

THE

LYCEUM BANNER

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PRICE TWOPENCE

HOW WE SEE.

BY MAURICE F. LOWE, PH.D., B.Sc., A.K.C., F.R.G.S.

WE have five 'spies' by which we are able to get to know what is going on in the world round about us. We call these 'spies' our senses, and their names are:—sight, hearing, smell, taste and feeling. Of these the chief is the sense of sight, and we sometimes call it our preferred sense, though you must not think that the remaining four are unimportant. Just ask a deaf person what he thinks about the loss of his sense of hearing! And we know how nasty our food tastes when we have a cold. In this condition we have not really lost our sense of taste at all, but the nasal passages are clogged up and we cannot smell. Actually we can only taste four sorts of things—the sour, the sweet, the salt and the bitter, though some people add two more tastes, the alkaline and the metallic, and all the flavours that we can taste, in our dinner, say, are as much due to our sense of smell as to that of taste.

Sine we are dependent upon our sense of vision, let us see if we can find out a little more about it. First of all, as you know, we see by means of our two eyes, both of which act just like a very beautiful camera. The eye is a ball about one inch across and filled with a watery liquid called the 'aqueous humour'. Light enters the eye by means of a lens—the pupil of the eye—and is brought to a focus on the back of the inside of the eye-ball. Incidentally the picture thrown on the retina by the lens of the eye is upside down, just like the picture in the camera is upside down, and the first thing we have to do when we are babies is to get to see things the right way up.

The picture is thrown on the back of the eye as we have already said and this is covered with a net work of tiny nerve endings each filled with a little substance called 'visual purple,' which is sensitive to light. When light falls on this substance it is changed somewhat—just as the chemicals of the photographic film are changed when the light falls upon it—and as a result of this change messages are sent along the nerves which connect the eye to the brain. When these messages get to the brain they are interpreted as a picture of what we can see in front of us.

In order to protect the delicate retina, as the light-sensitive region at the back of the eye is called—from damage from too bright a light falling upon it, a device, called the iris, is fitted just in front of the lens of the eye. This is the coloured part of the eye and we can see it at work as we do the following little experiment. Just stand in front of a mirror when it is dusk, and while you are still looking at the image

of your eyes in the mirror, just flash the light from an electric torch into them. Immediately you will see the coloured iris grow a little bigger and cover up a little more of the lenses of your eyes. When you switch off the light you will see the iris uncover a little more of the lenses of your eyes so that you can see better in the dim light.

Now I daresay that you have seen the photographer focussing his camera by pulling the lens of his camera a little further out if he wants to take a picture of something close to him, and push the lens in if he want to make a picture of a distant scene. Now the lens of the eye is just like that of the camera in that it cannot give a clear picture if a near and a distant object at the same time. You can test the truth of this statement for yourself if you will do the following little experiment. Just hold up your finger at arm's length in front of your face and look at it intently. Then if you notice you will see that the things on the opposite side of the room seem quite fuzzy. This is because the lenses of your eyes are focussed upon a close object. Now, keep your finger in the same place and this time look beyond it at the things on the opposite side of the room, and this time you will see that the tip of your finger appears fuzzy, this is because your eyes are now focussed on distant objects.

The eye lens cannot be pushed in and out like the camera, and yet it has to get over this difficulty of focussing, but really it has a much cleverer way of getting the same effect. All it does is to thicken the lens slightly when you look at something close and pull it a little thinner when you observe a distant object. Moreover, this focussing is entirely automatic, and this is more than the focussing of any camera can ever be.

Before we end this brief description of the working of the eye we must spend a little while on examining the retina. We have already seen that this is the region at the back of the eye which is covered by nerve endings supplied with a chemical that is sensitive to light. Now, where all these nerves join together to leave the eye to go to the brain is the only place in the retina which is not sensitive to light and so this place is called the 'blind spot.' We are all blind in this one place as you can test for yourself. Just take a strip of white paper and at one end of it make a small cross and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches away from it make a small circle about a quarter of an inch across.

(Continued on page 19).

Bits of China.

By HERBERT BLAND.

AT the present moment when China is suffering from the unwarranted attacks of the Japanese and when China is much referred to in our newspapers it may be of interest to BANNER readers to hear a little of China and the Chinese. In the first place no one should use the word "Chinamen." It offends the educated Chinese to be referred to as "Chinamen": the proper word is "Chinese."

The word "China" is a compound word composed of "Chin" and "Nga." The Emperor of Chin conquered the outer tribes and took their land into his own kingdom. "Nga" means "outer" or "outside" so that his lands became known as "Chin-nga" which means the Kingdom of Chin and the lands outside it. The foreigners, that is the Portuguese and the English, who were practically the first Europeans on the Chinese coasts, could not pronounce the "nga" but called it "na" hence they mispronounced "Chin-nga" as "China."

Only about two in one hundred Chinese are able to read and, except the very few educated Chinese, they know very little about the outside world. Most Chinese still think the world is flat. To them the map of the world presents a square with their country as a circle in the middle of it and everybody else in the world living in the four corners. That is why China is called in the Chinese language "Chong-ku" or The Middle Kingdom.

When the white man is walking about in the country in China the children run after him and call out "Yang kwen-tsz."

This has been translated into English as "foreign devil" but that is not correct.

Its proper translation is "foreign ghost" or "ghost from beyond the ocean."

In Chinese ghost stories the ghost always has blue eyes and a fair skin. Blue eyes among the Chinese are practically unknown, their own being always a very dark brown. The first blue-eyed men the Chinese saw were European sailors, literally men from beyond the ocean, and when they saw them the Chinese said "Here's a ghost from beyond the ocean" and many ignorant villagers still think that every white man they see is a ghost.

When the children call after the white man they do not intend to insult him—they are merely drawing attention to what they think is a great curiosity.

The word "yang" means "ocean." You will see in your newspapers in these days sometimes the word "Yang-tsz-kiang," the name of the great Chinese river. The Chinese call this river "the son of the ocean" on account of its great width and length.

When a Chinese child is born he is considered to be one year old and a year is regarded as completed as soon as the child enters it. Therefore it is possible for a child to be considered as three years old although he may have lived only one year and two days.

He can be born on December 31st, that makes him one year old, he lives through the next year, that makes him two years old and on the first day of the next year he is reckoned to be three years old.

Chinese children do not receive their permanent first names till several years after they are born. They

are first given a "milk name" and they keep that till they acquire a proper name years later.

In some of the lower class families in China the children are known by numbers and not by names, numbers such as Ah-doo, Ah-nyi, Ah-san, Ah-sz and Ah-woo which simply means No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5.

Nearly all the English and other foreign children out there have Chinese amahs or nurses and they can often speak Chinese which they learn from their amahs long before they can speak the English which mother tries to teach them.

If my younger readers would like to learn a little Chinese they can practice the following "Sz-seh-sz tsak tszkuk Tsz-sz."

When you can say it properly it means forty-four lionesses.

Chinese make wonderful shoe soles out of many different things; out of newspaper and old books, out of any old bits of cotton cloth and out of old motor car tyres which are shipped to China from Europe in thousands. Years ago the Christian missionaries used to give Bibles away to the poor Chinese but they stopped it when they found that the Chinese were making shoe soles out of them.

You may have wondered what used to become of old horse shoes before the motor car largely displaced the horse. They were sent to China and the Chinese made razors out of them. The present writer has had many a shave with a horse shoe razor.

Good Chinese food is amongst the best in the world and for flavour is superior to European food. A good Chinese cook can make almost anything taste good. Soup made from sharks fin and birds nests are two of their principal dishes and both are delicious.

The birds' nests from which they make soup are imported from the East Indies. When you see the birds' nest it looks like so much wicker work covered on the inside with a substance which looks like dirty grey gum. The wicker work is the nest and the dirty looking grey stuff, out of which the soup is made, comes from the inside of the mother bird when she is feeding her young. Birds' nest soup is a luxury only for the rich in China as the nests are very expensive.

In cases of extreme poverty the pariah or wild dog is often eaten and the chow dog which we see in England is descended from a race of dogs which the Cantonese used to breed for food. The word "chow" is really "chuh" and it means food, or the act of eating.

Sea slugs which the Chinese eat are about four inches long and look like sausages with legs. They taste rather like veal made of soft rubber.

Chinese worship the spirits of their ancestors and only the males may do this as women are supposed to have no souls and therefore the spirits would not listen to their worship.

White is the funeral colour, not black as with us, and the chief mourner is always the eldest son or the nearest male relative.

As the funeral goes through the streets, headed by a little band playing on flutes and banging on gongs the chief mourner is surrounded by a screen of white calico. Every now and again the procession stops so that the

chief mourner may kneel and pray for the departed but if you look down on him from an upper window you will notice that very often he is merely smoking a cigarette.

Chinese politeness is very complicated and no man is regarded as educated unless he knows all the proper forms of it.

It is proper to exaggerate the importance and value of everything which belongs to your friend and to underrate the value and importance of everything which belongs to yourself.

A Chinese gentleman will say to you "And what is the master's honourable and distinguished name?"

Then you reply "My wretched name, which is of no more value than a blade of grass, is ——."

Except among the Chinese who have been educated in America or in Europe the women never eat with the men when there are men guests present. The men eat alone and the women hang around the door and peep to see what is going on. In the restaurants and teashops the host invites professional singing girls to sing to his guests.

The girls arrive dressed in lovely satins and often wearing good jewellery, and they sit behind the guest for whom they are especially invited. They are accompanied by a native music master who teaches them their songs and plays them on a two-stringed fiddle.

The songs are in very old Chinese, so old that no one can understand them, not even the music master. The songs are always pitched in a very high key and to the European ear they sound like shrieking.

We say that the Chinese do everything backward, but they say that *we* do everything backward. They say that we cannot think straight and we say the same about them. They begin to write in the top right hand corners and write downwards. We begin in the top left hand corner and write across. We shake hands with our friends but the Chinese shakes hands with himself. We say fall in love before marriage and they say fall in love *after* marriage.

HOW WE SEE—*continued from page 17.*

Just like this: × ● Now close the left eye and look at the cross with the right eye—see that the circle is on the right of the cross—and starting with the paper at arms length away gradually bring it nearer to you. If you look steadily at the cross you should find, when the paper is about 10 inches away, that you can no longer see the circle. It disappears quite suddenly. This is because the image of the circle just falls upon the blind spot in the retina. You can, of course, do the same experiment with the left eye if you hold the paper so that the cross is on the right of this circle.

Now about these nerves on the retina once again. Those who have studied them have found that some are rod-like and some are in the shape of cones. They find that the rods are to be found chiefly at the edges of the retina and that they get fewer in number as its centre is approached, where there are actually none at all. On the other hand there are only cones at this place and these get fewer as the edges of the retina are approached. Now it can be shown by fairly simple experiments, about which perhaps I will tell you one day, that you can only distinguish between black and white when you use the edge of the retina.

So people have come to the conclusion that the rods are the means by which you can tell the difference between black and white, while the cones are the agencies by which colours are distinguished. This has a very important effect when we go about at night time. When it is dark most of the colours which we see by day have disappeared and shades of black and white take their place. But the most sensitive region of our eyes have only cones in them and this means that we cannot tell the difference between the shades of black and white. This accounts for the fact that many people cannot see properly in the dark, and possibly, too, this accounts for the fact that there are so many accidents on the roads at night time.

I have told you that the sensation of vision is due to the changes which light makes upon the chemical called visual purple. Now these changes cannot occur immediately but take something like a tenth of a second after it has been shown to us. Ordinarily we do not notice this short space of time but occasionally the pause is of the greatest importance. Suppose a man is driving a car when suddenly a little child dashes out into the road right in front of him. The driver must stop as quickly as he can, but it takes him about a quarter of a second for his eyes to work and for his brain to send the necessary messages along the nerves to his foot to tell it to put the brakes on. Now if the car was travelling at 30 miles per hour it will have travelled just about 11 feet in this time and even then the the brakes cannot possibly stop the car for at least another 30 feet, so from the moment the driver saw the child till the motor stopped it has travelled at least 40 feet, and remember many people cannot act as quickly as this. Just remember this the next time you want to cross a busy road and a car is coming.

Now for something pleasant. Just as it takes a fraction of a second for the light to make the retina of the eye work, so does it take a little while for the retina to stop working when whatever it has been seeing is topped. So when you switch a light off at night you see the light for a little time when there is really none there. This is called 'persistence of vision.' It is made use of in the cinema. What you really see is a series of still pictures which are flashed on to the screen for about a twenty-fifth of a second each. As one is replaced by the next a shutter comes in front of the cinema projector so that for a flash nothing is shown on the screen at all. When the shutter opens again the next picture is showing. The characters in the film are shown in slightly different positions in each separate picture and because of the persistence of our vision the effect of one picture is carried on to the next and we get the illusion that the players are moving about on the screen.

PEARLS.

Content is wealth, the riches of the mind;
And happy he who can that treasure find.—*Dryden.*

Happy the man and happy he alone,
He who can call to-day his own.—*Dryden.*

A generous friendship no cold medium knows,
Burns with one love, with one resentment glows.

—*Pope,*

WHAT IS PRAYER?

By WALTER TAYLOR, A.N.S.C.

SUBJECTS such as Faith Healing, Spiritual Healing and the Power of Prayer are very much to the fore to-day.

It is with the question of prayer that I am concerned at the moment.

That there is such a ready recognition of, and response to, the articles by the Rev. J. Maillard, appearing in *The People* some time ago, upon this subject in general, indicates that more and more people are becoming aware of a power which organised religion cannot comprehend and science cannot explain.

There are, however, various problems connected with the question of prayer upon which light will have to be thrown in order to convince the layman who leans towards a belief in prayer, that there is some justification for his belief.

In the first place we are told that the power of prayer is miraculous and that through the prayers of the devout the apparently impossible has been achieved.

One might pertinently ask then, why, in view of all the sincere people who, throughout the ages and to-day, have prayed, and are praying, for the benefit, improvement, and alleviation of the distresses of mankind, the economic, social and religious conditions of the world are not better than they are?

We need but go into the history of the human race to read the records of the good men and true, and not always prominent men, but those workers and strivers behind the scenes who, along with our great religious Founders and Teachers, have prayed often and earnestly for the true reformation of humanity, and yet, in spite of all these prayerful efforts, verbal and otherwise, the "lot" of mankind remains the same.

We may have progressed in a mechanical and scientific sense but we are still human beings as shewn down the ages, with the same old vices and virtues, the same follies and weaknesses, the same loves and hates, and still responding to that "One touch of nature which makes the whole world kin."

What I mean is that all good men at all times have desired the millenium, that far-off Utopia, when "Men to men shall brithers be an' a' that." We have prayed for these things, and yet we still have poverty, disease and death amongst us.

There is one question we must settle to our own individual satisfaction before we can come to any decision as to the efficacy or otherwise of prayer: that question is, "To Whom or to What do we pray?"

In those quiet moments when we pray, what do we visualise in our mind's eye when we think of Someone or Something receiving our supplication? Upon your conception of the Receiver of your prayers depends the truth, the depth, and what you may think to be the answer to your invocation.

Because, either God is a Person or He is not; and if He is not (as Spiritualists believe), then He must be a Force, an Energy; formless, indivisible, all-comprehending.

There are many people who would argue that it is

useless to speculate about the Deity: that the finite cannot comprehend the infinite. But I know that the germ of the infinite is within me, and only in-so-far as I develop those infinite possibilities can I become aware of God in any degree. My conception of God is determined by my spiritual qualities.

I may be wrong, but I cannot conceive of any thing or place or any manifestation of life, where God is not. So that when I pray I pray to *all* and *everything*, and from the "All" comes back my answer.

Perhaps it would be better to judge of a thing by its works: now what has Prayer done? I am reminded of the Harmony Prayer Meetings and of the many successes they have had in praying for people, in some cases hundreds of miles away, both in respect to health and other worries.

It does seem that to pray for others is the type of prayer most likely to be answered. To pray for ourselves and our own advancement does not seem to be right. One thing is sure, prayers for strength and guidance are always answered and wisdom is never refused.

But we must be prepared to supplement our prayers by action if needs be. "God helps the man who helps himself."

A true story told me by a friend illustrates that point best: Two miners were working together in a particular "district" in a coal mine when a "fall" of roof occurred. One of the men was of a religious frame of mind but the other man was a devil-may-care fellow. The roof fell in such a way that they were imprisoned with little room to move in, but what was still worse no air could get to them. The devout man, realising the position, began to call upon God in prayer to extricate them before death should come. But the other man began to tear away at the "wall," and with the help of miners breaking through on the other side they were eventually rescued. Had the rough-and-ready miner kept to his knees in prayer, it is extremely unlikely that the rescue party would have got through in time to save the pair from suffocation.

One lesson we need to learn is, that to pray is not to try and persuade the creative power to do *our* will, but ask for strength to do *His* will. And I interpret His will to mean Service, one for another.

So we see that:

Work is prayer if done for God;
Prayer which God, delighted, hears.
See beside yon upturned sod
One bowed 'neath affliction's rod;
Dry her tears.

FOUNDERS' DAY PROGRAMME.

January issue.

ERRATA.

1st column, 11 lines down, insert the word "not." The sentence will read "I wish to go back, but *not* to stay there."

1st column, bottom line, "meant" should read "mean."

We offer our apologies to Mr. Mack for these errors, and hope that Lyceumists will make a note of them.

OUR LYCEUM GUILD

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

Dear Guildites,

I still address you by that title, though actually there are no Guildites at the present moment. Your membership ran out on the last day of last year, and as there has been some delay in getting the new forms no new members have yet been enrolled. Though I have received the first associate fee by post. However, I take it that all of you who read this page are Guildites in intention, at least; and that as soon as you are able you will be sending off your forms and postal orders. The busier you keep me the happier I shall be.

Finance.

I can now give you the amount of cash we had in hand at the end of the year. You remember the last balance I gave you was £11 5s. 7½d. I have not received anything to add to that (until the New Year, and that will be given next month); and the Christmas postage was 3s. 7d. So that on January 1st we had £11 2s. 0½d. in hand. The auditors will refuse to have anything to do with the odd ha'penny, so don't be alarmed when you find it missing from the Balance Sheet.

Holidays.

My last article has managed to waken some of you out of your long sleep, and you have actually dared to write about good holiday places. So my thanks to those who have written, especially those who are not Guildites, yet evidently read our page.

The Conductor of Wembley Lyceum has written to tell me about their Guest House at 18, Parc Avenue, St. Ives, Cornwall. He says that his wife, late secretary of the Lyceum, runs the house, which has a splendid position overlooking the bay and harbour. It is a modern house with electric light and every convenience; and Wembley Lyceumists extend a hearty welcome to Lyceumists to pay a visit next year. If any of you are tempted by the offer, and would like to know the terms please write to me and I will put you in touch with the secretary.

A Lyceumist from Coventry writes to tell me of a Camp Holiday which the family have tested three times. It is "The Co-operative Camp at Foryd, Rhyl," and if you are interested you can get a Camp Booklet at your own Stores. The charge is 35s. for a Chalet for a week, and four girls or youths could share; while you cook in the Camp kitchen. The campers arrange their own social activities, and there is a Camp mother there.

Another camp mentioned is Butlin's at Skegness, and also one near Blackpool. Perhaps someone who has spent a holiday at either of these will tell me all about it.

Two other Lyceumists have sent addresses for Blackpool and Morecambe. The latter is not for those who like to spend as little of their holiday in bed as

possible, but for those who go to bed the same day that they get up.

I have particulars of all these places, so, if you want help for your holidays write to me. My sincere thanks to all those who have taken the trouble to write.

Guild Classes.

Batley Carr had their Guild Party on January 13th, BUT, although they wanted me to be present, the invitation didn't reach me until the morning of that day. I was already booked up for that night, and so I couldn't go. *IF* only I had known earlier I could have arranged to attend. So you people within easy travelling distance of Halifax please note that if you would like to see me (that sounds as if I were an exhibition in a cage) let me know in good time. For I am not yet one of those fortunate (?) people who spend most of their time wondering what they can do. My spare time is all planned out long in advance.

Our Aims.

This month let us spend a short time in thinking about how to succeed in achieving our second aim; that is, to develop ourselves mentally. As we have stated (in November BANNER) this can be done by reading, and by being alert and ready to use all opportunities that offer for gaining more knowledge. If this becomes a habit then we shall use our leisure time profitably.

If you have studied Bacon's Essays you will remember what he says about reading. I will quote part of his essay: "Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. . . . Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man."

In these days of Public Libraries, Chain Libraries, and Cheap Editions no one need be without books. And whether your taste be for History, or for Poetry, or for Mathematics, or for Philosophy, or for Logic, or for Travel, or for all the other subjects one could mention, you will find it is catered for; and at the ridiculously low price of sixpence or one shilling. If that is more than you can afford there is the Public Library which has a nominal fee of something like one penny per year.

This second aim of ours is the one which I think you will find the easiest to carry out.

To All of You.

The copies of Our Aims and Rules, and application forms will, I hope, be with you by the time you are reading this. So your patience, if it has been tried, will be tried no longer.

To Students

To you who are taking the exams. this year I send my best wishes for success. May you do as well as you deserve, and may both you and your tutors feel that everything has been well worth while.

The Guild Leader,
28, Moorlands Place, GLADYS HALLIDAY.
Free School Lane, Halifax.

B.S.L.U. EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS, 20th FEBRUARY, 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.

All candidates, except those taking Oral Grade, should have received a paper headed "Instructions to Candidates." Any candidate not having received one please make enquiries of your Lyceum Secretary. Take this paper with you on Examination Day and read it over again before commencing your work.

The response this year has been exceedingly disappointing and, while it may be allowed that the Christmas holidays have retarded somewhat the sending forward of entries, it is felt that sufficient time has since elapsed for all entries to be in the hands of the Education Secretary.

URGENT NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

The same urgent notice to Secretaries has to be sent out each year because so many still leave this important part of Lyceum work until the last minute.

WILL SECRETARIES PLEASE FORWARD ALL CANDIDATES' NAMES AND FEES AT ONCE.

The following list will indicate the progress of the work up to the time of going to print (January 20th). All interested Lyceumists will agree that it is not encouraging to those who are doing their best to keep the Education Scheme alive.

Lyceum.	Entries	Oral	Grades				
			I	II	III	IV	V
Bury	12		7	1	1	3	
Armley	7		4				1
Liverpool (Daulby) ..	11	2		4	3	2	
Clapham	9	2	3	2	2		
Bacup	1		1				
Sunderland	5		2	3			
St. Helens	9			3	6		
Stockport	4		1		1		2
Wallsend	7		6				1
Runcorn	4	2			1		1
Horwich	5				3		2
Stratford	14	6	2	3	2	1	
Gateshead	3		3				
York (Spenn Lane)	13	1	7	4		1	
Leeds Psycho	1			1			
Middlesbrough	3				2	1	
Portsmouth Temple ..	7	4	3				
Blackburn	6		6				
Tottenham (High Rd.)	3		2		1		
Southampton	6	2	1	2	1		
Longsight	9	4	2	1	2		
Cardiff First	8		2	1	3	1	1
Northampton	8		2	6			
Warrington	10	8	1				1
24 Lyceums	165	31	55	31	30	9	9

Same date in 1937:—

32 Lyceums 264 41 97 75 28 13 10

The Committee trust that all candidates who enter for the examination will *not fail* to sit, and wish each one the best success.

LILLIE GEORGE, A.N.S.C.,
Education Secretary.

JOKES CORNER

A gentleman travelling by 'bus only gave the Conductor a half-penny for his dog's fare. The conductor then asked for full fare, but the gentleman replied "The dog is not twelve years old yet."

The bright boy from next door was visiting the new tenant in the 'corporation house.'

"Does your mother get hot water," said the tenant to her visitor. "I never can."

"Don't you pull out this little plug," asked the boy. "But, of course, it's no use just now, as you haven't got a fire."

"Well, I never. You have to have a fire? Why, I thought the hot water came from the Town Hall."

An economically minded citizen stopped at an ironmongers and asked:—"How much are children's bath-tubs?"

"From ten shillings up, sir," replied the shopman.

"Whew," whistled the customer, "we'll have to keep on washing the baby in the coal scuttle."

PROBLEMS.

If you arrange the letters of the following words in the correct order you will find the name of a fruit or vegetable:—1. One rag. 2. Too apt. 3. Plane pipe. 4. Tip run. 5. A low life cur.

Economy.

A man had one match. He wanted to light the fire, the gas oven and his pipe. Which would he light first.

Going a Long Way.

The sum of £3 was divided between two fathers and two sons, each father receiving £1 and each son receiving £1. How was it done?

How many ears?

A mouse found some ears of wheat in the bottom of a bag, and decided to carry them to her nest. She carried three ears with her on each journey, and altogether she made nine journeys. How many ears were there?

TONGUE TWISTERS.

Seven serious southerners setting sail for Switzerland.
Nine nimble noblemen nibbling nuts.
Timid toads trying to trot to terry-town.
Four fat friars fanning flickering flames.
Nine nautical Norwegians nearing neighbouring Norway.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AT NOTTINGHAM

THE Management Committee of the F.B.S.L. Union met on Saturday and Sunday, January 8th and 9th, 1938, in the Sherwood Street National Spiritualist Church and Lyceum, Nottingham.

All members, except Mr. Robson, were present. Mr. Robson is still ill, and the Committee expressed their regret at his continued illness, and sent along their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Minutes were accepted and confirmed. Under correspondence there was further reference to the transfer of the Shipley Lyceum from Bradford L.D.C. to the Halifax and Huddersfield L.D.C.

The Knight Crusaders, through Mr. Fruin, had again asked for affiliation to our Union. Long discussion followed this, and it was ultimately realised by all the Committee that our Constitution, at the present time, will not allow us to accept the Knight Crusaders into affiliation.

The Treasurer's Report showed Income for the year was £724 1s. 2d. Total Expenditure, £752 17s. 7d. Total balance at the Treasurer's Bank, £14 8s. 5d. Total amount due to Messrs. Wadsworth & Co., £615 18s. 3d. Restoration Fund Income for the year, £75 9s. 11d.

Discussion on the Treasurer's Report was left until the Finance Report was discussed.

In the General Report was shown the figures for Conference, held at South Shields. It is pleasing to report that there was a credit balance of £8 18s. 0d. on the whole proceeding. The thanks of the M.C. were given to the Tyneside L.D.C. for their effort.

On the BANNER Report several small items of office routine were suggested and accepted. District Council E.C.'s. are to be asked to help in keeping the payment of BANNER accounts up to date.

The Publishing Report was accepted. The new style of Lyceum Badge has not been supported as it might have been and we are appealing to Lyceumists to support their Union by purchasing a new Badge NOW, and wearing it upon all possible occasions.

The Restoration Fund Report was accepted with thanks. The result of the Christmas Parcel had proved disappointing. The Secretary was asked to send out a circular suggesting that Lyceums purchase a 'moss wreath' to be used in their Halls, and that Lyceumists, Church Members and Friends be asked to use the moss wreath as a means of remembering the anniversaries of their loved ones' passing into spirit, by purchasing a 'Flower Day Emblem' and putting it into the wreath. This idea proved very successful at the Moston Lyceum last year, upon the occasion of the M.C. visit to that Lyceum and Church.

A letter was sent to the Secretary of the Trustees regretting that no allowance had been made for the use of the Office and Secretary's services for the Ainsworth Home of Rest Scheme.

The Education Report was accepted with thanks.

The Guild Report was accepted with thanks, and Miss Halliday and the Union's Treasurer were given permission to order the printing necessary for the carrying on of the re-organised 'Our Guild.' The M.C. expressed the opinion that undoubtedly 'Our Guild' has a future before it, and they appealed to Miss Halliday to hold on to the Guild for the sake of the Movement.

Mr. Slimin gave the S.N.U. E.C. Report. Arising out of this, the Secretary was instructed to ask the S.N.U. Secretary for the names and addresses of the Secretaries of the 12 Churches accepted into affiliation with the S.N.U. at their October Meeting. This with a view to these Churches being approached with literature, etc., for the purpose of encouraging the opening of Lyceums.

Conference arrangements were made, and the billet fee was fixed at 6s. 6d. Mr. J. Barnett, of Collyhurst Lyceum, is Billet Secretary, and Mr. J. Taylor, M.C. member, is Conference Secretary. Conference will be held in the Collyhurst National Spiritualist Church, Collyhurst Street, Manchester, at Whitsuntide.

Under the Finance Committee's Report there was a thorough discussion of the whole position of the Union, but the LYCEUM BANNER, its status and its future policy, were the chief concern of the Committee.

Following on the circular issued with Statistical Forms, we shall shortly be issuing a Questionnaire to all Lyceums, asking them to subscribe their opinions to certain suggestions contained therein. The idea of a composite fee to cover affiliation and a set number of BANNERS monthly is to be investigated, and Lyceums and their Secretaries are asked to help the Committee by sending in their completed forms as quickly as possible after receipt. These forms will be circulated when the Officers and Management Committee Nomination Forms are circulated, during the first few days of March.

The M.C. are placing a Notice of Motion on the Conference Agenda "That in Bye-Law 13, section 'g,' we delete the words 'or by deputy' and insert in their place the words 'in the offices of the Union.'"

That the words "they may require" be deleted and in their place inserted "may be necessary for the fulfilment of their duties as Trustees."

The M.C. agreed to the suggestion from the S.N.U. E.C. that an additional member be co-opted for the 1938 Inter-relations meeting, to be held on February 28th, and Mr. Fruin was appointed. Mr. Mack was chosen as substitute should Mr. Fruin be unable to attend.

The M.C. expressed their cordial thanks to the loyal friends for the hospitality extended during the weekend.

MASS SESSION.

The President, Mr. J. Slimin, conducted a happy Mass Session in the Mechanics' Minor Hall, Church Street, Nottingham, on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 9th.

Mr. Taylor gave the invocation. The President introduced the M.C. Members to the Lyceumists, and mentioned Mr. Robson's absence through illness.

Mr. Fruin conducted and explained the Silver Chain Recitation, "Cherish Kindly Feelings." Mrs. George, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Burrows read and explained the connective readings in Musical Reading, "Be Kind to Others."

Mr. Mack conducted the Golden Chain Recitation, and answered several questions put by Lyceumists.

Following on Marching and Callisthenics we had individual efforts from Betty Robinson, Billie Green,

(Continued on next page)

THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGANO OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: ANNIE H. MILLS.

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FEBRUARY, 1938.

Hope.

The dark days of winter are quickly vanishing from our sight.

We awake to behold the morning is a little lighter than a week ago.

We look at the hedgerows and see the tiny shoots waiting to burst out, while in the gardens we see the promise of the spring flowers.

To some the period of winter seems to be a long drawn out hopeless event; they lose heart and think that all is lost.

Surely this is only due to the fact that where there is no hope, there can be no effort to create a brighter atmosphere.

Hopelessness must then be a close companion of fear, and fear of dread to face the future. Thus it is that nature provides us with our soul's medicine, proving to us that all is not lost.

Byron puts it in the following words:
"Be thou the rainbow to the storms of life,
The evening beam that smiles the clouds away
And tints tomorrow with prophetic ray."

It is then the season for us to take stock of ourselves to see what attitude we hold to our present labours in the Lyceum Movement.

"Whatever enlarges hope, will also exalt courage," says Johnson.

We read to-day in the daily press that the various religious societies are losing a hold on the children, and we question why such a state should exist.

While many reasonable excuses can be offered accounting for this decline, which affects our own organisation together with others can we solve the question without a personal investigation of ourselves? Have we allowed the dark days of winter to affect our spiritual endeavours?

Are we without that hope which can exalt courage? if so let us move with the times, let us take upon ourselves this new life, which will become the ministering voice of God to the whole world. Especially should we allow this to apply to the immediate needs of our own cause, for to-day we need men and women filled with the spirit of hope to lead us back to those days when the Spirit of God was made manifest through his followers.

His followers then counted not the cost of their labours but made service a sacrifice for the cause they loved.

(Continued from page 23)

Beryl Warner, Dorothy Dobby, Leslie Wayman, Miss Sharp, Mr. Cherriman, Doreen Rowley.

Mr. Slimin mentioned that present in the Session were two former M.C. Members, Mr. Dobby and Mr. Johnson. He extended the good wishes of the present Committee to both of them.

Greetings were exchanged between the B.S.L.U., Tyneside, Liverpool, Halifax and Huddersfield, Bolton, London, Manchester and Salford, and Nottingham Lyceum District Councils; Monkwearmouth, Daulby Hall, Halifax, Bury, Fulham, Clapham, Runcorn, Newton Heath, Derby, Nottingham (Sherwood Street), Nottingham (Mechanics' Hall), Nottingham (Progressive), Ripley, Lincoln and Beeston Lyceums. In all, 15 Lyceums and seven L.D.Cs. Greetings were given from the Headquarters of the Knight Crusaders, and the D Cohort 61st Squadron of Knight Crusaders.

Following the singing of "Sing All Together," the President gave the benediction, thus closing a pleasant afternoon.

PROPAGANDA MEETING.

Mr. Collingham, President of the Mechanics' Hall Church, opened the propaganda meeting, afterwards introducing Mr. Slimin, B.S.L.U., President, who in turn introduced the M.C. members.

Mr. Taylor, in his opening remarks, mentioned that the first Lyceum Session was held in Nottingham, and he was happy to associate with the Lyceumists and members of the Nottingham Lyceums and Churches.

He used as his text the words "God will Provide." These words had been contained in a recitation said by a child at the afternoon session.

He went on to show that whilst God did provide, we had to search about and find the things provided. We must do our share of work in order to enjoy those things there for us.

He appealed for greater support of our Lyceum Cause, using those talents provided for us by an all-seeing God. We must use our faculties and help to build up something that will stand through time.

Mr. Fruin followed and used as his text "God is here and the quick soul feels his presence in the midst of his temple."

He went on to say that probably quite a few members of the congregation had come because the presence of National workers had been advertised. Whilst this side was appreciated, he felt that it was not the real reason why people should come to Church. The main reason is that each one should realise that "God is Here." We should each come with the desire to worship God in the midst of His Temple.

The Lyceum is the youth side of the Spiritualist Movement, and that side of the Movement is needing the help of earnest and sincere workers who are willing to realise that God is with them in their endeavours, and that He will strengthen them in their efforts to work for the good of humanity.

Mrs. George, in her address, showed how the Church had had a good influence on young people and on the culture of the race, and appealed to her congregation not to condemn the Church for its faults, but rather to regard as a force in the growth of the arts, of music, of culture generally.

Now the Lyceum system of training has come along and we claimed that we had something better to offer to our people. Our teachings are of more importance than were the teachings of the Church. Our teachings tell us of people who have lived on this earth and passed through the trials and the happinesses thereof. They have come back and revealed themselves to us. We trusted these people before they passed away and we can still trust their word now they come back to us and tell us of their new surroundings. Our teachings have been corroborated without doubt.

Sunday schools are necessary for the purpose of helping the younger people to understand something of these matters. Mrs. George appealed for a greater support of the Sunday Schools and appealed to people who knew that they had got a sure knowledge of the return of spirit to come into the Lyceum Movement and help to spread those truths of which they were so proud.

Mr. Collingham expressed the appreciation of the congregation to the M.C. Members, and the President offered thanks to the local people for their kindness in entertaining the Committee during the week-end, and so closed another bright meeting.

One thing which especially appealed to members of the Committee was the bright way in which the organist played for the singing.

PROCEDURE.

ARTICLE V.

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.

BEFORE passing on to the consideration of Committee work and the duties of Officers we invite our readers' attention to the question of voting in its various forms.

Dealing first of all with the 'casting' vote of the Chairman, we find that, even amongst those who may be deemed authorities on the subject of procedure, there is a difference of opinion as to the advisability of a Chairman voting in the ordinary course in addition to his giving a casting vote in the event of a 'tie.' There appears to be general agreement that he is entitled to his vote as a member of the meeting but the advisability of his using it is open to serious question.

A good general rule to follow is, that in an open meeting where controversial questions are being discussed the Chairman should maintain his attitude of strict impartiality even to the extent of refraining from giving an indication of personal opinion by voting.

In Committee, where the Chairman is a member either by election or rule, it is advisable that it be understood the Chairman shall give "a *second* or casting vote in the event of a 'tie' " thus implying recognition of his right to a 'First' vote in any case.

It need hardly be said that, whether in open meeting or Committee, a 'casting' vote should never be lightly given. No hard and fast rule can be made regarding its use but it is an unwritten law that a 'casting' vote should never disturb the existing order of things nor should it be cast in favour of an amendment. A Chairman can be justified, however, in voting for an amendment if by doing so he is encouraging fuller discussion on the amendment when it becomes the substantive motion.

VOTING.

For our present needs there are three methods of recording votes which require our consideration:—

- (1) Show of hands, or standing.
- (2) By Poll, or Division,
- (3) By Ballot.

The different occasions on which these may be employed are as follows:—

- (1) The show of hands, is used by Committee and ordinary meetings to decide the numbers in favour and against a question put to the meeting. Its procedure is simple. The Chairman calls on those in favour of the motion (or amendment) to hold up their hands. These are counted either by the Chairman or by 'tellers' on his behalf. Those 'against' are then called upon to vote and on the result of the count the Chairman declares the question carried or lost.
- (2) The Poll, or division, is employed at meetings and on occasions when accuracy of voting is essential or when each voter's action must be placed on record.

There are several methods of recording a 'poll'

vote, but as it is very seldom used by the assemblies for which these articles are principally compiled, we do not consider it necessary to elaborate on them.

- (3) The 'ballot' vote is used mostly in elections and represents secret voting whereas other methods, previously described, are public and open.

To the voter, the Ballot should present no difficulties as the procedure merely consists of placing a X or writing a name on a ballot paper. Judging by the number of spoiled papers found in even the simplest ballots, however, it would appear that there are many who find complications in its very simplicity.

COMMITTEES.

Enough has been written in our previous articles to give any reader an outline of general procedure that will enable him, or her, to take part in a public meeting or general meeting of an organised body and follow its routine and conduct without fear of making any serious mistake.

Members of Lyceums and Spiritualist Churches, however, are often called upon to undertake duties on Committees or as Officers or delegates of the local, District or National units of their organisation, and to them, we would suggest consideration of the following additional rules and/or practices.

TYPES OF COMMITTEE .

In the progress of any organised body, as well as in Municipal and Parliamentary work the duties fulfilled in Committee are the most important of all. It is highly desirable, therefore, that every earnest member of our respective Unions should become acquainted with the general rules and regulations applying to Committee work and with the duties and requirements of the various offices they may be called upon at any time to undertake.

Committees may be divided into four classes:—namely: Ordinary, Standing, Sub, and Special. Their functions necessarily vary according to the needs and undertakings of the organisation to which they are attached, but the variance is not so great as may at first appear and certain fundamental rules of procedure will be found applicable in practically all cases.

I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends.—*Shakespeare*.

Wishing of all employments is the worst.—*Young*.

Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined.—*Pope*.

Dost thou love life, then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.—*Franklin*.

UNCLE BERT'S LETTER

FOR HOME
AND OVER
SEAS

My dear Boys and Girls,

January has been a gay month in the various Lyceums with its revelry at New Year's parties. I cannot give you a report of all the parties, but I must make mention of the Nottingham Lyceumists who arranged a social evening to welcome the members of the Management Committee, for by so doing members from Tyneside, Lancashire, Yorkshire, London and Nottinghamshire were able to exchange greetings in a most sociable way.

Have you Thought of it this Way?

The things we do every day of our lives become what we term common place, for we do them without thinking much about them.

This year I shall try to give you children some of them as lessons to think about.

I suppose each of you say to your Mothers or Fathers sometime during the day, "Please can I have another slice of bread?"

Of course they never refuse you, unless you have already had what they consider is enough.

For this reason a slice of bread is not thought of in any other way than being part of a meal.

If I were to ask you where it came from I expect you would at once tell me the baker brought it. Yes, that might be quite correct, but shall we look a little deeper into this question before we decide if this reply is enough.

Let's go for a little walk together into the country and see if we can see anything which reminds us of our lesson.

Stop at this gate a minute, look there are men and horses in the field, beautiful strong horses, too. What are they doing there? Why they are ploughing. Then in the next field men are sowing seeds. If we come back in a few month's time we shall find little tiny green blades growing up out of the centre of which will spring up a strong stalk. In time this will have a thick head, which is called the ear. This is made up of many separate oval shaped parts, each one covering a grain of wheat. This is opened by the sunshine and when ready along come the reapers with their mowing machines to cut it down. It is then carted to the farm yard where a threshing machine is waiting to beat out all these grains of wheat. This being done the wheat is sent to the mills where it is ground down into flour. From the mills it goes to the bakery, where men make it into dough, then placing it into ovens it is baked and becomes bread.

I will now let you say you are quite correct in your answer, that that slice of bread you asked for came from the bakers.

When you ask for your next slice I want you to try and follow the different points we have covered. The country fields, those beautiful horses, the farm yards, the flour mills, the baker's cart, not forgetting the sunshine which ripens the corn, and the rain too which helps it to grow.

Yes, it's so easy to say just a slice of bread, without ever letting our minds think of the many people who have worked so hard in order that we can have it on our tables at every meal.

We are often reminded of these lessons in the Autumn when we attend a Harvest Festival Service.

The speaker says First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. It is then when we thank God for all his gifts. How much nicer it would be to thank him everyday.

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God for everything.

Heard by the Way.

I now want to give a message to the older children. I have been talking to the little ones about sowing and reaping.

You all know the story of the sower, how some seed fell on good ground.

How often have you noticed when you are walking along the street or sitting in a railway or tramcar, that you just catch a few words of someone's conversation? As I was coming home from the city, I passed two men who were standing talking together at the corner of the road. As I passed them this is what I heard, "Yes, but you see they were not all putting their shoulders to the wheel."

Here is a saying which goes back to the days of horse traffic, when it was quite a common sight to see men assisting some carter to get his load up a steep hill. You would also see one man standing on the spoke of the wheel in order to make a revolve easier.

Surely there is a message for all of us in this catch phrase, which can be applied in many walks of our life.

It is so easy to stand on a football, cricket or hockey field and yell ourselves hoarse, telling some player what he should have done.

It is just as easy to stand by in your own Movement and tell others what they should have done, but should we do something different ourselves?

The only way I know in which we can render practical service to God's cause is by becoming part of it.

By putting our shoulder to the wheel and helping things to reach the state of perfection we cherish in our hearts.

Many Lyceum leaders throughout our country to-day want a helping hand.

Many an aged worker needs a cheery word. Many a lonely stranger needs a friendly companion. Many a little child wants an older member to take interest in them.

They don't stand in the corner watching the needs of others, but "Put your shoulder to the wheel" by rendering service to others.

Greetings to all,
UNCLE BERT.

Ruberrondo,
126, Woodlands Road,
Isleworth, Middx.

Kind words are the music of the world,
They have a power which seems to be beyond natural
causes.—*Faber*.

There was never a good war nor a bad peace.—*Franklin*

The Knight Crusaders.

Headquarters:

340, South Lambeth Road, London, S.W.8.

A Happy New Year to Knight Crusaders everywhere, and the "every-where" is rapidly becoming a reality.

Our second Annual Thanksgiving was held on Saturday, December 18th, at Brixton Brotherhood Church, kindly loaned by the courtesy of its President, Mr. Payne, and the members of its Committee. About 250 people attended, including the Knight Adjutant for Teeside, Mr. A. H. Colbourne, and three other officers from Middlesbrough and West Hartlepool, Squadron Leader Cartwright, Squadron Leader Dinsdale and Knight-Ensign Dinsdale. These officers showed the spirit of chivalry by travelling all night to get to the meeting.

In the afternoon several officers from various parts spoke, all emphasising the growth of the movement. Mr. J. M. Stewart, representing the S.N.U., gave a very beautiful opening prayer with his natural sincerity.

The Knight-Commander again urged the working of the "24-hour plan," also saying he personally knew its difficulties, but a nightly review of one's days efforts, and how frequently one had fallen from knightly estate, helped to avoid the stumbling blocks in future.

Lieutenant Commander Fruin urged the real understanding and living of Peace, and spoke of the co-operation between the Spiritual Committee and the earthly board of the Knight Crusaders.

Lieutenant Commander Mary Snowden Hall asked the children how they would speak to their parents if they had to be away from them at Christmas, and, using their reply, "by telephone," as a comparison, explained that the one whom they knew as the "Crusader" and spiritual head of the Knight Crusader movement, would speak to them in the same way, using Knight-Ensign Blanche Petz as his instrument to speak through.

The "Crusader" came at the end of the singing of the "Knight Crusaders' Marching Song" and the whole assembly rose to greet him with their salute. He greeted them in like manner, also explaining the meaning of our salute in these words:—"From my heart to your heart I salute you, from your heart to all the world. Some people have said to salute is only a thing done by soldiers, but you salute your mother with a kiss of love, you shake hands with your friends, your brothers; you are saluting them. A salute is a thing of beauty if its meaning is remembered; it is the meaning that is the essence of everything you do."

One part of his speech was confirmed by many letters received from those unable to come.

"I have been to all unable to be here, some have seen me, some felt me, but all have felt that someone was near to them. I have endeavoured to go where I have been called."

Knight Adjutant George Mack wrote:—"On Tuesday evening, about 8-35, I saw a Crusader in shining armour walk into my sitting-room" about fifteen minutes later (and of course several days before above

letter was received), the Crusader visited the home circle at H.Q. and confirmed this. After tea, the evening was given up to a Grand Camp-fire, under the direction of Knight Adjutant Hardwicke (London). Clapham Squadron gave a Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," produced by Knight-Ensign B. Petz. The principal boy and girl were Knights Marjorie and Ivy, and the babes were Cousin Doris and Squadron Leader Davey, two dear wee mites.

Southend Squadron gave some splendid "Living Statuary," closing with the "Crusader" (Mr. Rainbow).

THE LYCEUM COURSE OF ESPERANTO.

Errata. January Lesson. Skribi: To write.
Atendi: To wait.

VERBS (continued).

Participles need special attention.

ACTIVE.

The Present Participial ending ANTA corresponds to the English ending ING.

I am sewing. Mi estas kudranta.

I was playing. Mi estis ludanta.

I shall be eating. Mi estos manganta.

The Past Participial ending INTA corresponds to the English endings, EN, ED, T., etc.

I have written. Mi estas skribinta.

I had played. Mi estis ludinta.

I shall have built. Mi estos konstruinta.

The Future par. ending ONTA is used for such expressions as "going to do something."

I was going to dance. Mi estis danconta.

I am going to play. Mi estas ludonta.

I shall be about to write. Mi estos skribonta.

PASSIVE.

The Present Participial form ATA corresponds to the English passive present, ITA is used for the past, OTA for the future.

Examples:

I am loved. Mi estas amata.

I was loved. Mi estis amata.

I shall be loved. Mi estos amata.

I have been admired. Mi estas admirita.

I had been admired. Mi estis admirita.

I shall have been admired. Mi estos admirita.

NOTE. There is only one auxiliary verb in Esperanto *Esti*.

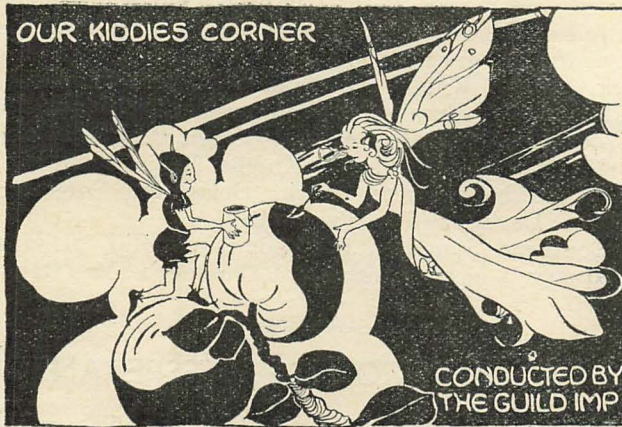
The passive form of the Participle only differs from the active by the omission of the N. Kantanta, singing kantata, sung.

Practice using the participles of verbs but observe that the active form is not used unless really necessary.

For instance, instead of saying "I have run the whole distance," say "I ran the whole distance." Mi kuris la tutan distancon.

This lesson needs special hard study, so I will not add to it. I hope these lessons are proving of interest, and later to receive some letters written in Esperanto from students. Anything not quite clear to you please write to me about and I will try to explain more fully. Adiaŭ, miaj amikoj!

HYLDA BALL.



Dear Little Imps,

One shivery, windy day lately, I was thinking how very, very nice it would be to feel that Spring was on the way. Then I could have laughed aloud! Why? Because all around me were signs that Spring really is not too far from us. Have you found any? I saw baby green leaves on a chrysanthemum plant, green spikes of bulbs peeping through the brown earth, and one real snowdrop. Then I remembered it had not been quite so dark at getting up time, and a little later saw that my bird visitors hadn't needed all their breakfast. All those little signposts to Spring showed themselves in one day. They quite cheered me up. Now, how many have you found?

There was once a little Imp who woke up too soon. All the good Imps sleep tight right through the cold, dark days, as contentedly as little hedgehogs. Yet, although it was only February, and a very wet, cold February at that, this little Imp woke up.

He should have known better. At least, having found out that he'd wakened up too soon, he might have cuddled himself off to sleep again. But, no; that Imp was wide awake, full of why's and wonders, and most anxious to stretch his legs.

He climbed out of his nest in the hollow trunk of the old oak tree and pushed carefully past his sleeping brother, and very, very carefully around his snoring mother and father. He didn't want them to stop him from seeing the world!

In a moment he was out of the tree and down on the grass at its foot. He shivered a little, as he felt the cold dampness at his feet. Then he remembered that it was long ago since he had eaten his last meal, and wondered about the next one. He thought for a moment, and then hurried off to climb up the next oak tree. He knew that Furryback, the Squirrel, lived there, and, surely, he would have a few nuts to spare.

The squirrel was sound asleep, so the Imp just clambered up to Furryback's pantry and helped himself to a good feed of acorns. That done, he felt ready to see the world.

For quite a long time he never met a single soul, and, since everything seemed so hushed, he didn't like to hear himself whistle. But, oh dear, he did wish someone would waken up and be friendly with him. Not a twig stirred; not a bird sang; all the wood lay still.

That little Imp was almost wishing he hadn't wakened up so soon, when he saw a rabbit timidly

peeping from its burrow. Cottontail was just going to draw back into the ground when the Imp said: "Oh! Good morning, Cottontail, please do come out and talk to me. Everything and everybody else must be asleep." Cottontail hesitated for a moment, and then whispered: "Are you quite sure the fox isn't about? I don't want to meet him."

"I'm the only being alive, out here. Don't be afraid, Cottontail!" cried the Imp.

Cottontail crept out and soon was jumping alongside the Imp. After a little time he said: "Where are we going, Imp, and do you know the way?"

The Imp stopped. "Why! I never thought of that. I was just going and then coming back. I was tired of being in bed. But I'm glad I found you. Now you can come too."

"Yes, but where?" repeated Cottontail. "We can't go to *nowhere*. Besides, I want to get back before mother Rabbit finds out I'm gone."

"H'm. That's a good idea," said the Imp. I tell you what, we'll do. We'll go and find Spring and get back before breakfast. How will that do?"

"It will do—if you know the way," replied Cottontail rather anxiously.

On they went, and very soon they were stopped by a Robin. "Where are you two youngsters off?" demanded Robin.

Cottontail didn't answer, but Imp said: "We're just off to find the Spring. We think it's time everyone woke up. Can you tell us the way, please?"

The Robin chuckled to himself. "What babies!" he murmured. Then, aloud he said: "You'll never find the Spring, but, if you turn right around and go home again, Spring will find you. You'll need to hurry though."

Obediently, the two friends turned round to find their way home. It was all very strange, but soon they began to think Robin was right. A new green shoot in the brown earth stared at them and said: "Don't tread on me, please. I'm ready for Spring." A little later a prickly hedgehog uncurled himself before them and said: "Ah! Spring is in the air; I can smell it."

The Imp and his friend had almost reached the rabbit's burrow when twittering birds said: "Oh, don't disturb us. We are getting ready for our wedding day on February 14th. Spring comes then, you know."

Cottontail was just going to speak to the Imp when they heard two strange shrieks. Mother Rabbit and Mother Imp both came racing up in time to say: "Oh, you naughty child; come back home. Don't you know it's Spring Cleaning time!"

The Imp looked at Cottontail and said: "Robin must have been right. Spring has raced us home. Still, I'm glad I got up too soon. Aren't you?"

Lots of love, Imps,

MEG.

Errors like straws upon the surface flow;
He who would search for pearls must dive below.

—Dryden.

Honest labour bears a lovely face.—Dekke.

Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul.

—Pope.

Wisdom is often nearer when we stoop than when we soar.—Wordsworth.

BOOK REVIEW.

“**The Psychic World.**” By Hereward Carrington.
(Methuen. 12s. 6d.)

To find a book as minutely detailed as a technical text-book yet as fascinating as any work of fiction would appear to be beyond reasonable expectation; yet, without exaggeration, this and more may be said of the latest addition to Psychic literature: “**The Psychic World,**” by Hereward Carrington.

In this volume, written in a clearly informative and pleasantly readable style, is packed a wealth of information which will, undoubtedly, be acceptable alike by the serious Psychic Researcher, the ardent student of Spiritualism and the interested casual reader.

So many aspects of Psychic Revelation are dealt with, and each so thoroughly, that several of the chapters of the book could almost be separated from the context and read and studied for their own merit; yet the author never loses the thread of unbiased argument that runs through the whole volume.

Particularly interesting are the chapters on “**The Psychology of Genius,**” “**The Psychology of ‘Spirit Communication,’**” and the whole of the second part of the book.

The book is divided into two parts, the first headed, “**Psychic Phenomena in Modern Civilization,**” and the second, “**Psychic Phenomena among Primitive Peoples.**”

Without detracting in any way from the first part, the second part of the volume will probably be acclaimed as the more absorbing because of the attractive yet convincing manner in which the author deals with a subject previously neglected by writers on Psychic matters. We unhesitatingly recommend this book to our readers.

B.S.L.U. RESTORATION FUND.

Fellow Lyceumists:—

Our Christmas Surprise Parcel brought a very “disappointing” surprise, only ONE donation, this from the London Lyceum District Council, amounting to £2. 2s. 0d. We do very sincerely appreciate the generosity, loyalty and kindly thought of London D.C. and extend our gratitude.

Peckham Lyceum forward 18s. for Weekly Pennies. Here again one Lyceum shows a consistency which is very much lacking throughout the movement. Our thanks to Peckham once more.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy donate 2s.; Miss F. Durman, 1s.; Mrs. Mills, 1s.; Mr. Fruin, 7s. 6d.; Mr. Slimin, 3s. 1d. (proceeds from Special Service); Mr. Entwistle, 10s.; all deserve our sincere thanks, and we are indeed very grateful.

Total amount donated, £4. 4s. 7d.

We are now awaiting the first batch of “Flower Day” returns. Kindly send in as early as possible to Mr. J. Taylor, 13, Ridgefield Street, Failsworth, Manchester, making P.O.s. payable to B.S.L.U. Restoration Fund, crossed & Co.

JOSEPH TAYLOR, *Hon. Secretary.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Fellow Conductors,

We often hear criticism on our Manual and there is no doubt much can be said for and against it, but I have often been puzzled on what attitude to take when questioned on G.C.R. 139, “**Children in Spirit Life.**”

It is becoming the fashion at Xmas to have toys for Spirit Children, and if some of the reports we hear are correct, Spirit Children are not looked after as our G.C.R. leads us to believe. One report states, “a number of children controlled the Mediums present and handled the toys they wanted; then they returned them, so that they could be given to poor children on earth, and took away with them the etheric parts of the toys they had contacted.”

I could understand that, if the Mediums were controlled at the time toys were distributed, this would give the Spirit Child an opportunity to contact the earth child under good conditions.

Now, another point, how can we compare the above G.C.R. with the reports of the return of Mona Tinsley; is hers an exceptional case? and are the Spirit Friends unable to gather round to welcome such as she, who must be in a terrible state if left alone to wander about?

Does our G.C.R. only apply to the very young? If not, how can we explain, “In every case when a child leaves the mortal form, it finds friends, companions, and teachers in the Spirit World adapted to its needs; not one is overlooked, etc.”

How easy to teach such beautiful teachings when one believes in them, but how difficult when doubt creeps in. Let us face the facts and endeavour to find Truth at all costs.

W. G. GILES, G.N.S.C.,

Conductor, Plaistow Lyceum.

PRETTY WEDDING.

Sherrington—Beck.

Two well-known members of the Horwich National Spiritualist Church were married at the Church on Saturday, Jan. 1st, by Councillor T. Connor, of Bolton. The bride was Miss Lily Beck, and the bridegroom, Mr. John Sherrington, who is secretary of the Church. Mrs. J. Beck officiated at the organ.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a white bridal satin dress with embroidered net veil and halo, and carried a bouquet of white carnations. The bridesmaids, Miss Alice Beck, sister of the bride, and Miss Florence Sherrington, sister of the bridegroom, wore dresses of mauve silk taffeta, trimmed with silver, and halos to match. They carried bouquets of pink carnations.

Mr. Robert Sherrington, brother of the bridegroom, was best man, and Mr. Wilfred Morris, friend of the bridegroom, was groomsman. After a reception at the Bridge Hotel, the happy couple left for their honeymoon at Blackpool.

MARRIAGE.

Sherrington—Beck.—On Saturday, Jan. 1st., 1938, at the Horwich National Spiritualist Church, by Counc. T. Connor, of Bolton, John Sherrington to Lily Beck, both of Horwich Lyceum. Future address, 4, Catherine St., East Horwich.

IN MEMORIAM.

MANCHESTER PROGRESSIVE, HR. ARDWICK.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of our oldest Lyceumist at the age of 85, who was laid to rest on the twenty-fourth of December, 1937 at the Ardwick Cemetery. Mr. Oaten conducted the services at the grave side. She was one who had actively associated herself with the Lyceum over a long number of years, was Hon. Vice-President of the Church for the past twenty years, also honorary member of the Lyceum for a similar time. The younger Lyceumists have much cause to remember her and her daughter, Mrs. Vernon, who voluntarily made themselves responsible year after year for presents which were distributed to them at our Annual Parties. She had through age to be absent very much during her later years, but always tried and generally succeeded in being present at our Open Sessions. On such occasions we always received monies which covered collections for times she was absent. Apart from this she was always willing to further any scheme that required financial assistance which the Lyceum may have had in hand. To our arisen sister we extend our congratulations for her promotion and to her family our deepest regret on the loss of her physical body.

J. T. ASHWORTH, Treasurer.

POWERS.—We regret to announce the passing into spirit on Sunday, January 15th, 1938, of Mr. Joseph Powers, of West-houghton. Mr. Powers was a keen Lyceumist and at one time almost the sole attendee at the Daisy Hill Lyceum. He was an Honorary Member of the Bolton L.D.C. His physical presence will be missed, but we hope to have his guidance from the larger world.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The Bradford D.C. held its monthly meeting at the Windhill Lyceum on Sunday, Jan. 9th, when six Lyceums sent nine Delegates, one Fraternal Delegate; two Associate Members and all officers, making a total of seventeen being present. Mr. F. Babbs, President, in the Chair. Mr. Heywood offered the invocation. Minutes of last meeting were read and accepted, also correspondence arising out of this was the letter *re* the BANNER, after which it was decided to ask all Lyceums to consider the matter and bring suggestions to next meeting. The financial statement was read and accepted and it showed a balance of £2 13s. 4d. in hand. It was also decided to form a Junior Associate Membership to this Council. The Standing Orders Committee to deal with this and report at the Annual Meeting. Great interest was taken by all delegates in all business being done. The Churches and Lyceums in this District are coming closer together and the co-operation between the two bodies is creating great enthusiasm and we believe making that progress that is essential between Church and Lyceum. In the afternoon an Open Session was held, conducted by the President. We had a lovely Session, scholars and Delegates vieing with each other in questions and answers. The time passed all too quickly, but everyone felt that another good time had been spent on behalf of the Lyceum Cause. Our thanks are due to the Windhill friends for the welcome they gave to us, and for the catering. Thanks so much, Windhill. The services in the Church were taken by Mr. Hargreaves, who was the speaker for the day, and good audiences attended both Meetings, bringing to a close another day well spent. A.G.M. at Keighley, Feb. 13th, at 10-30.—H. Hargreaves, Sec.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

List of Nomination of Officers for Halifax and Huddersfield L.D.C. Annual Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 13th, at Quarmby N.S.C. President: Mr. T. Ellis (Ramsden St. N.S.C., Huddersfield); Vice-President: Miss Lees (Sowerby Bridge N.S.C.); Sec. Treas.: Mr. F. North (Ramsden St., Huddersfield); D.V.: Mr. P. Knight (Alma St., Halifax); Auditors (two required, one to serve two years, one to serve 1 year) Mr. H. Baxter (Quarmby); Miss G. Halliday (Alma St., Halifax); Mr. R. Varley (Hebden Bridge).—F. North, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

SILVER BELL PROGRESS SCHEME.

Presentation of Silver Bell and Certificates took place at National Spiritualist Church, Commercial Street, Batley, on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 1938.

Batley Lyceumists gave a very good concert in aid of the Council Funds. Every artist gave a good account of themselves. Some of the items created much laughter. Our Treasurer made a good woman. The children were great. The attendance was very good, but what an awful night. The E.C. appreciate the efforts put forward by the Batley Lyceumists. Miss Hirst, Secretary, was greatly responsible for the success and arrangements of Concert. Grand total handed over to Council Funds £2 10s. Well done, Batley!

Mr. Wainwright introduced in a few well chosen words our District Visitor and Adjudicator, and asked him to present Silver Bell and Certificates. Mr. Daisley said he was grateful for this opportunity. He hoped there would be a good and useful batch of recommendations for alterations to the progress scheme.

Lyceums generally have attained a very good standard. Groups in particular have improved. What we need is closer co-operation between the Lyceum and the District Council. He suggested a central committee to be formed to draw up a list of subjects and each Lyceum work to it.

The Education Committee has drawn up a 16 weeks' plan for Conductors, and he thought his suggestion could be worked in a similar way. The Lyceum movement has a very important work to do in teaching the outside world what Spiritualism really is. Why shouldn't our District lead the way, ever remembering our Friend, Dad Kitson, a member of our district who was responsible for doing the spade work and laying the foundation of our present movement.

Our Vice-President, Mr. Whitelock, was asked to present the Manuals to Armley for most progress made in 1935-1937.

Batley received Bell and Certificate, 1st place, points 88; Armley, 2nd place, also received Certificate, 87 points; Batley Carr, Certificate, with 86 points.

A.G.M. will be held at Theaker Lane, Armley, on Saturday, February 26th, 1938, 3-30 p.m. Opening Exercise, Invocation, Welcome, Roll Call, Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, District Visitor, L.D.C. Fraternal Delegates Reports, Inter-Change, Financial Statement last quarter, yearly Statements, Balance Sheet, Auditor's Report. Election of officers, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, District Visitor, Fraternal Delegate L.D.C., Auditors, Nomination Officers B.S.L.U., President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Auditor, M.C. two wanted, Delegate B.S.L.U. Conference.

Field Day (Invitations 1938), Associates L.L.D.C., Birthdays, Social and Concerts in aid of Council Funds. Inter-Change Conductor, 1938 and 1939.

Silver Bell Progress Scheme amendments.

Batley Lyceum. No notification. Groups to be dispensed with.

Dewsbury Lyceum. Opening arrangements be dispensed with and Session be restricted to one hour.

Wakefield Lyceum. Lyceums Manuals be given out before commencement of Session and support the present rule that adjudicator does not send out formal notice to Lyceums of his intended visit.

Restoration Fund B.S.L.U.; Amendments B.S.L.U. Constitution; General Motions; Open Council, LYCEUM BANNERS (important); Date and place of next Conference. Vote of thanks Local Friends.—A. W. Harding, Sec.

LONDON DISTRICT.

The New Year opened with another pleasing Joint Effort, a dance organised in conjunction with the L.D.C. of the S.N.U. As usual this proved a popular event.

On January 10th the London Lyceum workers held the first of a series of meetings at the London Spiritualist Brotherhood Church, Holborn, to discuss ways and means of improving the standard of the London Lyceums.

The Speaker was Miss E. Sims, who gave an interesting and valuable address on the "Educational aspect of dealing with children in our Lyceum Session." This was illustrated by a number of pleasant pictures and suitable books for use at Sessions. Miss Sims spoke of the need of dealing with children of various ages, pointing out that those under the age of 8 years must be given something constructive to do. That there should be a change of Session each week, the subject being given out the previous week in order that both Conductors and members might collect knowledge of same during the week. Such a method helping the members to be ready with ideas or quotations, also stressed the point of the need of making the Lyceum Hall a pleasant place with pictures and flowers, instituting a beauty corner.

In dealing with the Conductor's aspect, Miss Sims said it was most important that they should get an ideal as to what they desired the children to be, this must be backed up with con-structural love endeavouring to bring the spirit of Heaven to earth. The following subjects were some which were proposed as being useful: Colour, Music, Flowers, Animals, Children Abroad, Prose, Saints, Heroes, Heroines, Health, Science, Children in the summerland.

The speaker claimed that the Lyceum Manula would provide much thought for such subjects.

The Address was followed by discussing the various points and Miss Sims answering questions. Mr. Fruin, in thanking Miss Sims, expressed his personal pleasure in the fact that she at one time wrote to him as Uncle Bert, but had now progressed in the educational world to be in a position to direct Lyceum workers in the modern art of education, other workers endorsed these remarks.

Details of the next meeting will be found on advert. page.

TEES SIDE DISTRICT.

The Executive Committee met at West Hartlepool (Charles St.) Church on Sunday, 9th January, 1938. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. G. R. McAdam was voted to the Chair. Much business was transacted, the following items being of particular interest.

It was agreed that the closing date for the "J. H. Foster Testimonial Fund" be January 31st. The President and Secretary are to make necessary arrangements with a view to the presentation being made at the A.G.M.

Nominations for Officers were accepted. President, Mrs. E. M. Ainsworth (Redcar); Mrs. Wilkinson (W. Hartlepool), Vice-president; Mrs. Mordaunt (West Hartlepool), Sec.; Mr. E. Nellist, D.N.S.C. (Middlesbrough); Treasurer, Mr. A. H. Colbourne (Middlesbrough); District Visitor, Mr. S. G. Donald (Darlington), Mr. W. Thompson (West Hartlepool), Credential Secretaries, Miss D. Cartwright, A.N.S.C., Miss W. Bateman and Mr. G. Pierson (all of Middlesbrough); Auditors, Mr. Sunter (Darlington), Mr. McAdam (Shildon). Mr. Thompson, (West Hartlepool).

It was agreed that the BANNER circular be discussed at A.G.M. "Shield Competition Results"; Area "A," Middlesbrough 68, Redcar 63, Darlington 60, Witton Gilbert 55. Area "B," West Hartlepool (Charles St.), 85, Horden 83, Crook 69, West Hartlepool (Musgrave St.) 67, Easington Colliery 61. Mr. G. R. McAdam was appointed to be Final Adjudicator. A No. 2 Lyceum Manual is to be presented to the Lyceumist in each Lyceum who has introduced the most new members during 1937. The E.C. Member for each Lyceum is to make the presentation. A most interesting Lyceum Session was held in the Afternoon when various members of the Council E.C. took part. Greetings were given from all Lyceums in affiliation with one exception. The surprise of the Afternoon was the presentation to Mr. Harry Foster of an Officers' Manual, suitably inscribed and autographed by his colleagues of the Executive committee to mark their esteem. Mr. Foster has been a faithful worker for the District over a long period of years, the only surviving member actively associated with the work to-day, of those who inaugurated the Council in 1910. Many tributes were spoken of his work.

The A.G.M. is to be held at Darlington, commencing 10-30 a.m., on Sunday, 13th February. The Agenda is as per "Constitution" Sub-sec. A., art. 11. The following Motion has been received from Middlesbrough—Add to Rule 7, section (d) the following words "Also the enrolment of Junior Associate at a fee of 4d. per year, who shall be entitled to all the privileges of Associate Membership excepting that they shall not be allowed to vote. The ages of Junior Associates shall be between 14 and 18 years (inclusive)."

If your Lyceum has not paid D.C. Fees for 1938, or you have failed to pay your Associate Fee, no credential cards will be issued. A large attendance is requested.

E. NELLIST, D.N.S.C., Secretary.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

HETTON AND DISTRICT.—A Special Session was held on Jan. 23rd, to celebrate the "Coming of Age" of the Lyceum. Mrs. Ainsworth, the President of the Teeside L.D.C. and the principle guest, spoke very highly of the Lyceum Movement, also expressing credit to the local Lyceum in the able manner they had accomplished their "Coming of Age."

Mrs. Ainsworth carried out the naming ceremony of the child of Mr. and Mrs. William Hill, the father of the child having been a scholar and Lyceumist. The following Lyceums and Representatives were present: Derwent Street, Sunderland; Monkwearmouth with over 30 Lyceumists; Seaham Harbour (Lord Street), Benwell and South Shields, also Grange Road, Middlesbrough, and Redcar Lyceums.

Mr. Ingham representing the N.D.C., Mr. Robertson representing the T.L.D.C. Hy. Foster, D.V. of Teeside, retired after 25 years' service.

The Knight Crusaders were represented by: Knight Adjutant Colbourne, and Knight Ensign Dinsdale, who gave a very interesting address to the youth of the Lyceum, and impressed the congregation very much with their interesting remarks.

Mr. Wm. Wilson, the Secretary of the Lyceum, gave an outline history of the Lyceum, giving credit and praise to the workers who had laid down the foundation of Lyceumism in Hetton District 21 years ago. One of them is still attached to the Lyceum in Mr. Thos. Best, who has been Conductor for a number of years. Near the close of the Session, Mrs. Ainsworth had the pleasing duty of cutting the Cake with 21 candles alight, when every one present took a portion to celebrate the occasion. Thanks are due to Mrs. Armstrong who made the cake, also the Lyceum is indebted very much to all those who contributed in any small way to provide the cake. The Church was filled to overflowing and every one had a very pleasant and happy time.—Wm. Wilson, Sec.

MANOR PARK. On Jan. 15th we held our annual prize giving and tea. P. Ward winning the silver medal for full attendance. Everyone had a happy time.

Special Notice. On Sunday 16th we attended the memorial service of our late beloved president, Mr. Sarfas, sending a bouquet of flowers in Lyceum colours, and each Lyceumist wearing a flower, the colour of their group.—Mrs. E. Ward.

WINNIPEG, Polson Avenue.—The election of officers was held on Nov. 28th, with no changes, excepting the conductorship and the assistant conductorship, which were filled by Mrs. J. Parkinson and Keith Orchard respectively. On Sunday, Dec. 5th, the Lyceum at its Open Session was entertained by: Mrs. Forrest and Keith Orchard with songs; Miss M. Anderson, and Alice Connor with readings; Ray Clasper, with a piano solo and Ray Parkinson on the accordion.

On Sunday, January 2nd, 1938, the Lyceum opened the year with an Open Session. Among those who took part were: Alice Connor, Mae Beardsley, Betty Winters and Bryan Orchard, who rendered recitations; Daphne Orchard who gave a vocal solo, and Edith Runzer and Margaret Connor with a duet. Plans were laid for the prize distribution and Anniversary Service on Founders Day.—Ray Parkinson, Sec.

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.

ACCRINGTON, Pearl Street.—We held our Open Session, Jan. 2nd, when the following Lyceumists took part: recitations, Thomas Laycock, Annie Holden, Phyllis Holden, Miss Barnes, Miss Demain, Stella Wright, Fred Hilton, Jean Hilton, Miss Tabiner; duets, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Swift; Miss N. Laycock and Miss Keniford; Jean Wright and Jean Hilton; solo, Frances Laycock, Phyllis Edwards. All the day's sessions was taken by Lyceumists and a harmonious day was spent.—Mrs. Laycock, Sec.

ARMLEY.—Thursday, Dec. 30th, we held the Lyceum Xmas Party, during which everyone received a present off the Xmas Tree; also each child received two new pennies. Whatever the future holds, we can truly say it was a pleasant close to a successful and happy year.—A. Massey, Sec.

BACUP.—Open Session held Jan. 2nd. Conductor, Mrs. Carter, Asst., Mr. James Kemp. Pearls: Mrs. Carter, Jean Taylor, Mr. Lord, Mrs. H. Shaw, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Dorothy Proctor, Mr. Halsall, Mrs. Lord, Jean Patchett. Trio, Mrs. Carter, Harry Hollinsworth, Derick Barton. Quartet: Edna

Taylor, Alice Wright, Jean Taylor, Edith Taylor, Kenneth Halstead, George Ashworth, Derick Barton, Harry Hollinsworth—Mr. Lord, Mr. Halsall, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Mrs. Lord—Dorothy Proctor, Dorothy Stott, Marion Stott, Mrs. Lord—Ada Clough, Dorothy Proctor, Dorothy Stott, Marion Stott.—S. Carter, Sec.

BLACKBURN, St. Peter St.—We held our open session on Sunday, Dec. 26th. The speaker for the day was Mrs. Hesp of Bury. A fairly good number of Lyceumists were present, several of whom rendered items. The session as a whole ran very harmoniously and smoothly.—S. Lightbown, Sec.

BIRKENHEAD.—January 2nd, conducted by Mr. Thompson An appropriate session was taken, not only as the first in the year, but also our Open Session. Pearls were given by seven Lyceumists. The following gave recitations: Gertie and Irene Watson, Lily Saunders, Joan Nicholls, Peggy Murray and Jenny Nicholls. A good motto for the year in the Musical Reading: Have Faith in One Another.

JAN. 23rd.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Conductor: Mr. Thompson; Asst. Conductors: Mr. Kneale and Lily Saunders; Secretary: Miss Peggy Murray; Asst. Secretary: Elizabeth Saunders; Treasurer: Mr. Kneale; Musical Director: Mr. Whiteley; Asst. M.D.: Mrs. Elsie Adams; Marching Conductor: Mr. Taylor; Asst. M. Conductors: Peggy Murray and Lily Harding; Callisthenics: Mrs. Harding; Guardian: Mrs. Thompson; Group Leaders: Liberty, Mr. Thompson; Excelsior, Miss Murray; Star Group, Mrs. Harding; Shore Group, Mrs. Harper; Guards: Ernest Kneale, Gwennie Watson, Jennie Nicholls, Eva Taylor.

BRADFORD, Milton.—Open Session Jan. 2nd. Songs, recitations, readings, pianoforte duets, etc., by the Lyceumists in quick succession. A good start for new year and happy session.—Mrs. Fowler, Sec.

BURY.—We held our Open Sessions on Jan. 2nd. They were fairly well attended, Mrs. Mills, A.N.S.C. was Conductor, and the readings were interestingly discussed. Several individual items were rendered by both adult and junior Lyceumists.

We held our Annual Party and Concert on New Year's Day when the prizes for good attendance were presented by the Conductor. A report showing satisfactory progress during 1937 was read by the Secretary.

The Fairy play "Puss in Boots" was tastefully performed by the junior Lyceumists, those taking parts were: Nancy Walton, Ruth Lever, Edith Duckworth, Margaret Cherry, Ivy Howarth, Bessie Hopwood, May Barrett, Connie Cherry, Katie Morris, Brenda Cherry, Doreen Cherry, Laurence Oseman, Raymond Lever, Teddie Mills.

The Adults presented the play, "The Players and the Truant" and "The Actor."

Our entries for the B.S.L.U. examination have increased to twelve. —Fred Oseman, Sec.

CARSHALTON.—An Xmas Party was held on Jan. 10th, 60 excited children having tea and receiving a present from the Xmas tree, Santa Claus in attendance. Concert given by youngest Lyceumists for the grown-ups and weary but happy children carried a large Jaffa orange home at 9-30. Couldn't you hear them singing "Home Town" and "Horsey."—A. Richardson, Sec.

CREWE.—We held our Open Session on Jan. 2nd, when Shelia Kay, Ada Gawthorne and Gerald Hughes gave recitations, and Ada Boyd, and Ivy Gawthorne sang a duet. Pearls also, were very very plentiful. Our Childrens Christmas Party held on Dec. 30th, 1937, was a huge success.—P. Buxton, Sec.

DEWSBURY.—We held our Open Session on Dec. 26th, Mr. Harris Conducting. After discussing S.C. 39 and M.R. 207 there was an abundance of Pearls, some very appropriate recitations were given by Misses Betty Greaves, Ethel Medley, Masters Edwards Harrison and George Greaves. Solos by: Mrs. Whittles, Ernest Wilson, Mr. Collier, Ben Medley; Duets by: Lily Whightman and Margaret Greenwood; Mrs. Whittles and Mrs. Collier; Trio: Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Whittles, Mrs. Collier. A fitting end to the old year.—Ben Medley, Sec.

EARBY.—We held our Open Session on Jan. 2nd with the following Lyceumists taking part: Recitations: V. Butterworth, T. Bradley, B. Fellows, Misses E. Clark, E. Crossley, Trio, V. Fellows, E. Cryer, I. Cryer. On Jan. 16th we had our Prize Distribution Mrs. Nutter of Nelson being the speaker. We also had Mr. Wood of Blackburn, D.V. who took part in the afternoon Session enjoyed by all present.—Miss B. Smith, Sec.

FULHAM.—On Jan. 7th we held our annual Xmas Party, 60 Lyceumists sat down to a sumptuous tea. During the evening

all the lights were put out and Mr. F. Reynolds appeared as Father Xmas loaded with presents. It was great fun when all the children were handed a present. Afterwards everybody joined in games which all went to make a happy evening. The President of the church, Mrs. Atmore, as well as several of the founders of the Lyceum, attended. Great credit was due to all those who helped to give the children such a wonderful time. They all went home tired but very happy after spending a most enjoyable time.—F. J. Bew, Sec.

HORWICH.—On Monday Dec 27th, 1937, one of our Lyceumists, Miss R. Giles, was married to Mr. Armstrong of Gateshead. A very pleasing ceremony and our Conductor Mr. Sherrington officiated.

Officers for 1938: Conductor: Mrs. Giles; Ass. Conductor: Mrs. Fletcher; Secretary: Mrs. Williams, 67, Leicester Avenue, Horwich; Ass. Secretary: R. Monks; Treasurer: J. Sherrington; Marching Conductor: Miss A. Crook; Assist. Marching Conductor: Mrs. Gregson; Musical Conductor: Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Fletcher; Auditors: Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Slack; Sick Visitors, Ladies: Annie Crook and Mrs. Giles; Males: Mr. Sherrington and Mr. Slack; Adult Leaders: Olive Williamson and R. Monks; Leaders, Boys: Vernon Bennett, Colin Williams; Girls: Joyce Highfield, Irene Crook; Guardians: Irene Jolly, Eric Martin; Delegates: Mrs. Gregson and R. Monks.—E. Vernon.

LANCASTER, Alliance.—January 23rd we held our Open Session, the following Lyceumists obliged: V. Tedesco, J. Jewitt, E. Downham, J. Aldren recitations; Ada Aldred and Jean Close duet; Ada Aldred, solo and recitations; Mary Hudson song; Mrs. Appleby, solo.—J. Allinson, Sec.

LEEDS, Psycho.—Officers for 1938: Conductor: Mrs. Heaton, Assistants: Mrs. Ellis and Doris Betty; Treasurer: Mr. Daisley; Musical Conductor: Barbara Charnley, Assistant: Miss Ruddenham; Physical Instructor: Mr. Armson; Captain: Iris Brown; Guards: J. Umpleby, D. Armson and D. Smithson.—G. Ellis, Sec.

MIDDLESBROUGH, Grange Rd.—Jan. 1st we held our Annual Treat when our Lyceumists were entertained to tea, followed by games and dancing. A Fairy Ballet was given by younger Lyceumists, solo dances by E. Dowds and E. Hudson.

Sunday Jan. 2nd was Annual Speech Day. Officers responded with wishes for a successful year. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Ainsworth, President of the T.L.D.C., to Lyceumists for regular attendance during 1937.—Violet Bonsor, Sec.

NOTTINGHAM, Sherwood St.—Jan. 23rd was a most looked forward-to day at our Lyceum. It was prize distribution. Mr. Pinkett, a prospective candidate for the Nottingham City Council, kindly consented to officiate. After the presentation of a button-hole by Aileen Pinder, one of the youngest members, Mr. Pinkett distributed the prizes with interesting comments to each receiver. After a vote of thanks had been passed Mr. Pinkett remarked upon the value of a Lyceum training and of the good we should all derive if it were put more into practice in the outside world. As a token of admiration and encouragement he kindly offered to be responsible for the prizes for next year and hoped sincerely that the number needed would at least be double that which he had presented this year.—Alan Birch, Sec.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Jan. 10th Xmas Party, 130 present, Xmas Tree and Personal appearance of Father Christmas special attraction. Fancy dress Parade an enjoyable and outstanding event.—E. Waite, Sec.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Friday Jan. 7th Lyceum Xmas Party was held, when about 100 Lyceumists and friends spent a happy evening in games, dancing and fun. After the refreshments the thrill of the evening for kiddies old and young was the appearance of Father Christmas who quickly stripped the brilliant tree of its gifts. An enjoyable evening.—O. Jones, Sec.

ROCHDALE, Regent Hall.—Jan. 2nd, a most interesting ceremony took place on Open Session day. The presentation of the Silver Bell to Regent Hall by the President of the South-East Lancashire District, Mr. Holt. Mr. J. Nurse junior was conductor. The attendance was very encouraging, many Lyceums being represented.—S. Blomley, Sec.

STOCKPORT.—On Jan. 4th we held Lyceum Open Sessions. In the morning election of officers; afternoon Open Session well attended. Evening service was taken by Lyceumists, Mr. Hook, conductor, in the chair. Miss M. Joules, Miss E. Brown and Mr. H. Ennion gave a debateable talk on Gambling. Mr. Hook brought out its points and how it appertained to life in general. Mrs. Williams gave clairvoyance. A day well spent.—Mrs. H. L. Ennion, Sec.