cases are any others encountered. They are exempt from the rule requiring notice of motion or a place on the agenda, and cannot be amended or debated. In each case they are 'interruptions' in the normal course of debate and must be dealt with summarily; otherwise they could become dangerous weapons in the hands of the obstructionist.

The five motions for our present consideration are:—

- (1) "That the meeting proceed to consider the next business."

This motion is very drastic in its effect as it not only renders abortive any discussion that may have taken place on the motion before the meeting, but prevents any further discussion on it. It also takes away the mover's right of reply.

No discussion is allowed on this motion nor is its seconder allowed any speech beyond a formal seconding. On its being seconded it is put to the meeting forthwith and, if carried, next business is proceeded to accordingly.

- (2) "That the meeting do now adjourn."

This Motion, in its unembellished form, should only be used when provision has been made for a resumption of the meeting at a future date or time.

If a time or place is included in the motion only these items are subject to amendment. Discussion must be strictly limited to them and must not question the policy or advisability of the adjournment.

- (3) "That the debate (or question) be adjourned for the purpose of:—"

This motion serves a very useful purpose when matters of emergency arise during the course of a meeting. Care must be taken, however, that no other subject of debate is introduced except that mentioned in the motion. The Chairman may, at his discretion, suspend or adjourn a debate to introduce urgent or important business.

As soon as the business for which the debate was

interrupted is disposed of the original discussion is resumed from the point where interrupted and the original Question is before the meeting.

- (4) "That the Question be now put."

Commonly known as 'The Closure' this motion is put to the meeting without speech or discussion. If it be carried the Chairman calls upon the mover of the original resolution to reply to the discussion thereon after which the vote is taken. If the closure motion is negatived the debate is resumed at the point of interruption.

- (5) "The Previous Question."

This is, undoubtedly, the least understood of all forms of Parliamentary procedure and, in consequence, it is seldom used. More often than not, when it does happen to be proposed, its usefulness is rendered ineffective through misunderstanding on the part of the Chairman or members of the meeting; or both. Nevertheless, it is, when properly used, a very useful and effective measure and worthy of a fuller understanding than is generally accorded to it.

It sometimes happens, after a motion has been debated, that the meeting is of the opinion the question is one in regard to which it should not give a decision. No move may be made to have the Motion withdrawn; motions for proceeding to next business or the adjournment may be inadvisable, so provision has been made to meet the situation and embodied in "The Previous Question."

Any member, *who has not spoken to the motion before the meeting*, may move 'The Previous Question,' and proceed to debate the original motion. When he has resumed his seat the Chairman asks for a seconder and on its being seconded he 'states' the original motion and proceeds as follows:—"Since which The Previous Question has been proposed. The question now is 'That *that* question be not now put!'"

If it be remembered that, of necessity, there must be a question before the meeting and that any motion (except a formal motion) is open to amendment, it is apparent that 'The Previous Question' is virtually an amendment and, though it takes precedence over all other amendments, it cannot be accepted when there is another amendment before the meeting. If, however, the original amendment is accepted and becomes a substantive motion the 'P.Q.' can then be moved.

Too often the Previous Question is looked upon as an antagonistic or 'stifling' motion. In reality it is quite the opposite, for it is 'Pacific' yet diplomatic in its nature; merely the introduction of a mythical, or 'ghost' question as an attempt to prevent the making of an undesirable decision. No previous question can, in reality, exist as they must have been dealt with by the meeting and have ceased to be 'questions.' The motion for the 'Previous Question' actually proposes that something intangible or indefinite be substituted for the definite 'Question.'

Rules governing 'the Previous Question' may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) It cannot be proposed or seconded by anyone who

(Continued on previous page.)

## THE STREETS OF CAIRO

By J.H.D.

THE streets of Cairo are of two kinds—broad, modern streets with fine shops, such as can be seen in almost any European capital, and narrow congested streets of the native quarter. It was the latter we wished to explore, but, as it was 'not safe for English ladies to go alone' we made arrangements for a guide to accompany us.

At 9 a.m. next morning Hassan appeared, armed with a huge green umbrella lined with white, and he insisted on our being similarly equipped, as Egypt in August is very hot. His 'umbrellas, ladies' was sure to be heard if one dared to step into the glaring sunshine uncovered.

We drove through the modern streets in a quaint open carriage, and presently the streets became narrower, the shops smaller, and the buildings higher. We passed many coffee houses where the small tables on the pavement outside were generally occupied by men smoking nargilehs, drinking coffee, and enjoying a game of draughts or dice.

At the door of one picturesque house stood a long narrow cart, upon which men were placing new furniture—chairs upholstered in pale pink brocade. "A removal?" I exclaimed. "No—not a removal, but a wedding procession" replied Hassan. It is the custom for newly married people to parade the streets with all their furniture displayed, so that people can see what a beautiful home they are to possess.

The streets became so narrow that it seemed impossible to proceed further in the carriage, so we dismissed it and went on foot. What a jumble it was. People, donkeys, and occasionally a vehicle crowded in a street a few yards wide. The heat was terrific, but we forgot discomfort in the amazing scenes around us. Men clothed in long, coloured shirts with loose robes over them, and their heads covered with turban or fez, women in loose black clothes, their faces covered with yashmaks made of course black crêpe with a little gilt cylinder between their eyes. How mysterious they looked! Their lustrous eyes were free to see everything, but their features were entirely concealed by the yashmak. Some of the better class women wore yashmaks of thin white gauze. In recent years there has been a tendency for the more advanced women to discard the veil entirely, and wear European dress. It was a curious sight to see six or eight women crowded together on a small flat cart drawn by a small white donkey. They were coming to the bazaar to do their shopping.

The tiny shops on either side were little more than cupboard like recesses in the ground floor, and were fitted with shelves upon which were displayed the wares. Men of one trade usually congregated in the same street, so that all the tinsmiths' shops are together and in other bazaar are the pottery shops. I wanted a pair of coloured leather slippers with up-curved toes, worn by Cairenes, so we visited the shoemakers' bazaar.

Although the heat made us terribly thirsty we did not think we could drink the water from a goatskin bag carried by a waterseller, but when a man appeared carrying a beautifully decorated brass box, and a tray of tiny glasses and brass cups tinkling tunefully, we

enquired what he was selling. "Sweet water, and very good" said Hassan. "Is it fit for us to drink?" we eagerly asked, and being assured it was we each bought a glass. It looked and tasted like liquorice water and was quite nice.

Have you ever felt how well you could use a third hand to hold fast, for instance, two pieces of wood you wished to nail together? Some of the woodworkers in the shops had the equivalent of a third hand, for they could guide their chisels with their toes quite easily whilst their hands were otherwise engaged.

We entered a shop to buy scent. After we were seated, a tray was brought and with much ceremony we were given cigarettes and Turkish coffee in very small cups. The coffee was very thick and sweet like syrup. It was very charming to have coffee and cigarettes given, even though we did not like the coffee and did not smoke the cigarettes. The lemonade we had presented in the silk shop was much more to our taste.

In the midst of the noise and turmoil of the crowded street, where every moment there was something to attract the attention, I heard the sound of a musical tinkle. It was not a waterseller. What could it be? Then I saw some children running after a man, who carried in his hand a long pole surmounted by a tin box, which rattled as he walked. He was an Egyptian edition of the Pied Piper, but it was not music that attracted all the boys and girls, it was "toffee." Any child who was lucky enough to have a coin gave it to the man—he lowered his pole which was thickly covered with sticky pink and white toffee, and tore off with his dirty hands a piece of the sweetmeat. This he gave, unwrapped, to the purchaser. I *did not* try a piece.

Where did all these people live? What kind of homes did they occupy? The better-class houses were sometimes very large, with many rooms built round a courtyard, the windows looking into the street being closely latticed, so that the women within could not be seen from the street, but in a street of small mud houses, I peeped inside one and saw on the floor of dried earth only one article of furniture and that was a low bed. Close by the house three women sat on the ground grinding corn in a hand mill.

As we left the bazaars we were followed by the usual crowd of street hawkers selling beads, flywhisks and other things. I bought a flywhisk for two piastres (about 6d.) and found it extremely useful for the swarms of flies which hovered round. Among the hawkers was a man carrying cloth pictures made by sewing coloured cut out shapes on to coarse white cloth, I wanted one of these and glanced at them. "Fourteen shillings lady," he said. I walked on saying not a word. "Lady, twelve shillings" he urged. No reply from me. "Lady, eight shillings you give me." Still no indication that I had heard, but he persisted and when he said "Lady you of good family, I see you two for two shillings"—I turned, gave him two shillings and became the proud possessor of two Egyptian appliqued cloths.

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Words are wise men's counters; they do but reckon by them, but they are the money of fools.—*Thomas Hobbes.*

# IS THE LYCEUM PROGRESSIVE?

By EVA C. DEAN.

**M**R. FRUIN has given an account of the London Lyceum Rally held at Marylebone House on October 16th. Having attended same, I offer my impressions and comments.

A great deal was said about the apathy of the Churches. The reason, I think, was answered by the Conductor's and Secretaries in the criticism levied against the Union and Lyceumism. One conductor was in despair, because boys of fifteen years of age drift away, as teaching fails to hold when they can think for themselves.

If that be so, the Lyceum cannot be called progressive.

If we are progressive, we are advancing gradually and improving; due to the result of a changed outlook or revolt. It does not necessarily follow that we must accept everything termed "modern." Experience must always be our guide, and experience only comes with time or age. The effect of experience should break down all prejudiced views and preconceived ideas and form the basis of our attitude towards our judgment and decisions for the future. Our structure will therefore be a changing one. Out-worn methods will be discarded in order to make way for new and progressive ones. If such are not forthcoming, let us delve into the past to find something that has lapsed but could be revived and again serve a useful purpose.

The Lyceum Manual could be termed a modern book, yet it was criticised for its absurdities and not up to date. I suggest that the Manual is the result of revolt of the pioneers of modern Spiritualism and is an extremist's book, in so far as it is a break-away from the orthodox Bible and Christian teaching. I contend that the up to date Spiritualist is one who would modify the pioneers outlook and affirm that his revolt is not against Christianity, but against Churchianity. From this stand-point he would like to see the teachings of Jesus revived in the Lyceum and other books introduced.

At the Rally it was suggested that conductors needed training. I suggest some books worthy of study. The Bible, in the light of Modern Spiritualism, in respect to the psychic happenings. The teachings of Jesus with an Eastern background, given by somebody with a knowledge of the East.

"Discourses through the mediumship of Mrs. Cora L. W. Tappan." I believe the book is now out of print, but if a copy could be obtained, then each month a lecture might be published in THE LYCEUM BANNER. Particularly would I like Lyceumists to read the discourse, "What great Teacher has produced the most potent effect upon Society, and Why."

There they would read; "We know that there is a very strong argument against the originality of Christ's teachings, and that materialists and infidels have searched history and found a parallel between the teachings of Christianity and those of other religions;

that there was something similar in the writings of Confucius, and that other teachers taught the golden rule; but Christ was the first teacher who embodied his teachings in the loving works of his life and hands. Christ was the first teacher to awaken the consciousness that spirit is superior to matter, and that the soul transcends the casket in which God has placed it."

I would also suggest the "Vale Owen Scripts;" Books by Geraldine Cummins; "Spirit Teachings" by Stanton Moses.

Conductors in London have a splendid opportunity to attend free lectures at the British Museum. On Saturday afternoons at 3 p.m. there is an interesting lecture on "The story of Man." This would be a good subject for passing on to children. Other lectures allude to superstitions of the past, which could be compared to our present knowledge of the spirit world. There is so much that could be used for children and Study Groups, and with the Advent of the Knight Crusaders, Lyceumism should be progressive.

## THE YEAR.

What can be said in New-Year rhymes,  
That's not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go,  
We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,  
We lie down weeping with the night.

We hug the world until it stings,  
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,  
We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,  
And that's the burden of the year.

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox.*

## THE PAST.

I fling my past behind me, like a robe  
Worn threadbare in the seams, and out of date.  
I have outgrown it. Wherefore should I weep  
And dwell upon its beauty, and its dyes  
Of Oriental splendour, or complain  
That I must needs discard it? I can weave  
Upon the shuttles of the future years  
A fabric far more durable. Subdued,  
It may be, in the blending of its hues,  
Where sombre shades commingle, yet the gleam  
Of golden warp shall shoot it through and through  
While over all a fadeless lustre lies,  
And starred with gems made out of crystallised tears  
My new robe shall be richer than the old.

*—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.*

# UNCLE BERT'S LETTER.

FOR  
HOME  
AND  
OVER  
SEAS

My dear Boys and Girls,

In my December letter, I told you of a visitor coming to see you while you were playing shut eye.

I understand he came to see you all, for I have still to hear of the little boy or girl who Santa Claus forgot.

It was wonderful how he seemed to know just what you wanted, for the presents he left were just the right ones.

That railway engine, the new dolly, a new game, handbags, gloves, shoes, ties and a hundred and one other gifts. I think it was very kind of him.

This month, by the time you read this letter, another mysterious visitor will have been to see you and left each one of you another wonderful gift.

Strange to say he also came when most of you younger children were fast asleep.

This time, however, we knew the exact moment he was due to arrive, we also knew what his present was going to be, for he gave the same to every boy and girl, every man and woman.

He treated everyone alike, why he even gave the King and Queen, the Little Princesses, the same as the little boys and girls in the slum districts.

Of course you have yours: I wonder if you like it, and if you have made up your minds how you are going to use it, for it is just left to each one to please themselves.

Some of you will treasure it, using it every moment, others will not take a great deal of notice of it and just let it lie idle, but I wonder what we can do with it. I am taking it for granted that you all know what the gift is, but in case some of you might be too young to understand I had better explain a few things about it and its giver.

First, the visitor, his name is Father Time. He arrives each year exactly at twelve o'clock midnight on the last day of the year.

He either borrows an erasure (otherwise known as Rubber) or uses a magic wand to alter the figures of the year on the calendar.

This year, for instance, he removed the figure seven and put an eight in its place, thus changing 1937 to read 1938.

It is such a wonderful performance that the whole world gets excited about it.

Church bells are set ringing, hooters in motor cars are sounded, sirens from factories and ships are heard, railway engines whistle, dark haired boys rush about up and down streets to be the first to enter houses. People shake hands or kiss each other. While many other methods are also used. Why is there all this excitement? It is because Father Time has given everyone his gift "A New Year." Now we must see what we intend doing with it.

It is like this letter I write to you each month, It is just a pad of clean white paper. As I sit with it in front of me I have to decide what I shall do with it.

In a few seconds I can either spoil it by making ugly marks on it or I can endeavour to use it to convey

some helpful lessons for you to read, which I trust will bring you happiness.

On the other hand I could just put it aside, saying I'm not going to bother about writing letters each month: why should I worry about trying to make others happy, no, let someone else do it.

Everyone of you will have to decide what you are going to do with this wonderful gift in a similar way.

You do not all write letters of course, but you may be an officer or member of a Lyceum, and as one lady wrote to me recently regarding a Lyceum where only only one or two children attend each week, she says "Is it worth while?"

It may be that you get tired of doing the same things each week, and instead of learning new pearls, songs, and recitations, you decide you will not bother: in other words you are going to let this gift be idle.

Perhaps you have only considered these points from a one sided angle. You have thought about yourself, but forgotten that your effort is helping someone else. Then I am going to suggest to each reader that they accept this gift with open hands as an opportunity of making a great resolution that they will endeavour to make full use of this new year to help others. In doing so Auntie Ruth and Cousin Doris join me in wishing you all "A Happy New Year."

I now want to strike a personal note regarding these monthly letters: As I said last month, this starts my fifteenth year.

As I look at my bookcase and see within the bound volumes and my past efforts I am not unmindful of the inspiration I have received from the spirit world. I am delighted too when I receive letters from mothers and fathers who once used to write me their simple childish letters.

When I started I used to have a large batch of children's letters sent me each month, this was due to the fact that a senior member of the Lyceum acted as the Post Office between the children and myself, that is, they used to stand the expense of the postage by sending letters in batches. Amongst these were Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Randolph Hope, Mr. Sam Briggs, and others. Some have entered the Higher life and others have not taken their place.

This year I want to see if we cannot revive this closer link, so I am seeking such helpers, while I appreciate the services of those who are still helping me.

Then before I decide on my programme for this year I want to know what kind of letters the children and workers find useful.

I know some of the leaders of children's group have been using them in sessions, therefore I want such leaders to let me know what they find helpful.

Knowing a large percentage of our membership comes under the heading of Youth: did you find my last year's messages of service to you?

In making this personal appeal I do so because I do not want to get into a rut myself and I do not want to use this page just because the Editor may consider it part of the Magazine.

Therefore I ask each reader to send me their views together with any suggestions, so that I can continue to be of Service to you and the Cause.

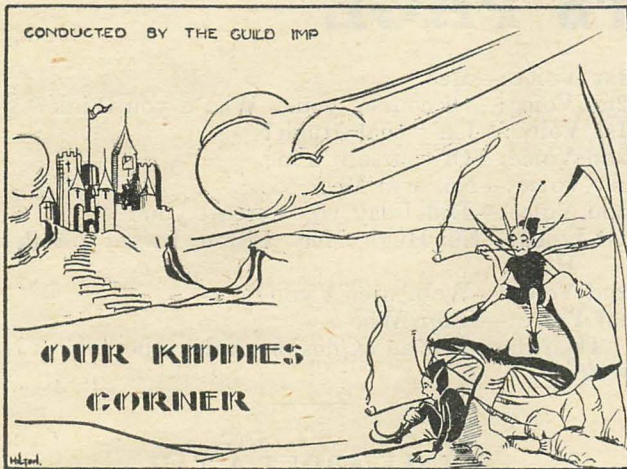
Let us all enter the new year with that strong determination to work for the Lyceum Movement, bringing it back to its old standard.

Greetings to all,

Rubberondo,

126 Woodlands Road,  
Isleworth, Mddx.

UNCLE BERT.



Dear Little Imps,

A happy New Year to each one of you! That's an old, old, wish, but one which we all like to give, and we certainly all like to receive it.

Really, I suppose every new day starts a new year, and we shouldn't need to talk so much about January 1st. But, we simply don't think like that. Indeed, I'm sure everybody feels as I do, that there's a lovely *newness* about the first day of each New Year. It always seems to be a day packed full of happy hopes. No wonder we welcome it.

Now for our story!

#### FAIRYLAND'S GIFT.

Fairyland was all excitement! The old year was almost gone, and the brave, smiling little New Year was being helped as he made ready to go to earth.

He looked such a tiny mite that some of the older fairies shook their heads a little as they murmured: "What can *he* do on the earth? The old Year is tired out with all his work. Little New Year doesn't look fit to take the Old Year's place. There is so much work for a year to do."

A young fairy heard all these sad murmurings and said cheerily: "Oh! don't feel so miserable about the little fellow! Didn't the Old Year look just like that when *he* went to earth? Well, *he* did his work all right. New Year will do just as well, never fear!"

One of the fairies thought for a moment about the words of her young friend, and then said: "You are quite right. I think little New Year will do his work quite well. The only trouble is that all the earth people, all over the world, seem so frightened just now. I wish we could think of a way for New Year to chase away their fears!"

"That's very true!" said a third fairy. "I know! Let us all go and talk about this with our Queen. Surely, one of we fairies can think of a clever way of helping the people."

So off they all went to seek an interview with the Fairy Queen.

The Queen listened very carefully to all their talk, and then she laughed as she said: "Really, fairies, you are nearly as bad as the people of earth. Fancy fairies being afraid that a New Year can't do his work properly. If you are so frightened about him, remember to do what fairies should always do—*chase every*

*fear with a hope.* Of course we can help little New Year. Get busy, and weave your fairy spells around him."

Little New Year never, never, guessed that the fairies were worried about him. He wasn't a bit worried himself, but just very eager to be off and away on his journey to earth. He'd peeped down at the Old Year, and couldn't but be surprised that just 365 days on earth should make anyone look so old. He hoped he wouldn't grow like that. Well, one more night's rest, and then, heigh-ho, he'd be on the earth. Wouldn't that be jolly?

He folded his shiny little wings around him and settled off to sleep, with just one tiny wonder in his mind that the fairies should so carefully tuck him up ready for sleep that night.

Had little New Year only known he wouldn't have been quite so surprised at his visit to earth. Those fairies had carefully tucked him up for the night, all right, but they'd done much more than that.

As they helped him fold his wings, so that not a new feather would be crushed, or bent, they'd tucked a little something away under every single feather—a little present from Fairyfolk to Earthfolk!

Just before the Old Year said "Goodbye" to earth, Little New Year awakened, and flew to the gateway to Tomorrow, ready to start his work. His wings felt a little queer, but he didn't quite know why at first. He soon found out.

Amid a chorus of "Good luck! little New Year," he flew to that wonder gateway to await his moment for entering earth. As he flew, his wings made a strange new, musical sound, and, as he neared earth, from under each tiny feather a gem, pure as a dew-drop, dropped to earth.

The Old Year, left the earth, just one moment before the New Year reached it and the old one's eyes shone with happy excitement, as he saw those gems reaching earth, with his new little brother.

Earth people smiled too and shouted cheerily "A Happy New Year."

Only the fairies knew that their beautiful little gifts had already begun their magic with earth people. A million, million new and bright hopes shone out their welcome to a happy New Year.

Did you catch any of those hopes, Imps? I hope so.

Lots of love,

MEG.

#### PEARLS.

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.—*Francis Bacon.*

Words are like leaves, and where they most abound Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.—*Pope.*

No man that imparteth his joys to his friend, but he joyeth the more.—*Francis Bacon.*

Ill habits gather by unseen degrees, As brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.—*Dryden.*

True hope is swift and flies with swallow's wings, Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.

—*Shakespeare.*

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## SMILE A WHILE.

### PECULIARITIES.

"Every man has his peculiarities," said Mark Lemon, "but I think I am as free from them as most men; at any rate, I don't know what they are." After a pause Albert Smith enquired, "Which hand do you shave with sir?" "With my right hand," replied Lemon. "Ah," returned Smith, "That's your peculiarity; most men shave with a razor."

### A BAD BARGAIN.

A story is told of the famous Richard Brinsley Sheridan, that one day, when coming back from shooting with an empty bag and seeing a number of ducks in a pond, while near by a man was leaning on a fence atching them, Sheridan asked:

"What will you take for a shot at the ducks?"

"Well," said the man thoughtfully, "I'll take half a sovereign."

"Done," said Sheridan, and he fired into the middle of the flock, killing a dozen or more. "I'm afriad you made a bad bargain," said Sheridan, laughing.

"I don't know about that," replied the man, "They're not my ducks."

Naughty boy (with recollections of the dentist) to schoolmaster who is about the administer cane, "Please sir, may I have gas?"

### NOT FAR WRONG.

Johnny had been taken by his governess to his first concert. He did not pay much attention to the vocal and pianoforte solos, but showed great delight at the performance of the violinist.

His loud chuckles were noticed by his governess, and, on their return home she said, "Now Johnny, tell mother how you liked the violin."

"Oh, mamma," said the boy, "it was the shape of a turkey, and as big as a goose, and the man turned it over on its back, and tickled it with a stick. It did squeal."

There is a man in Kansas City whose name is Burst. It would not have attracted so much attention had he not called his children Annie May and Ernest Will.

### THE WINDS IN WINTER.

North winds send hail, South winds bring rain,  
East winds we bewail, West winds blow amain;  
North-east is too cold, South-east not too warm,  
North-west is too bold, South-west doth no harm.

*Thomas Tusser, 1524-1580.*

### TELEPHONE CONVERSATION.

1st Voice:—Hello, is that Hugh?

2nd Voice:—Yes, it's me. Who's that?

1st Voice.—This is Mee.

2nd Voice:—Well, what's your name?

1st Voice:—Mee.

2nd Voice:—Of course, you. Who'd you think?

1st Voice:—Isn't that Hugh?

2nd Voice:—Of course it's me.

1st Voice:—No, I'm Mee.

2nd Voice:—Did I say you weren't you?

1st Voice:—Not Hugh, Mee. Listen, I want to talk to Hugh.

2nd Voice:—Well, aren't you?

1st Voice:—Hugh Who?

Then there was an explosion at the other end of the wire.

### A TALE ABOUT A TAIL.

The rabbit's tail is short and fat,  
The tiger's tail is long;  
The mouse's tail is thin and frail,  
The monkey's tail is strong;  
The elephant wears one tail behind,  
And one upon his face;  
While Mr. Snake is just a tail  
That has no parking place.

### QUEER BOOKS.

Bad Bargains—by Margot Dunn.

The Siamese Twins—by Esau Double.

The Cobbler—by Sola Neil.

A Short Circuit—by U. C. Sparks.

The Burglar—by Will E. Steele.

The Comforter—by Justin Casey Howells.

Should I?—by Y. Knotte.

The Running Nose—by Ivor Colde.

The Guide—by Hugo First.

Brass Bands—by Watt A. Dinn.

### HOWLERS.

A barbarian is a man who doesn't shave.

A furrer is a man who takes you across a river for twopence.

Moths eat least of all, because they eat holes.

Water is melted steam.

A sheep is mutton covered with wool.

### LIMERICKS.

There's a certain young man in the East,

Whose extravagant ways have increased.

You can guess what he's like,

By his new motor-bike—

Well, it must have cost fourpence at least.

A forgetful young fellow named Fred

Shut his friend in the bicycle shed,

Then he hung up the cat,

Gently put out his hat,

And took up his push bike to bed.

(Continued from page 2).

wonderful than those I have already described, for I want to end this talk by telling you of just one example of how the body as a whole works to protect itself from any danger that might threaten it.

First of all your eyes saw something frightening, say a bull chasing you. When your brain got the message from your eyes that the bull was after you it 'decided' that this was dangerous and something must be done about it. As quick as lightning it sent a message to the adrenal gland, which is a small tube on the top of your kidneys. As a result of this message the adrenal gland poured a little chemical, called adrenin, into the artery which passes near it. This chemical, in its turn, did several things. First of all it made the capillaries near the skin a little smaller, so that less blood could pass through them. This made more blood available for the muscles of the legs and other parts of the body which needed more and also lessened the amount near the skin should this have happened and so reduce the amount of bleeding should you have been injured. The adrenin in the blood also makes it dry up, or clot, more quickly, again lessening possible bleeding. At the same time the heart was made to pump faster, so that the muscles should get all the food they needed for strenuous activity, and because your heart beat faster your lungs had to follow suit and you breathed more quickly. Not only this, but your stomach stopped its work of digestion, again to make more blood available for the muscles; and the spleen did its share by squeezing new blood into the arteries, for it is the spleen that 'manufactures' new blood as the old wears out. Finally, the muscles, as a result of the adrenin became more strong, so that you could run faster or jump higher than you ever could have done if you were not frightened. So you see that the single message to the adrenal gland made it possible for you to get away from the danger that was threatening you as quickly as possible. Had you been an animal all this would have happened and your hair would have stood on end. (Have you ever seen an angry or frightened cat with its hair all bristling?) This is so that an attacker would get a mouthful of hair rather than of skin. If you had a very terrible and sudden fright you might have found that you could not move at all. This is because the adrenal gland had poured out too much adrenin and had poisoned you, so to speak. Yet this would have its value, for as a result you would have to stand perfectly still and so perhaps you would be mistaken for something else by your attacker. You do hear of people being 'petrified by fright,' but you can often see animals so affected. Rabbits are good examples of this. If they hear you coming they will bolt away, but if you come upon them suddenly they sit perfectly still and very often you cannot see them till they have recovered from their fright and start to run away.

Anger and joy, curiously enough, have similar effects upon the adrenal gland and while an active adrenal gland is perfectly healthy and good we must take care that we are not either angry, frightened or particularly happy, at meal times, for you see the stomach cannot do its work on the food that you are eating. If you go on trying to make the stomach do something it does not want to you are asking for trouble by the way of indigestion and so on. Thus you see that it is absolutely necessary that you should have your meals quietly and unhurriedly if you want to help your body do its work properly and give you no pain.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

### LEEDS DISTRICT.

The quarterly meeting was held on Dec. 4th, at the Leeds (Psycho) Church, commencing at 8-30 p.m.

The President, Mr. Wainwright, occupied the chair. A local was given by Mrs. Proctor. The President welcomed all delegates, associates, officers and friends. He drew attention to the need to draw up some satisfactory scheme for the Silver Bell Competition. He said that the Interchange of Conductors was disappointing, since only four Lyceums were participating. The financial position is somewhat depressing. He suggested some efforts on the social side, to foster deeper friendships and to keep Lyceumists in touch with each other.

The Minutes were accepted and confirmed. Correspondence was accepted. The D.V. reported that he had visited seven Lyceums. In addition he had approached Morley (Queen St.), Birstal and Cleckheaton, and had invited them to affiliate with the Council and the Union.

It was agreed that the Secretary write to Hull No. 1 Lyceum, inviting them to join the Council in 1938.

There were two written reports regarding Interchange, and one verbal report. Ideas were expressed regarding this feature of Council activity.

The Treasurer reported Balance General Fund accounts 2s. 8½d. The financial statement was accepted.

Two meetings had been attended by the L.D.C. delegate, one at Normanton and the other at Cudworth. All reports were accepted.

In the Silver Bell Progress Scheme the following was the result—Batley 88; Armley 87; Batley Carr 86; Castleford 83; York 82; Liversedge 75; Royston 73; Psycho 71; Hull No. 1 70; Dewsbury 66; Heckmondwike 64. Armley Lyceum had made most progress during the three years of the scheme and are entitled to the award of one dozen Manuals. Presentation of Bell and Certificates is to be made by Mr. Daisley, D.V., and Adjudicator, at the Batley Carr Lyceum on January 15th, 1938. Concert and light refreshments. Adults 6d.; children 3d. Time 7 p.m. One birthday, Mrs. Harris, Dewsbury. 10 renewals.

Suggested alterations for progress scheme; That Adjudicator present session; Open Hymn; Silver Chain; Golden Chain; Musical Reading; Closing Hymn. Time of session limited to one hour only. Opening arrangement to be dispensed with.

Invitation for 1938 Field Day was deferred until A.G.M. The invitation to hold the June conference at York was accepted. The Secretary is to try to arrange that the officers and delegates conduct the Sunday services. The A.G.M. is to be held at Armley if there are no other invitations.

A vote of thanks was moved by the President.

The closing date for receiving recommendations for the Silver Bell Progress Scheme is Jan. 15th. Closing date for nominations is Jan. 31st.

A. W. HARDING, Sec.

### LONDON DISTRICT.

Mr. John Stewart, Treasurer of the S.N.U. and President of the London District Council of the S.N.U., is also a keen Lyceumist.

For many years he has been a hard worker and strong supporter of all the Lyceum activities in the London district. As a mark of esteem the members of the Council and London Lyceums have made him a life associate of the Council, a position well merited.

### NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

N.E. Lancashire D.C. meeting was held at Blackpool on Saturday, Nov. 27th.

The President welcomed Mr. J. Taylor, M.C. Fraternal delegate from the Manchester D.C.

The Minutes were read and accepted. Agreed that the sum of £12 be paid to Mr. J. Shuttleworth in partial settlement of our debt, and the balance be paid as early as possible.

Mr. Taylor was invited to make use of the time normally allocated to the President's address, and invited questions from the delegates on D.C. or general Union working, etc. Several questions were put by various delegates, who received satisfactory answers.

*E.C. Report.* The E.C. reported the impossibility of Interchange of Conductors throughout the D.C., but suggested that it may be worked between two or three neighbouring Lyceums.

*Sports Day.* Agreed that the E.C. organise this effort in June, 1938, between the less widely separated Lyceums.

A Lyceumists' Membership Drive was also suggested by the E.C. and adopted.

*Credential Report.* E.C. 3. 13 delegates representing 8 Lyceums. 9 Lyceums unrepresented. Fraternal delegates 2. Associates 2. Visitors 2. Total present 22. Pool 7s. 2d.

*Treasurer's Report* showed a balance in the General Fund of £4 9s. 6d.

*D.V. Reports* showed Barrow (Harley Street) closed. Other visited Lyceums improving. The need of a D.V. (North) was discussed, but left in abeyance.

*Notice of Motion.* That Lyceums desiring to be adjudicated for the Shield should notify the D.C. Secretary of their wishes. Voting against overwhelming.

*Open Council.* Discussion re difficulty of arranging Adjudicator's visits to Blackpool. Agreed that Pooling Receipts be printed and given at all meetings. Date and place of next meeting (A.G.M.), Saturday, Feb. 26th, 1938, at Blackburn. D.C. Nomination Forms must be returned, completed, by Feb. 12th.

The meeting closed at 7-15 p.m. with a vote of thanks to local friends.

S. LIGHTBOWN, Sec.

#### SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The last quarterly meeting of the year was held at Duke Street, Shaw, on Saturday, Nov. 27th.

Mr. Shaw was elected Credential Officer, and his report showed 8 delegates: pool per delegate was 10d. The President spoke of being pleased to see Mr. Shaw somewhat recovered from his recent accident. He expressed the hope that the suggestion recently made for giving an added stimulus to the Lyceums in our Council would be borne in mind during this meeting.

The District Visitor reported visits to Regent Hall; Bacup; Roomfield (Todmorden); Baron Street, Dearnley.

He also reported visits to premises where formerly Lyceums were in session, namely, Heywood; Gilmour Street, and Old Hall Street, Middleton. Little hope is held out for their re-opening as yet.

The rota scheme was put in operation by the Lyceums represented at this meeting. The dates allotted to those Lyceums you should already be familiar with, the remaining Lyceums, it is hoped, will fall into line at a later date.

Congratulations. Regent Hall, winners of the Silver Bell for 1937, with a total of 69 marks, and quite a close finish, there being only three marks between five Lyceums.

The Bell will be presented to Regent Hall on Jan. 2nd, 1938, by Mr. Holt, President of the Council, at an Open Session to be held in the evening at the home Lyceum.

Our Annual Meeting will be held at Regent Hall, Rochdale, Feb. 12th, 1938.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

MR. HEALEY, Sec.

### SPECIAL REPORT.

WAKEFIELD.—Dec. 12th. Conductors: Mrs. Harding, Messrs. Hargate, Spurr, Talbot. Secretary: Mrs. Spurr. Treasurer: Mrs. Denison. Guardian: Jack Thorndyke. Asst. Musical Conductor: L. Talbot. Captain of Guards: Mr. Spurr. Guards: Masters Spurr and Thorndyke, Misses Spurr and Lunn. Group Leaders: Mrs. Harding, Mr. Talbot. Callisthenics Conductors: Herbert and Olive Spurr. Sick Visitors: Mesdames Harding, Spurr; Mr. Talbot. Representative Church Committee: Mrs. Harding. Auditors: Mr. Talbot, Olive Spurr. Delegates: Mesdames Harding and Spurr. Librarians: Masters Lunn and Thorndyke. Collector: Sheila Stead.

## 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 taking 12 copies, 25 words; 24 copies, 50 words; 36 copies, 75 words. Additional copy 6d. per nine words.*

ARMLEY.—Dec. 4th we held our Open Session. Individual efforts by Lyceumists made this a beautiful and harmonious session.—A. Massey, Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session, Dec. 5th. Conductor, Mrs. Carter. Pearls: Mr. Lord, James Taylor, Mr. Halsall, Mr. J. W. Taylor. Reading: Mrs. Lord. Quartettes: Alice Wright, Edna Taylor, Edith Taylor, Jean Taylor. Trio: Harry Salts, Kenneth Halstead, Harry Hollinsworth. Solos: Mrs. Lord, Harry Salts. Duet: Mrs. Lord, Dorothy Stott. Mrs. Carter, Harry Hollinsworth. Lyceum afternoon services conducted by Mr. Brady, of Manchester.—S. Carter, A.N.S.C., Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—Conducted by a young Lyceumist, we held an Open Session on Dec. 5th. Although the weather was not very inviting, we had a good number of children present who did their best to make it worth the effort. Gertie, Gwennie and Irene Watson, Jennie and Mary Nicholls, Lily Saunders, Peggy Murray, gave recitations. Mrs. Harper gave a solo. Best wishes to all Lyceums for the New Year.—R. Harding, Sec.

BLACKBURN.—On Sunday, Nov. 28th, we held our Open Session. The speaker for the day was Mr. E. A. Keeling, of Liverpool, who conducted the session. About 60 Lyceumists were present. Recitations by Joyce Entwistle and Janice Youd. Solo by Hazel Holding. Pearls were given by various Lyceumists. A Happy New Year to all friends, old and new.—S. Lighthown, Sec.

BRADFORD, Milton.—Dec. 5th, Presentation of Silver Bell, won in Shield and Bell Competition. Each Lyceum represented; and every Lyceumist present. A good session.—Mrs. Fowler, Sec.

CREWE.—We held our Open Session on December 5th. Recitations were given by Shelia Kay, Ada Gawthorne and Reg: Gawthorne. Pearls were given by nearly everyone present; and an enjoyable time was had by all.—Percy Buxton, Sec.

DONCASTER, Catherine Street.—We held our Open Session Dec. 5th, 2 p.m. Conductor, Mr. Trout. Mr. Trout gave the invocation. Musical reading was nicely explained by the younger Lyceumists. Also the following took an individual part: Mary Taylor, Rosie Badger, Albert Ball, Roy Skill and Doris Dunning. Marching and callisthenics very nicely done. Altogether spending a nice spiritual time.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

EARBY.—We held our Open Session on Dec. 5th, when the following Lyceumists took part:—Recitation: E. Greenhalgh, T. Bradley, E. Cryer, I. Davies, G. Blackburn, V. Fellows, B. Fellows, Misses E. Clark, E. Crossley, Mr. Millican. Duets and trios by I. Davies, V. Fellows, E. Cryer, E. Crossley, Mrs. Bradley. The Season's Greetings to all Lyceumists.—B. Smith, Sec.

LANCASTER Alliance.—Sunday, December 19th, we held our Open Session, the following Lyceumists obliged: J. Jewitt, V. Tedesco, E. Aldren, E. Downham. A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all Lyceums.—J. Gardner, Banner Sec.

MACCLESFIELD.—Dec. 18th was another red letter day in our history. Mrs. Pimblott gave the tea and most of the presents for our Annual Party. It was a cheering sight to see the tables with their load of good things decorated with crackers, toy fir trees, holly, etc. The Church members were included in the invitations, but the children had their tea first. The elder Lyceumists did their part as waitresses and waiters. The social afterwards was arranged by Miss Swindells, who had trained our children and brought one of her star pupils, Pauline Holden, who delighted all with her recitals. Dances, etc., were finely given by Lyceumists, recitals by Mabel Wood and Miss Swindells. Songs by an old friend, Miss Florrie Edwards. Then came the crowning point, the opening of a large snowball by Mrs. Pimblott and the presentation to every Lyceumist; from our old friend, Mrs. Wiltshire, to the three baby boys of our Lyceumists, by the ex-Mayoress, Mrs. G. Challinor (who had also given some of the prizes). A bouquet of chrysanthemums presented to Miss Edwards, and one to Mrs. G. Challinor, presented by Mrs. Pimblott. The ex-Mayor, Councillor G. Challinor, made a very fine speech, leading the cheers to Mrs. Pimblott for her kindness. Miss Kenyon moved the thanks of all Lyceumists, both to Mrs. Pimblott and Mrs. G. Challinor. Mrs. Pimblott, in reply, called for cheers for all who had done the dirty work. Councillor J. Potts presided and Mrs. McLerie and Mr. Donald Scott accompanied the items. Games, etc., were played afterwards.

On Sunday each Lyceumist received a bag with an orange and sweets, given by two Church members, who do not wish their names to be mentioned. A greeting was also read from Mrs. Mould.—Hannah Rushton.

MIDDLESBROUGH, Grange Road.—Nov. 22nd the Lyceum held a Service of Song entitled "An Angel in Disguise." Reader Miss Blackburn. 10-45, Mr. Nellist. 8 o'clock, Mr. Edwards.

Dec. 5th, Open Session. The following contributed: L. Dinsdale, W. Bateman, D. Bonsor, E. Ingham, N. Peirson, M. Peirson, M. Cartwright, D. Bonsor, B. Burnstone. An enjoyable time.—D. Bonsor, Sec.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Dec. 5th, Sunday Services, conducted throughout by Lyceumists. Individual and grouped singing, recitations, Lyceum Choir part-song and Conductor's address, all showed excellent progress.—E. Waite, Sec.

ROCHDALE, Regent Hall.—Dec. 4th, Lyceum Tea Party and Prize Distribution. Chairman, H. T. Blomley. Prizes given by Mr. J. Nurse. Also Conductor, Mrs. Buckley, and Secretary, Miss Maddox, took part. The following were the artistes: P. Allan, Mr. Eastwood, V. Chadwick, M. Isherwood, O. Rushworth, F. Machin, J. Nurse, E. Nurse, C. Reeves, L. Isherwood, Miss Matthews, Mr. Matthews, Miss Ingham, Mr. Raynor, Miss Yates.—H. T. Blomley, Sec.