

THE

# LYCEUM BANNER

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PRICE TWOPENCE

## HABITS.

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

Did you notice how everything went wrong that morning you overslept yourself? You broke your shoelace, lost your collar stud, bumped your head on the bed as you were looking for it, and finally wound up with a bad temper that remained with you the whole of the day. Have you ever wondered why all these calamities happen all together whenever you are in a hurry, and why they never seem to occur when you have plenty of time to spare? Well the reason is this. Dressing, like so many other things we do, is a habit in which, during the course of years, we have learnt to perform a series of actions at a certain rhythm and in a certain order. So, for instance, when you stand in front of the mirror doing your hair, you will probably find that you are actually thinking of something quite different. I know I do, and in fact I usually plan my day's work as I dress myself, and I leave my subconscious mind to see to it that my clothes are put on in the proper order and so on. Now, on that day in which you were in that hurry, you tried to do things more quickly than usual, or in other words you tried to dress yourself in a new way, thus preventing your subconscious mind, which was expert in your normal method of dressing, from acting in its most efficient way. What you should have done was to say, "Well, it's no use worrying, I'm late and that's that." This would have calmed you and you would then have set to work dressing in the normal way with the final result that you were not so late as you anticipated.

Just try this little experiment to test this fact for yourself. The next time you are late (or pretend you are late if you like) time yourself to see how long it takes you to dress when you are in a hurry. Allow of course in your dressing time any moments you spend looking for lost studs, and so on. Then, on the next day time yourself again, but now dress yourself at your usual speed. You will probably find that there is but little difference in the time you take, but there will be a great difference in your attitude of mind for you will be quite calm and unflurried and able to cope with the difficulties of the day in an adequate manner. Mind you, this does not mean to say that you habitually dress yourself in the shortest possible time. It is a good plan just before going to bed to get everything ready for the morning—lay your collar, tie, clean handkerchief and so on, on your dressing table where they will all be at hand when you need them. Put your clothes so that they are in the order that you will need them in the morning—in fact put them so that you could dress in the dark should such an emergency arise. You

cannot do this if your socks are in one place, your shirt in another and your coat somewhere else. It takes no longer when you are used to it to place them in some sort of order than it does to strew them all over the room, but this system saves an enormous amount of time in the morning. It would be a good plan if you really thought out each stage in your dressing in order to see if it were really necessary or whether you could eliminate it. It is all these unnecessary steps and movements that we make during the day that help to tire us out and make us less efficient than we need be.

Now this brings me to a very important point in the learning of any new skill or habit. When only simple movements are involved we soon learn to perform them as quickly as it is possible for us to do them, but with more complicated movements improvement may go on long after we consider ourselves quite proficient in their execution. Thus you will find all professional sportsmen spend hours everyday practising the simplest strokes of their game; and it is well known that famous musicians spend hours every day at their practice. They know that without it they would never be able to maintain the heights of fame to which they have attained. It has been truly said that 'genius is the capacity of taking infinite pains.'

Whenever we begin to learn a new skill, or in fact anything new, we find that we make rapid progress at first, but after a little time we discover that we are making no headway at all. These periods of no progress occur almost invariably in all types of learning. It seems that every time we perform the new action it becomes easier for the new system of nervous paths to function, but before we can do the action without conscious thought the correct selection of the nervous paths has to become automatic. During this time of consolidation, it seems as though no progress can be made toward greater efficiency in the performance of the skill in question.

Added to this is the attitude of the subject himself. At first he puts forth maximum effort and a high degree of attention and in so doing he gradually improves till he reaches his limit. But, it is impossible to maintain a high state of attention and activity for long periods, so what actually happens is that the student works well for a time, then because of fatigue, or loss of interest, or lack of attention, he relaxes and works at a lower point of efficiency. Thus his output decreases and his success may easily be less than in his previous performances.

These periods of no progress are of great importance

in education, for when the pupil has lost interest in his task, it is of little use continuing the practise. At such times practice should stop or means found to renew attention and effort. This can be done either by presenting the subject from a new point of view, or by allowing the pupil to turn to something else for the time being. Generally a rest of a few days will bring back the original fervour. Repeated attacks with repeated rests is usually the best procedure.

Most of us work at a level far below the highest possible plane of efficiency. This does not mean that we do not work hard enough, but it means that we do not perform our tasks as well as we might. This is mainly due to the fact that we will not spend sufficient time in learning the fundamentals of our tasks. We hate the grind so needed if we are going to learn anything properly. The child learning music hates doing his scales, but wants to get on with 'pieces.' A little 'jam' in the way of a few 'pieces' may keep his interest from flagging, but if he is ever going to play really well he must master his scales and five-finger exercises. The schoolboy wants to get on with showy looking sums rather than spending extra time in getting a perfect knowledge of his tables. Actually it is the pupil's inadequate knowledge of the multiplication tables that is answerable for nine-tenths of the difficulties experienced in arithmetic. The student learning a language rarely spends enough time on learning the fundamentals—the declensions, vocabularies, and so on—and then he wonders why his progress in his study is not as quick as he would like. In fact, in every branch of human activity, it will be found that extra practice in the fundamentals will bear fruit a hundred-fold in the excellence by which the various activities can be performed.

Another stumbling block which many of us put in our own paths is that of a bad attitude. We frequently tell ourselves at the outset, that we are 'no good at this sort of thing.' This usually results in the initial attempts at the task being failures with the result that we get to dislike the work and then begins a vicious circle. For since the subject dislikes the work he does not put much effort into his task and so his progress is slow. The slower the progress the more the dislike for the task is increased, and so it goes on. Poor work and bad attitude reinforce and perpetuate one another.

A bad attitude retards learning, but in the same way a good attitude accelerates it. Good records at the beginning are frequently the cause of a good attitude towards the task and hence final success in it. The favourable attitude which arises from the initial good results becomes itself the cause of more good records. So we find that the good becomes better and the bad becomes worse. Thus in learning we have another example of the truth of the law, "Unto him that hath shall be given and from him that hath not shall be taken even that which he hath."

#### PEARLS.

Rich from the very want of wealth,  
In heaven's best treasures, peace and health—*Gray.*  
Do well and right, and let the world sink.  
—*George Herbert.*

Defer not till tomorrow to be wise,  
Tomorrow's sun to thee may never rise—*Congreve.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### DEATH "IS."

We are told in the Lyceum Manual, that "there is no Death" (S.C.100) and I took this statement to be a fact, when I first became interested in Spiritualism, several years ago. I tried to explain this 'fact' to an enquirer into our Movement, as we were walking one day.

"I believe man to be an intelligence," I said, "manifesting through a physical body, and learning lessons from the experiences gained in the mortal life, which can be regarded as the 'Kindergarten' of existence. Circumstances eventually arise, through which it is no longer possible for him to remain in contact with this physical body, and so the 'change' (which men call Death) takes place. Now, although this intelligence is without its own physical body, it is still able, through various channels, to communicate and prove its continued existence, to those still on earth.

"This is a fact which is being proved thousands of times each day, so therefore, we can draw this conclusion; that Death is not the end of existence, but the gateway to a fuller and more beautiful life."

At this point in my remarks, we were passing the local cemetery, and my friend pointed to rows of tombstones, and said, "Here is ample evidence of the change of which you speak, and for the sake of argument, I will accept your idea, of continued existence. The acceptance of your idea, does not alter the fact that Death, (which you call the 'change') has taken place. You may alter its name as often as you desire, but you cannot alter the fact. Death to me," he continued, "is also a fact which is being proved countless times each day."

I will leave the discussion here, and again refer you to the Manual. In S.C. 28, T. L. Harris gives to us his conception of Death. Each verse begins with these words, "Death is."

In S.C. 100 the title reads, "There is no Death" which could easily be transposed into the exact opposite, "Death is not." Now, which of these two is correct? In any case, this fact is brought to light:—in our Manual there is a flat contradiction, for undoubtedly, only one of these statements can be the fact. The answer to all this seems almost too simple to me, for if we look around, we see so much evidence of Death. At one time, I believed that there was no such thing as Death, but now, I am inclined to the opinion that "Death is."

I would be grateful to any reader, who through these columns would point out to me, any points I may have missed regarding this question.

JACK LYNE.

## BUILDING A LYCEUM IN HEAVEN.

We stood on a plateau high up on a furze covered mountain. Looking down in the green valley we discerned several groups of children, and, wondering what they were doing we descended towards them, so that coming half-way we had a better view of the work that was being carried out. The leader stood facing the gathering, which was composed of children of all ages, in sections, a colour denoting each section.

At a word of command these sections formed into different shapes, producing effects such as flowers; the natural colours having different effects on the greensward. After a while we heard music and singing coming from another direction, and in the distance marching towards this beautiful setting we discerned what appeared to be moving gardens of wonderful bloom. As they drew nearer a beautiful scent arose which is indescribable to physical senses. These flower formations, joining up and intermingling with the children in the valley, produced a glorious combination of every flower possible. We then discovered that the beautiful gardens that had arrived were composed of children from other schools a little way off. A mighty cheer went up from the gathering by way of greeting and then wonderful singing broke on our ears as they sang the welcome song in never forgotten harmony, and all the while these wonderful flowers were sending out a perfume that would have delighted the most perfect connoisseur; we were watching just a minor display of the Lyceums of the Heavens.

IMR.

# B.S.L.U. EDUCATION SECTION

## 1938 EXAMINATIONS

### RESULT OF ENTRIES AND SITTERS

| District Council.            | Lyceums Entered | Sat. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Bolton.....                  | 2               | 17   |
| Coventry .....               | 1               | 4    |
| Leeds .....                  | 4               | 22   |
| Liverpool .....              | 5               | 42   |
| London .....                 | 8               | 57   |
| Manchester and Salford ..... | 1               | 9    |
| N.E. Cheshire .....          | 1               | 4    |
| North E. Lancs. ....         | 4               | 22   |
| Southern .....               | 2               | 13   |
| S.E. Lancs. ....             | 1               | 1    |
| South Wales .....            | 1               | 8    |
| Tees-side .....              | 1               | 8    |
| Tyneside .....               | 3               | 15   |
| Area .....                   | 1               | 8    |
| Overseas .....               | 1               | 4    |
| Lyceums .....                | 36              | 234  |
| 1937 .....                   | 43              | 325  |

#### INVITATION TO HELP.

No comment on the part of the Education Committee can add to the disappointment that all *interested* students and supporters of the Education Scheme must feel at the low figures of this year's examinations. There are several possible reasons for this decrease, namely,

1. Decrease in Lyceum membership.
2. Continued apathy amongst Lyceumists generally.
3. Insufficient tutors.
4. Inability of the scheme as such to find a response in Lyceumists educationally minded.
5. The purpose of the scheme being fulfilled.

It would be interesting and useful to the Education Committee if the foregoing possible reasons, and any others that Lyceumists may include, were discussed by Lyceums or their committees and the findings forwarded to the Education Committee not later than April 30th, when they meet for discussion and completion of this year's examinations.

At present SPECIAL consideration is being given to the possibilities of a thorough revision and any helpful suggestions from any Lyceumist, who may not be in active work in our movement, but who is keenly interested in the educational aspect, will be very welcome. Please address all communications to the Education Secretary, Mrs. L. George, 85, Queen's Road, Everton, Liverpool

B.S.L.U. EDUCATION EXAMINATION.  
20th FEBRUARY, 1938.

(Time allowed—not more than THREE hours.)

#### TO CANDIDATES.

- (i) Read through the paper "Instructions to Candidates," sent to you before the examination.
- (ii) 20 marks are allowed for each of the *five* answers. The possible total is 100.
- (iii) Do NOT copy out the questions. Just put the number and letter in the margin of your answer paper.

#### GRADE I QUESTIONS.

All FIVE QUESTIONS to be attempted.

Answer Question 1, and *either* Part A or Part B of the other four questions—NOT BOTH parts.

1. Write our ALL the Principles of Spiritualism, and show how  
"The Brotherhood of Man" naturally follows from "The Fatherhood of God."
2. PART A—Explain the following verse from S.C.R. 66 "Angel Guest."  
*"They haunt the silence of the breast,  
Imagination calm and fair,  
The memory like a cloudless air.  
The conscience as a sea at rest."*

OR

PART B—S.C.R. 93 "Deeds, not Words."  
Explain:

*"Worship God by doing good;  
Works, not words; kind acts, not creeds!  
He who loves God as he should,  
Makes his heart's love understood  
By kind deeds."*

- PART A—M.R. 237. "WE ALL MIGHT DO GOOD."  
Give as many ways of doing good as you can, from both Lyceum and Conductor parts.

OR

PART B—M.R. 211. "BE KIND TO OTHERS."

Give as many reasons as you can why we should be kind to others.

- PART A—G.C.R. 108. "THE LYCEUM" and Handbook, page 41.
  - (a) How does the Lyceum Session try to cater for the physical and mental natures of those present?
  - (b) Give a short account of Andrew Jackson Davis's ideal of Lyceum Groups.

OR

PART B—G.C.R. 139. "CHILDREN IN SPIRIT LIFE." and Handbook.

- (a) Describe the schools in the Spirit World, and the instruction given there.

(b) What kind of work do children in Spirit Life do?

5. PART A—Describe the mediumship of Andrew Jackson Davis

OR

PART B—Trace the growth of the Lyceum Union.

### GRADE II QUESTIONS.

All FIVE QUESTIONS to be attempted.

Answer *either* Part A or Part B—NOT BOTH parts

1. PART A—S.C.R. 4. "YOUR MISSION."

Explain—

"You can visit the afflicted,  
O'er the erring you can weep,  
You can be a true disciple  
Sitting at our Father's feet."

OR

- PART B—M.R. 218. "ARE WE NOT BROTHERS?"

Explain—

"Sect, clan and nation—oh! strike down  
Each mean partition wall!  
Let love the voice of discord drown:  
Are we not brothers all?"

2. PART A—G.C.R. 136. "TEACHINGS OF SPIRITUALISM."

How does Spiritualism prove "man's immortality and the existence of a spiritual universe?"

OR

- PART B—M.R. 210. "THE HEREAFTER."

In the first connective reading we are advised to "Look forward to the meeting of the "dead," as to the meeting of the absent." How do our Lyceum teachings make this possible?

3. PART A—Write a Summary of S.C.R. 78, "Invitation to the Lyceum."

OR

- PART B—Write a Summary of G.C.R. 137, "The NATURE OF SPIRITUALISM."

4. PART A—What do you understand by the Principle:—

"The Proven Facts of Communion between departed Human Spirits and Mortals?"

OR

- PART B—Explain the Principle:—"Person Responsibility with Compensation and retribution hereafter for all the good or evil deed-done here?"

5. PART A—Handbook II, Pp. 14—17.

Explain this statement:—

"As a religion, its aim is to effect a complete harmony of Man with God by deeds of love to God through His creatures."

OR

PART B—Handbook II., Pp. 4—9.

"Our Duty is to Obey the Laws of Our Being."  
What are these laws?  
Why must they be obeyed?

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### SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

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

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

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

THE GENERAL SECRETARY, B.S.L. Union, Hollins Chambers, 64A, Bridge Street, Deansgate, Manchester.

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

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

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### PEARLS.

There is no greater wisdom than well to time the beginnings and onsets of things.  
*Bacon.*

He's only great who can himself command.

*Lansdown.*

The dignity of truth is lost with much protesting.

*Ben Jonson.*

Let us make haste to live, since every day to a wise man is new life.

Whoever is satisfied with what he does will progress no more.

*Marsden.*

Severity breedeth fear, but roughness hate.

*Bacon.*

There is hard work to do and loads to lift;

Shun not the struggle, face it.

*Badcock.*

Do not lose the present in vain perplexities for the future.

Friends, our Union needs deeds expressing rights.

Were half the power that fills the world with terror,  
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,  
Given to redeem the human mind from error,  
There were no need of arsenals or forts.

Your smallest gift may alleviate a great suffering.

The greatest thing which any soul can do is to see clearly and to tell what it saw in a plain way.—*Ruskin*

Time is the king of men,  
He's both their parent and he is their grave.  
And gives them what he will, not what they crave.

—*Shakespeare.*

# OUR LYCEUM GUILD

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

Dear Guildites,

I am glad that I can once more use these two words in addressing you, for we have made quite a good start with new members. Here is the list of Guild members up-to-date, including the eleven members who are now in spirit:—

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Miss M. E. Kitson              | 13. Mr. W. Burrows, Halifax            |
| 2. Alfred Kitson                  | 14. Miss M. A. Williams,<br>Bowes Park |
| 3. H. T. Whorlow                  | 15. Mrs. Carter, Bacup                 |
| 4. Marion Brimelow                | 16. Mr. S. Carter, Bacup               |
| 5. Marion Foster                  | 17. George Mack, Runcorn               |
| 6. Mrs. Ellis                     | 18. Mr. G. A. Mack, Runcorn            |
| 7. Mrs. Fallon                    | 19. Mrs. G. A. Mack, Runcorn           |
| 8. Mrs. Singleton                 | 20. Mrs. Guy, Moston                   |
| 9. Christine Greenwood            | 21. Miss R. Temple, Moston             |
| 10. William Raitlon               | 22. Mr. J. Stafford, Hirst             |
| 11. Mrs. Bury                     | 23. Miss N. Edy, Plaistow.             |
| 12. Mr. R. H. Hales, Attercliffe. | 24. Mr. W. G. Giles, "                 |

So far no Guild Branches have been enrolled, though I have been told that *one* intends to do so, as soon as the folks have got their busy time over and can spare a night to meet as a Guild class. Will you others get busy, and see what you can do about it?

I am very pleased indeed to receive the above people into the Guild family once again, for their quick response shows that they value Our Guild, not merely for what they can get out of it, but rather for what they can put into it. Our family is small, but I hope it will increase until, like The Old Woman in the Shoe, I shall not know what to do.

## Finances.

The Balance in hand on January 1st of this year was £11 2s. 0½d. Bank Interest for 1937 amounts to 7s., and as you will see from the above list, I have received 13s. in associate fees; making a total income of £12 2s. 0½d. The expenditure, as I warned you, is somewhat heavy; and here are details:—Letter Paper and Envelopes 19s.; Associate Member Cards and Application Forms £1 5s. 0d.; Branch Forms and Aims £1 0s. 6d.; Branch Certificates 16s.; and postage for the three months 9s. 3d.; making a total of £4 9s. 9d. So that we now have left £7 12s. 3½d.

## Wanted.

A letter has been received asking me to find a pen friend for a lyceumist about 14 years old. This girl does not mind whether a girl or boy replies, but would prefer someone fond of stamp collecting, and if possible someone in America. Now I do not hear news from any Lyceumist in America, but I do from Calgary in Canada; so if anyone reading this would care to correspond with an English Lyceumist please send your first letter to me, and I will send it on to the person concerned.

I have also a request for a pen friend from a boy of 16, who would like to hear from a girl of similar age. Again, if you would care to write send me your letter, and I will see that it reaches its destination. But

remember, you who ask for pen friends, that I cannot *compel* folks to write to you. I can merely ask, and than if anyone is willing, pass on the address. So it is no use getting angry with me if no one replies.

## Interesting News.

A Lyceumist from Northampton writes to tell me what their Lyceum has done in the dramatic line, for fear I should think Blackburn was the only Lyceum doing such work. I am glad my remarks *re* Blackburn was the cause of your writing to me, Northampton. At Northampton they have done quite a good number of plays from Abel Heywood's catalogue, one Samuel French production, and the most popular play ever performed was "Madame Butterfly." Once they went to Wellingbro Church to give a performance. This Lyceum also has a choir, which sings in the Church once a month. They also keep a Log Book, in which they record the happenings of each Sunday, and any special events. Wouldn't it be nice if you formed a Guild Class, and were able to record in your Log Book that you had received the Guild Branch Certificate from the Guild Leader?

A Lyceumist from Longsight writes to say that they have a weekly class at the home of one of their members, at which they talk about the Education Scheme, readings from the Manual, and teach marching and callisthenics to new beginners. The children also find it easier to ask questions on this night, and their parents say that they live for this special night.

So our good wishes are sent out to both these Lyceums, and we trust that the leaders will carry on with the good work, and will receive help and encouragement from those in the Lyceums.

## To All of You.

One of our Guild aims is "to develop ourselves spiritually by being kind to all living creatures, and trying to make others the same." How are we to do this? I know a very good way of doing this, and I am going to tell you all about it. The R.S.P.C.A. (these letters, in case you do not know, stand for Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has a Junior Division for children from the age of eight years. If you write to "Uncle Tom," 105, Jermyn St., London, S.W.1, he will send you an application form to sign, on which you promise to be kind to all living creatures. In connection with the Junior Division there is a monthly magazine called "Animal Ways," price ½d. to be obtained at the address I have given, and if you send for one, or ask your newsagent to get you one I am sure you will want one every month; for the illustrations are real photographs. Then there are competitions every month, and by doing these and reading the articles you will be surprised how much you will learn about our fellow creatures. At the school where I teach every day we have a branch, and practically all children over eight are members, and work very hard at learning how to treat their pets, and generally trying to carry out their promises. Next month I will tell you more about this.

All good wishes for a happy Easter with plenty of sunshine and fresh air.

From the Guild Leader,

28, Moorlands Place,  
Free School Lane,  
Halifax.

# THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE

WALTER TAYLOR, A.N.S.C.

EVERY age is an age of turmoil and strife. The man in the street, the common people, testify this. Economic blizzards and unemployment are not modern diseases. The majority of the people of earth in all ages and climes have known poverty, and so far back in history as it is possible to go we can always find poor people, people who know nothing but want and misery and death.

No wonder, then, that a vast number of people are solely concerned with mundane things. The affairs of earth, they say, are of the greatest importance; it is imperative that we concentrate on the questions of this life. They thus argue that to talk about another life after this is foolish; we ought to be trying to make a decent place of the world we have here.

History, however, bears out fully the old adage that "Men cannot live by bread alone," and so, centuries before the Christian era, we find men,—the early Greek philosophers—engaged in the pursuit of a knowledge having nothing in common with wordly affairs.

As man slowly developed the power to reason, or a better way to put it would be to say, as man unconsciously advanced to a state of consciousness, the questions of "Whence and Whither" were found to be a natural condition of his new estate, and resolved themselves into an eternal query; the cry of the finite to comprehend the infinite.

This Eternal Query is now known as Philosophy, for the questioning nature of man began a systematic inquiry into the nature of the universe, and that is what we mean by philosophy.

The first men of whom we have any records, who were concerned with the beginnings of such an enquiry, lived at Mitetus, a city on the coast of Asia Minor, in the sixth century before our era. They were seeking, not so much after facts as after the fundamental nature of the world. And all men who pause to think about or probe into the mysteries of the Universe, are philosophers.

It would follow then, that any body of people, or sect, or Movement, which aims at a comprehension of the fundamental nature of life, is a philosophical body, or sect, or Movement.

The difference between philosophy and religion is that, whilst the former seeks to know, the latter is content to believe.

Thus Spiritualism in being a philosophy and a religion believes in the "power" and "orderliness" of the Universe, but seeks to understand *how* this, power and *why* this orderliness exists.

Ascertained facts constitute a basis for philosophy. We know, for instance, that water at a certain degree of heat will boil, and at a certain degree of cold will freeze. We know also that music and speech etc. can be broadcast from one point to another without any intermediary wires, and that science postulates the existence of electrical waves by which comes the broadcast. I say we know these things *do* happen, because they are impinged upon our consciousness; they are facts. But do we know *how* they happen?

There is no-one can say they have seen a wireless wave. We do not observe them in action, we only know their result.

Now we always have to leave the field of observable fact and enter the realm of inference, for our field of observation is a very limited one. If we hugged our facts tight, and refused to infer from them, not only should we not be able to see any further than our noses, but we should find ourselves without facts to hug. The philosopher takes up where the scientist leaves off, and "never the twain shall meet." But the gulf between them can be bridged.

Everyone knows that when you throw a stone into a pond you set in motion ripples, which spread out over the surface of the water. Have you ever thought that the material universe, not just our planet, or solar system, but all that is matter, is a dense sea into which are hurled forces which cause an intense and eternal vibration? Some people call it energy.

If you have thought this, has it not struck you that the guiding power or energy belongs to yet is outside this dense sea, just as our stone belongs to the same world as the pond which we disturb?

We set up barriers which we imagine to exist. We isolate ourselves, and say this is the material world and we are the finest specimens of life in it. I can imagine a fish saying "So, this is the sea, and I am the finest specimen in it."

We err in making a strict line of demarcation between matter and spirit. Really all is spirit at a slower or quicker rate of vibration according to the phase of activity in which it is engaged.

An archangel is no more important in a moral or spiritual sense than is the base criminal; "Whatever is, is right." One is merely at one end of the scale, and the other at the opposite. One's rate of vibration in the universe is slow, whereas the other's rate of vibration is quick. Can you object? What else could constitute the nature of the universe?

Let us assume that a piano with its bass and treble notes represents the universe; at one end of the scale we have the highly advanced, the treble notes, and at the other the more lowly, the bass. To extract harmony every note is necessary; and it will be seen that, as we advance up or down the scale, the notes (the units which comprise the universe) run into each other and mingle to produce a desired result. That result could be effected in no other way. Every note is necessary, the bass just as much as the advanced.

That is what is meant in my allusion to the archangel and the criminal, and what I meant when I said at the outset that there had always been poor people. There has always been lowly advanced people, too, and, of course, the highly advanced. It may seem paradoxical, but whilst everything is in a way "eternally becoming" everything is eternally *now*. The "now" exists, but our comprehension of it does not, and it is our consciousness which is "eternally becoming."

There is nothing wrong with the universe, nothing evil or bad in it. It is our interpretation of it which makes it appear so. The trouble is, we are premature, we are too prone to sit in judgement. I have stated that consciousness is a state of "becoming," and it is presumption on our part to talk of good or bad, or to say that this is perfect, or that that is imperfect, when

we are not in possession of the whole field of consciousness.

We are neither the makers of the laws of the Universe nor the judges of them. We are potential citizens and the fact that we can in a way detach ourselves from the scheme of things is not due to our superiority over matter or nature, but to the rate of vibration at which we are functioning.

Science has ascertained facts, philosophy has formulated certain theories, and religion believes and hopes, but Spiritualism, with its systematic enquiry into the nature of the universe will unite science and religion, giving to science a working hypothesis and to the different sects of the different religions, a common centre around which all can gather and wait.

## A Page of Poems.

### PRAYER.

E. M. MOULT.

When the road is dark and dreary,  
When we feel downcast and weary,  
When bowed down with grief and care,  
Do we go to God in prayer?

When temptation is before us,  
When the shadows dark are o'er us,  
And true friends are true and rare,  
Do we go to God in prayer?

When there's duties to be done,  
And our work we've just begun,  
Do we, 'mid our toils, e'er spare  
Thoughts to God in earnest prayer?

Oft a load of care is lifted,  
Oft the darkest clouds have drifted.  
Troubles vanish in the air  
When we talk to God in prayer.

The future shines serene and bright,  
A glorious day springs from the night,  
God's love is boundless—everywhere  
If we but live in work and prayer.

### ONE SENSE DIVINE.

G. L. SIMS.

I love where love can talk to me;  
Unshadowed by the vacancy  
That fixes time and makes dull laws,  
Untuned to me.  
Ah, frequent thought which sparkles in those lovely  
moods,  
Untamed by custom's cruel rule and things so rude,  
That sets me free to challenge all that seemed real,  
To give me just one sense divine, to feel.

### AN AMAZING SIN.

G. L. SIMS.

What an amazing sin, to speak the truth; listen  
to its cries,  
Imprisoned in a dungeon drear whose warders' keys  
are lies,  
Two worlds in one, yet we all must live in the one of  
lock and key,  
For to trespass on the other side is crime or lunacy.  
A limited life, a limited love, a limited form of art,  
For who could speak of real things with a prisoner in  
his heart?  
I envy the bird or the prowling beast who say what  
they feel, though shy,  
Whose keepers are the gentle breeze or river's falling  
sigh.  
Could I paint with genius' stroke to symbolise wild  
and tame,  
My picture would be a beautiful tree and a plank left  
to rot in the rain.

### FIVE LITTLE FOXES.

Among my tender vines I spy  
A little fox named—Bye and bye.  
Then set upon him quick, I say,  
The swift young hunter—Right away.

Around each tender vine I plant,  
I find the little fox—I can't,  
Then fast as ever hunter ran,  
Chase him with bold and brave—I Can.

No use in trying—lags and whines  
This fox among my tender vines.  
Then drive him low and drive him high  
With this good hunter, named—I'll try.

Among my vines in my small lot  
Creeps in the young fox—I forgot.  
Then hunt him down and to his pen  
With—I-will-not-forget-again.

A little fox is hidden there,  
Among my vines,—I don't care.  
Then let I'm sorry—hunter true.  
Chase him afar from vines and you.

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGANO OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: ANNIE H. MILLS.

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APRIL, 1938.

## Spring Sunshine.

We frequently sing our songs of praise to our Father God the giver of life, for all that nature means to us.

Have you tried singing "Catch the Sunshine" on a dark dismal day when storm clouds hang low in the skies?

However good one's intentions may be to create a substitute for the real thing we fail badly. Try the same experiment on a fine spring morning with the real sun shining forth, beautifying the earth, and our song of praise becomes illuminated with a new force. There is within our souls a re-awaking to reality of all Spring means to us.

In like manner, concerning our cause we cannot do it full justice unless our hearts are in atunement with the highest ideals of service.

Therefore, as we have the witnesses of Gods' love displayed around us in the host of dancing daffodils and other spring flowers lifting their heads to the bidding of the sun, let us too, lift up our hearts to the sunshine of righteousness, that vitalising force which moves within us the desire to bring a spiritual sunshine into the lives of others. The dull days of winter may have obscured our viewpoint concerning these things, but Spring is here.

Let our hearts leap forth in gladness to greet it, laying aside all that which has crushed desire and ambition.

We are as it were, standing in a new world which is bedecked with beauty.

We, too, should become a very part of it by taking upon ourselves the robes of divinity. Such robes which are only fitted to be worn by those of God's children who are striving to serve humanity.

To this end what greater calling can there be than that of serving the children's cause, for they are now in the springtime of their lives.

You can add the flowers of love and kindness making up nature's revelation to the full extent for them.

The spirit world, especially those pioneers to whom the work is so dear, are calling you to carry on their work to-day. Let there be a re-awakening within your souls, allowing the sunshine of spring to be a messenger to you, in calling you forth to new endeavours in the Lyceum Cause.

## PEARLS.

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

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.—*Gray*.

Lord of himself, though not of lands,  
And having nothing, yet hath all.—*Wotton*.

The proper study of mankind is man.—*Pope*.

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

Dare to be true, nothing can need a lie;  
A fault which needs it most grows two thereby.  
—*George Herbert*,

Variety's the very spice of life,  
That gives it all its flavour.—*Cowper*.

There never was a good war or a bad peace.—*Franklin*.

For truth has such a face and such a mien,  
As to be lov'd needs only to be seen.—*Dryden*.

Love comforteth like sunshine after rain,  
Love's gentle spring doth always fresh remain.  
—*Shakespeare*.

Honest labour bears a lovely face.—*Dekker*.

Art may err, but Nature cannot miss.—*Dryden*.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden  
of it for anyone else.—*Dickens*.

Kind words cost little but they are priceless in their  
value.

Who blesses others in his daily deeds,  
Will find the healing that his spirit needs—*Whittier*

True happiness consists in something to do, something  
to love, something to hope for.

When true friends meet in adverse hour,  
'Tis like a sunbeam through a shower—*Scott*.

If you won't discipline yourself, you must be dis-  
ciplined by others.

Our ideal will never be met with in life, unless we have  
first achieved it within ourselves.

They who wait no gifts from chance have conquered  
fate.

If anything difficult or disagreeable has to be done,  
the less we hesitate about doing it the better.

If our cares are too trifling to be carried to God, they  
are too trifling to be cares at all.

The world judges by what we have done, God by what  
we have tried to do.

No worthy enterprise can be done by us without  
continual plodding.—*Milton*.

## MACCLESFIELD LYCEUM.

Will Lyceum Secretaries please note that Mrs. Rushton has retired from secretaryship of the Macclesfield Lyceum, giving way to a younger person, Miss C. Downing, 86, Park Lane, Macclesfield.

# PROCEDURE.

## ARTICLE VII.

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.

### PROCEDURE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The rules of procedure that govern Committee meetings vary very little from those applicable to ordinary meetings.

Each meeting is presided over by a Chairman who is, as a general rule, the President of the organisation appointing the Committee. In some cases, as when a large organisation regards its Presidency as a position of honour rather than of practical utility, it is advisable to elect, or appoint, a Chairman of Committees. A Sub-Committee generally elects its own Chairman from amongst its members.

The position, duties and rights of a Chairman of a Committee are almost identical with those already mentioned in connection with the Chairman of a Society or other organisation.

One of the functions of a Committee is the giving of deeper consideration and fuller deliberation to business and other matters than can be given in a larger meeting. To aid this the rule limiting a member to one speech on any question is discarded in Committee. Whilst it can be seen that the opportunity for a more thorough discussion is thus provided, the wise Chairman will use his discretion in curbing any voluble member who would exploit the rule, either by indulging in undue verbosity or by introducing obstructionist tactics through repeated interruption or interjection.

### MOTIONS IN COMMITTEE REQUIRE NO SECONDER.

The acceptance of motions for discussion in Committee without such motions being seconded is an established Parliamentary procedure which is little known and rarely used. Its wisdom can be appreciated when a small Committee consisting of from three to seven members is in session. In Committee work, the help, experience and opinion of every member should not only be freely given but fully utilised. The insistence upon a seconder to every proposition can, at times, act as a restriction rather than a help to constructive discussion.

Experience teaches, however, that in larger Committees, the retention of the "seconder" rule is often advisable as a deterrent to unnecessary discussion.

### PRESENTING, RECEIVING AND ACCEPTING COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Before passing to the final phase of these Articles we may, with profit, consider briefly the correct procedure with regard to the presentation, reception and acceptance of Committee reports.

Bearing in mind the axiom that a Committee is a body appointed to carry out certain specific duties, it becomes clearly evident that a 'record of accomplishment' should be promptly and faithfully rendered. Not only should a Committee be *expected* to present a

report, or in the case of permanent Committees, reports at regular intervals; but it should be recognised that the Committee is *entitled* to do so.

The preparation of the report is a matter regarding which no hard and fast rules can be laid down. So much depends on the nature of the work assigned and completed, the aims and objects of the body controlling the Committee, the terms of reference and the nature of the Committee. If, however, each meeting has been properly conducted, records carefully tabulated and minutes accurately entered (the latter is particularly important), no difficulty should be experienced in compiling a report.

The drafting of the report should be done by the Secretary of the Committee, he/she being the person in charge of all records, etc. Either as a whole or in itemised form, the draft should then be considered by the Committee, altered or amended as considered necessary and a finally agreed report, by resolution, be presented to the body competent to receive it.

### CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT FROM A COMMITTEE.

When a meeting is called upon to consider the report of a Committee the report should be read aloud to the meeting and a resolution for its acceptance immediately proposed, preferably by the Chairman of the Committee, or by someone on his behalf. Where printed or written copies of the report have been previously issued, the resolution may be:—"That the report be taken as read (or printed)" and the reading dispensed with.

In Parliament the custom is slightly different and the resolution for acceptance is substituted by:—"That the report be read a second time." This involves a process too tedious for general use, especially in meetings where several reports of Committees are to be considered, and the 'acceptance' resolution is now in common use.

The meeting proceeds to consider the report, but one important point to be borne in mind is that the meeting cannot alter or amend the actual report. Its specific object may be opposed, a resolution put forward that its consideration be postponed, or the whole or part of the report may be 'referred back' to the Committee for further consideration.

Only after the report has been agreed to can such motions as are necessary to the carrying out of its object be submitted to the consideration of the meeting. It is sometimes contended that the acceptance of the report automatically brings into active operation any recommendations contained in it. This is an erroneous idea. It should not be considered, however, that the report is finally disposed of until such recommendations have been dealt with. Resolutions arising from a report, therefore, should be taken immediately after the acceptance of it.

# UNCLE BERT'S LETTER

## FOR HOME AND OVER- SEAS

My dear Boys and Girls,

I think April is a beautiful month, so full of new promises to us. In our gardens we have the spring flowers, while all the hedgerows break out into leaf. Even the birds seem to know all about it too, for we hear their song as soon as we awake. There is a chorus in Lyceum Song 302, which just seems to fit in with it all:

Sing all together, sing, sing, sing!  
Sing like a chorus of woodbirds in spring,  
Sing and be happy, sing and be gay,  
The fuller of music, the brighter the day.

This month promises you boys and girls more open air exercise, for with its lighter evenings you will be able to enjoy a romp and a game in the parks before bedtime comes. Then, of course, this will be Easter Egg and Hot Cross Bun month, too, so that is something more to make us feel happy and gay.

I want you all to thank God for all the beauties of Spring which you enjoy.

### The Old School Tie.

You all hear funny men on the wireless making quite a lot of fun about the old school tie, but it is another one of those things we have been calling commonplace. But I also want to add the full school dress and badges.

First let us consider the school dress. Nearly all schools now have their particular colour, which is shown very clearly by the colour of the tie worn with it.

As I go to catch my train each morning I see quite a lot of boys and girls going off to school. Some dressed in black and white, some blue and red, others brown and gold, some green and red. Then I notice some of the girls are wearing red sashes, and some of the boys have special caps. These are prefects, and if they do their duties correctly, perhaps some of you are not always pleased to meet them.

I understand they are like the policemen of the school, they keep their eyes open to see if you are walking along nicely, and in some cases if you are wearing your gloves. Then what is the value of a school tie or a special dress? It is something by which we keep up the standard of our school; it is very important indeed. Every boy and girl should be proud of it, and always endeavour to so act when in the street or elsewhere that the high standard of your school is kept up.

Then we come to badges, these are even more commonplace than school colours, for nearly everyone we meet is wearing some kind of badge in these days.

There is a very large range of things they stand for; let us just think of a few.

There are the various badges given by newspaper clubs which many of you boys and girls wear, then there are society badges denoting that we belong to some particular society, such as the Lyceum badge,

which I hope you have. Quite a lot of older people, especially men, have what are known as Trade Union badges.

Of course there are, too, all kinds of badges you make yourselves for the games you play, including mineral water bottle caps, these usually denote that you belong to some special gang or other.

Everyone of these badges has a very important meaning to those wearing them, and the best illustration I can give you are those we see in soldiers' caps, each of which has a very special motto applying to the regiment wearing it.

You boys and girls who collect cigarette cards may have a collection of these on the back of which you read what they stand for.

I have not time to give you details of each badge you see or wear, but what I do want to do is to get you to value both your old school tie and the badges you wear because they stand for honour.

When I see certain badges on boys and girls' coats I know at once that they have promised to be kind to dumb animals, others tell me what church or club they belong to, but each one has a message which denotes you are proud of the cause for which it stands.

When I see boys and girls going to school wearing their Lyceum badges, it tells me they are proud to let others know they are Lyceumists, and, of course, at once they try to fulfil all the lessons they learn from the Manual.

Of course, when I come up against those wearing gangster badges, I have to watch out very carefully, for I know at once that I am coming up against some tough guys, sometimes a little rough in their dealings with others, but, of course, it is only part of the game.

### Now on View.

This notice is one which I think is most applicable to the older members. We often find it displayed outside sale rooms or exhibitions.

Have you ever realised how much such wording applies to us as individuals. Whether we like it not, we are always under inspection, our dress, actions, words. As others inspect us, so we in turn take stock of them.

Each have their own taste in dress or hat design, if of some outstanding feature the inspection becomes intense, so much so that opinions are often overheard.

Our actions towards others are no less examined and the verdict given for or against us according to the deed expressed. Our spoken word will often do much to show our character.

In view of this fact then, that we are always on exhibition to the whole world, surely it becomes very important how we display ourselves.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and knowing that not only adults are guilty of copying us, but children, too, we should endeavour at all times to set a good example.

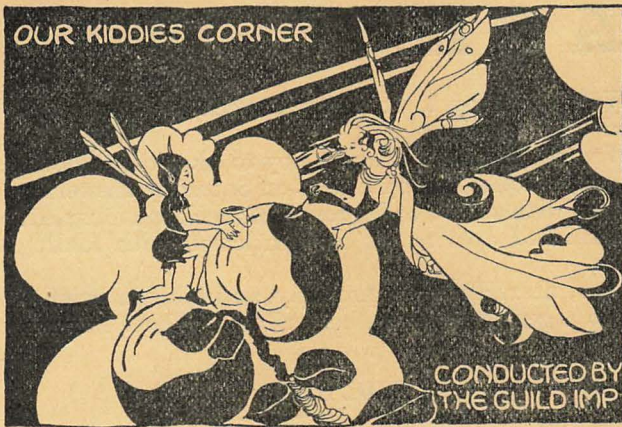
Whatever your calling may be, whether in the higher standards at school or in the business world, let the world see in you something worth being on view.

Greetings,

Ruberrondo,

126, Woodlands Road,  
Isleworth, Middx.

UNCLE BERT.



showers, Doreen. You see 'April showers bring forth May flowers.' Doreen thought that absolutely silly. If the May flowers had any sense at all, they'd hide away from April showers just like Doreen did herself. Doreen privately decided that grown-ups had a lot of queer ideas. The one about April showers was very queer indeed!

Later that same day, the warm sunshine dried up the wet grass so well, that Auntie agreed that Doreen might go to the woods with the others. Each child carried some food and fruit in her little basket, and off they set.

The way to the woods was so exciting. The children followed a field path, over short grass, and then went down the hill to where a little wooden bridge helped them across a gurgling stream. Once across the bridge a very short path brought them to a stile, over which they climbed to enter the woods.

The whole of the way to the woods, the girls called excitedly to each other, as they found out fresh surprises. Eva, the eldest of the party said, "Let's play this game. We'll all look for first flowers, and whenever anyone finds one, call out 'Finding,' and then tell the flower's name. Then when we get home we'll see who has found most new flowers."

The game was a great success. There was so much to find, that, one after another they called out "Finding" until it almost seemed that nothing fresh was left to find. Finding some of the flowers was a race to pick the first one, especially when they came to a daisy-spangled field!

Reaching the woods took so long that by the time all of the girls had crossed the stile, Elsie and Joan declared it was time for tea. The rest agreed, and had much fun as they cleared away all the good things that were in their baskets. That done, Eva, as leader looked at her watch and then said, "We can stay half an hour in the woods, then we must return or else it will be dark before we all reach home. I'll call out 'Game's up' when the half hour is over. Come on girls let us see how many 'findings' the woods can give us."

What a time they had, wandering and scrambling in and out amongst the bushes, peeping at shy flowers amongst half dead grasses, and stopping to admire birds at their nests. Once, Joan called all to come to her quietly whilst she showed the eggs in a thrush's nest.

All good things must end, and Eva's call of "Game's up!" came all too soon. The girls took Doreen home first, since she was the visitor, and so Auntie asked them all indoors for a time.

Around the table, all the girls counted up their "finds." What a show they made. Eva had ten, whilst even Doreen had six. The girls admired the primroses, daisies, violets, celandines, blackthorn, and other April flowers, but they all looked up when Auntie May laughed and said: "Look Doreen. I was right, after all. April showers have even brought May's flowers, now, a fortnight too soon." So saying, she picked out of the show, some pale Mayflowers, and a tiny sprig of May blossom.

The other girls all laughed too, as Doreen answered: "If April showers can do tricks like that Auntie I'll like them very much. Fancy I thought April showers were *spoil-sports*. Now I know they are *good sports*."

Lots of love, Imps,

MEG.

Dear Little Imps,

April always makes me want to say "And in my garden, every day: It shall be always Springtime."

Does it make you feel like that too? I think it must. The April flowers seem so sunny and new that we could almost wish they might last forever. But then, April is so full of newness that it makes us feel impatient too. We want to see what all the new young things will be like when they grow up. If we kept to April flowers, the trees might want to keep to April's opening buds too.

#### APRIL SHOWERS.

Doreen was mystified, and just a little bit cross. April had brought her Easter holidays, and that meant a jolly time at Aunt May's, out in the country. It should have been all jolly and exciting, and so lovely. It was, except for the weather, but, every single day of Doreen's holiday there had been rain.

Now if the rain had stayed a whole night, or even if it had taken up perhaps one whole day, Doreen felt she wouldn't have minded very much. A really wet day meant staying in all day and nobody cared, whilst a really wet night was a fine idea. But, April rain wasn't a bit like that. The rain only came in showers, short, sometimes heavy showers which spoil everything.

Every morning Doreen awoke to find the sun streaming into her pretty bedroom, and birds singing happily at her window. Doreen would dress hurriedly, go down to breakfast and say "Isn't it a lovely day. Auntie. We can have a picnic today." Auntie May would smile as she answered, "Yes! if it keeps fine for us," as though she quite expected the rain to come.

Sure enough the rain would come too. Quite suddenly clouds would hide the sun, and down would come the rain. After, the rain would stop after about half an hour, sometimes, after only a few minutes, and the clouds disappeared behind the blue of the sky.

Every day it was the same. These silly showers spoilt all chance of a picnic. Indeed, they even spoilt walking on grass, and always meant that Auntie carried an umbrella, and Doreen had to take her mackintosh.

One day the rain had been specially tantalising. Doreen was all ready to go with some neighbouring children to the woods, when the shower had come. When she grew cross, Auntie said: "But I like the

# F U N P A G E .

## SCHOOLBOY DEFINITIONS.

Here are some examples of what the schoolboy can do when he tries hard—

“John Wesley was a great sea captain. He beat the Dutch at Waterloo, and by degrees rose to be Duke of Wellington. He was buried near Nelson, in the Poet’s Corner at Westminster Abbey.”

Asked to name six animals peculiar to the Arctic regions a boy replied “Three bears and three seals.”

“The Sublime Porte is a very old wine.”

“The possessive case is when some body has got your knife and won’t give it to you.”

“The plural of penny is twopence.”

“In the sentence ‘I saw the goat butt the man’ ‘butt’ is a conjunction between the goat and the man.”

“Mushrooms always grow in dampy places, and so they look like umbrellas.”

“The difference between water and air is that air can be made wetter but water can’t.”

\* \* \* \*

## STORIES TO LAUGH ABOUT.

### An Academy Sign.

The following is a true copy of a sign upon an academy for teaching in one of the Western states of America—

Freeman and Huggs, School Teachers:  
Freeman teaches the boys, and Huggs the girls.

### A Sailor in Difficulties.

The following anecdote is related of a Tar who once had a narrow escape from imminent peril. He was one of the crew of a ship that was frozen in the Arctic Regions, and like young Nelson, had stayed on the ice, heedless of danger. He was far from the vessel when he saw coming round a block of ice a huge Polar Bear, making directly towards him. Totally unprovided with any defensive weapon but his knife, he bethought himself of an old world weapon for extreme cases—prayer. But how and what it must be? There was no time to deliberate, the monster was near, and delay would be fatal to the poor fellow. So he opened his knife and grasped it firmly, hurriedly uttered a few words—how hurriedly can be imagined—but their ruggedness speaks forcibly of a mingled terror desperate courage, and dim twinkling faith.

“O, Lord, I dinna trouble ye often, but ye see me, an’ ye see this bear. O, Lord, if ye winna help me, dinna help the bear. O, Lord, an’ if ye’ll help neither one nor the ither, stan’ by and see fair play, for this’ll be a maist awfu’ fecht, Amen.”

His prayer must have been answered, for he lived to tell it.

\* \* \* \*

## SOME CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

A lady wants to sell her piano, as she is going abroad in an iron frame.

Wanted, a boy who can open oysters with references.

Bull-dog for sale. Will eat anything; very fond of children.

Wanted, a room by two gentlemen, 30 ft long and 20 ft broad.

Wanted, a boy to be partly outside and partly behind the counter.

Wanted, an organist and a boy to blow the same.

Lost, a collie dog by a man on Saturday answering to Jim, with a brass collar round his neck and muzzled.

Furnished apartments for gentleman with folding doors.

Lost, near Highgate Archway, an umbrella belonging to a gentleman with bent rib and a bone handle.

\* \* \* \*

## RIDDLES.

What three letters are possessed by a clever man?  
A Y Z (a wise head).

What is the hardest kind of soap? Castile (cast-steel).  
Why are deaf people like Swiss clocks? Because we cannot make them here (hear).

Why does an untruthful boy have to keep his word?  
Because no one will take it.

What pets do you tread on? Carpets.

Why are doctors good sailors? Because they are used to ‘see’ sickness.

Which is the best angle to approach a difficult job?  
A ‘try’ angle.

What have six legs and flies? Three birds.

What can you always make light of? Gas.

Why ought one always to be careful in the country?  
Because the corn has ears, the potatoes have eyes, and the bean-s-talk.

\* \* \* \*

## In Spite of Himself.

Neighbour: And how is your poor husband?

Wife: Yesterday he was enjoying poor health, but today he’s complaining of feeling better.

## Our Mechanical Age.

The little girl was saying her prayers. She got half way without difficulty, and then there was a long pause.

“Go on” said her mother. “I can’t,” came the reply, “I’ve conked out.”

## Wrong Number.

A man, anxious to book seats for a certain play, rang up a number.

“Can I get a box for two to-night?” he asked.

“We don’t have boxes for two” answered the voice at the other end.

“Isn’t that the theatre?”

“No this is the undertakers.”

\* \* \* \*

## TRY THESE ON YOUR FRIENDS.

Fire the two following questions at your friend very quickly:

“How many pennies in a dozen?”

“How many halfpennies?”

Like a shot he’ll probably give the answer ‘12; 24.’

“Wrong,” you say. “It’s 12 for both.”

\* \* \* \*

A doctor had a brother. This brother went to America, and was never heard of again. What relation was the doctor to the brother? Sister.

# THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AT ST. HELENS

## A Special Mass Lyceum Session

will be held in the

ST. HELENS CHURCH AND  
LYCEUM, Charles Street

On SUNDAY, APRIL 10th, 1938  
at 2-30 p.m.

Conductor: Mr. J. SLIMIN,

President, B.S.L.U.

## PROPAGANDA MEETING

at 6-30 p.m., to be addressed by the  
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS of the  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Visitors Welcome. - Hymn Sheets provided. - Silver Collection.

## B.S.L.U. RESTORATION FUND.

Fellow Lyceumists:—

Flower Day returns are coming in very slowly indeed. There are still 68 Lyceums who have not yet forwarded their donation, and I sincerely hope that those who are holding back are doing so in order to dispose of all the flowers with a desire to improve on last year's effort.

The total sum received up to the present shows a fall of more than £7 on last year at the same time.

May I appeal to everyone to send in as soon as possible so that I may report the full amount in the May BANNER and present a complete report to Conference.

We are very grateful indeed for the following further donations:—

**Flower Day:** Reading Lyceum, 5s.; Wembley, 2s.; Barnsley, North Pavement, 5s. 10d.; West Walthamstow, 4s. 6d.; Nottingham, Beaconsfield, 1s. 6d.; Shaw, Duke St., 2s. 8d.; St. Helens, 7s. 6d.; Leeds, Armley, 10s.; Derby, Charnwood St., 2s. 6d.; Monkwearmouth, 7s.; Laisterdyke, 5s.; Hetton and District, 8s.; Runcorn, 15s.; Lancaster, 4s. 6d.; Stratford, 4s.; Barnsley, Grace St., 4s. 9d.; Calgary, Canada, 16s.; Cheetham Hill, 3s. 6d.; Belper, 8s. 4d.; Quarmby, 3s.; Bradford, Otley Road, 12s.; Tottenham and Edmonton, 3s. 3d.; Hirst, 6s.; Northampton, 6s.; Huddersfield, St. Peter St., 2s.; Heckmondwike, 3s. 6d.; Accrington, Pearl St., 4s.; Sheffield, Attercliffe, 10s.; Nottingham, Sherwood St., 7s.; Dewsbury, 10s.; Liverpool, Daulby Hall, 15s.; Clapham, 5s.; Southport, 1s. 7d.; Huddersfield, Ramsden St., 7s.; Fleetwood, 6s. 6d.; Hindley, 5s. 8d.; Total, £11 5s. 1d.

**Donations:** Mrs. Pierce, per Mr. Fruin, 5s.; Mr. Fruin, 10s.; Calgary Lyceum, Canada, 10s.; Mrs. Mills, 2s.; Mrs. Slimin, 1s. 6d. Total, £1 8s. 6d.

**Weekly Pennies.** Fulham Lyceum, 3s. Grand Total, £12 16s. 7d.

Mr. Mack, of Runcorn Lyceum, sends forward the suggestion of having a small moss wreath placed in front of the Lyceum table and an invitation to all members of the Lyceum and Church, and any visiting friends to purchase a flower and place it in the wreath, "In Loving Memory of those Gone Before." This suggestion has been tried with success both in Runcorn and Moston Lyceums, and I commend it to all Lyceums for future efforts.

Fraternal Greetings and Good Wishes to all.

JOSEPH TAYLOR, Hon. Secretary.

13, Ridgefield Street,

Failsforth, Manchester.

### WEDDING AT READING.

On February 6th, 1938, the first marriage to be solemnized in the Reading National Spiritualist Church, Crown Street, took place. The contracting parties were Mrs. R. Barnes (Lyceum Secretary) and Mr. T. Chester. Mr. J. Jackson officiated.

It was a pleasing ceremony and the Church was filled with friends and relations.

We wish the happy couple a long and prosperous life together.

### PEARLS.

"By continually looking upwards, our minds will themselves grow upwards."

*Dr. Arnold.*

"A soul without reflection, like a pile without inhabitant, to ruin runs."

*Young.*

## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

## BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The above Council held its Monthly Meeting at the Laisterdyke Lyceum on Sunday, March 13th, 1938, when the following Lyceums were represented: Laisterdyke, Otley Road, Saltaire and Yeadon, sending seven Delegates, two Associate Members, and all officers, making a total of 14 being present. We also had five Junior Associate Members present for confirmation. Mrs. Clayton, the Conductor of the Laisterdyke Lyceum, gave the Conference a Welcome, and in a few well chosen words hoped that it would be a success and that all present would feel at home, and that meeting would be a success.

The business of the Conference was gone through in a very able and keen manner, great interest being taken in most of the items on the agenda.

The various reports, viz., Financial, District Visitors and Fraternal Delegates being accepted. The Financial Statement showing a balance of £4 2s. 3d. It was decided to have the Shield and Bell Competition for 1938. Mr. Wilman, the President, being elected adjudicator. A good deal of discussion took place *re* the BANNER, and it was felt that as far as this Council was concerned, that the Composite Scheme was unworkable. The Conference closed at 12-15, after a good morning's work. In the afternoon a Lyceum Session was held under the Conductorship of Mrs. Clayton, and we had a wonderful time. Our thanks are due to the Laisterdyke friends for the way they catered for us, bringing to a close another good time spent for the Lyceum Cause.—H. Hargreaves, Hon. Sec.

## COVENTRY AND DISTRICT.

Minutes of last Annual Meeting be confirmed. *Re* correspondence: We are in favour of the BANNER continuing, but think more items should be put in telling non-Lyceumists more of our activities and work in our Lyceums.

Mr. B. Hutchinson was accepted as Representative of Coventry and District Lyceum Council on Lyceum work in the district.

Result of Silver Bell Competition: Nuneaton Lyceum 87 marks; Cox St. Lyceum 84 marks. Vote of thanks given by B. Hutchinson, Sec., Mr. Whittaker to Mr. Burrows, Adjudicator, for his report.

Election of Officers: President, Mr. Whittaker; Secretary, Mrs. Coe; Treasurer, Mrs. Hutchinson; D. Visitor, B. Hutchinson; Auditors, Mr. Burrows and Mr. Reeve.

Next meeting, 7th May, Norman Av. Church, Nuneaton, 3-30 p.m.—Mrs. E. Coe, Sec.

## LEEDS DISTRICT.

A.G.M. held Theaker Lane, Armley, Leeds, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3-30. L. Wainwright, President, occupying the Chair. Conference opened by singing hymn, "Knowledge." Mr. Wainwright rendered invocation. Miss Beasley gave Welcome, and was suitably replied to by the Secretary. Roll Call: Officers 4, Delegates 13, representing 9 Lyceums, Associates 3, Auditors 2, Fraternal Delegate L.D.C. 1, total 23.

Minutes A.G.M. agreed to accept as read.

Minutes Quarterly Conference accepted and confirmed.

Correspondence, Morley, Queen Street, application form. District Visitor recommended acceptance and this was agreed to. Agreed that the District Visitor meet Bank Lane, Heckmondwike Lyceum Council *re* withdrawal from B.S.L.U. *Re* York, letter of explanation accepted, also Armly Interchange. Hull No. 1- President warmly welcomed the Delegates and Conference. Delighted with correspondence received, accepted and filed.

Reports D.V., 3 visits made, reports good. Fraternal Delegate, 2 Conferences attended. Inter-Change, no written reports received.

Financial Statements (Quarterly), Income £1 10s. 8d.; Expenditure with deficit last quarter £1 18s. 5½d.; Deficit 7s. 9½d. Balance Sheet, Income £9 14s. 8½d.; Expenditure £10 2s. 6d.; Deficit, Dec. 31st, 1937, 7s. 9½d.

Field Day account, Balance, 1936, £12 0s. 3d.; 1937 Field Day, £6 12s. 6½d.; Reading Lamp raffle, £1 2s. 2d.; In Treasurers hands £1 13s. 4d.; Balance, £21 8s. 3½d.; Liabilities, £3 4s. 4d.; Assets, £5 12s. 8d.; Auditors' Report accounts well kept, recommended acceptance, this was agreed to. Interim Report, Jan., Feb., 26th, 1938, Income, £5 7s. 0d.; Expenditure, £2 3s. 1d.; Balance, £3 3s. 11d.; accepted.

Election of Officers, President, Mr. E. Whitelock (Batley Carr); Vice President, Mrs. Proctor (Leeds Psycho); Treasurer, Mr. T. Hirst (Batley), Secretary, Mr. A. W. Harding (Wakefield); D.V., Mr. Daisley (Psycho); Auditors, Mr. Silcock and Mr. Whitwam, Fraternal Delegate, Mr. Wainwright (Armley); Delegate to Conference, Secretary; Nomination, B.S.L.U., Mr. Slimin (President); Mrs. George (Vice-President); Auditors,

Mr. Burrows and Mr. Shaw; M.Cs., Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cook. 1938 Invitation, Field Day. Heckmondwike and York sent written invitation: voting, York 7 votes, Heckmondwike 5, York invitation accepted. Agree Secretary arrange Field Day meeting.

Agreed to continue Inter-Change for further 12 months.

Progress Scheme amendments aroused much interest and comment, the only one accepted from Dewsbury, time of Session limited to one hour.

Letter from B.S.L.U. *re* BANNER. Much discussion followed various ideas put forward. Secretary instructed to reply. Also the Education Scheme came in for much criticism. Agreed the 10s. donation from Mr. Silcock be placed to the General Fund account.

Next Conference will be at York, Saturday, June 19th. Vote of thanks to retiring officers was moved by Mrs. Proctor, and agreed to. Mr. Wainwright, retiring President, said that although he was leaving office, he would do his best whenever possible to help our Council, and thanked all for appreciation of his services.

Vote of thanks was moved by Secretary to our local friends for their hospitality.

Lyceums represented: Armley, Batley, Castleford, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike (Walkley Lane), Hull No. 1, Psycho, Wakefield, Carlton Road. A. W. Harding, Sec.

## LONDON DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting was held on February 19th, at Clapham Spiritualist Church. Altogether it was a very successful meeting, there being 44 members present. Mr. Fruin, in his presidential address, spoke of the very harmonious relations existing between the L.D.C. of the S.N.U. and the L.L.D.C. of the B.S.L.U. This was due to the President of the L.D.C. being a Lyceumist, and to show our appreciation of his work, Mr. J. M. Stewart was made a life associate of the L.L.D.C. Lyceums were asked to support the Union and so help to keep the flag flying. The Treasurer gave a very fine report, showing a balance in hand of £37 7s. 10d. All the various reports showed great activity which proved that a keen interest was being taken in the work. The election of Officers resulted in "No change," which proved that London was being worked to the satisfaction of its members. After resolutions and motions had been dealt with it was decided to hold a special meeting in March for a talk and discussion on the improvement of Lyceum training. A vote of thanks to the Clapham friends for their hospitality, especially the young Lyceumists who acted as "Nippies," brought the meeting to a close at 10 p.m.

## NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE LYCEUM'S DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The A.G.M. of the above Council was held at St. Peter's St., Blackburn, on Feb. 26th, 1938. Mr. J. Railton presiding.

*Pro-tem appointments:* Mrs. Grieve and Mr. Wood were appointed credential officers.

*Minutes* of the Nov. meeting were read and accepted. Arising from the Correspondence a discussion took place *re* the suggestion of a Fraternal Delegate. Mr. J. Shuttleworth was elected to this position.

*President's Address:* Mr. Railton stressed the need for revived interest in district and national officers, and asked for a full representation at Conference. The future policy of the BANNER must be settled. The address aroused a good discussion and various suggestions *re* Conference representation, and the BANNER policy, were made.

*Reports:*

(1) *Secretary's:* outlined the plans for the proposed Sports Day at Cock Bridge, Great Harwood, on June 18th. Lyceums willing to participate are asked to notify the Secretary before April 18th.

(2) *Treasurer's* showed a Balance of £1 15s. 8½d. to Dec. 31st, 1937.

(3) *Auditor's:* Given by Mr. Raw, and supplemented by Mr. Holding, in the absence through ill-health, of Mr. Pollard.

(4) *D.V.'s:* Mr. Railton reported visiting Rawtenstall and Fleetwood Lyceums. Mr. Wood reported on Earby and Blackpool Lyceums.

(5) *Credential Report* showed: E.C. 4, Auditors 2, Delegates 13 (representing 8 Lyceums), Associate 1, Visitors 4. Total 24. Pooling 6s. per Lyceum.

(6) *Adjudication Report* by Mr. Blackburn showed (1) Blackburn, (2) Fleetwood, (3) Rawtenstall, (4) Blackpool. Congratulations Blackburn and Fleetwood! Mr. Blackburn kindly defrayed the deficit on the adjudication.

*Election of Officers* resulted in: President, Mr. J. Railton; Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Grieve; Treasurer, Mr. T. Wood; D.V.'s,

(Northern) Mrs. Grieve; (Southern) Mr Blackburn. The position of Adjudicator was not filled. Lyceums are asked to forward suggestions for an improved scheme.

*Conference Delegates*; Mr. Railton and Mrs. Grieve. Delegate to N.E. Lanes. Group; Mr. Holding and Mrs. Skeels. Delegate to N.W. Lanes. and S.W. Cumb. Group; Mrs. Grieve. Delegate to the Manchester and Salford L.D.C., Mr. Railton.

*B.S.L.U. Nominations* were as follows:—

President, Mr. Slimin; Vice-President, Mrs. George; Treasurer, Mr. Burrows; M.C. Representatives, Mr. Railton, Mr. A. T. Connor; B.S.L.U. delegate to S.N.U. Conference, Mr. Shuttleworth; Auditor, Mr. Shaw.

*Conference Business*:

1. A complete revision of the Education Scheme was suggested.

*Notices of Motion for B.S.L.U. Conference*:

1. That the District Councils become agents for the sale and/or distribution of Lyceum Union publications and literature.

2. That a footnote be added to the "Annual Returns" forms, from the B.S.L.U. which could be used to notify Lyceums of their D.C. liabilities.

*Other Business*.

Blackburn Lyceum invited offers for the interchange of Conductors.

Votes of thanks were accorded to retiring officers and to the local friends for their hospitality. M. E. Grieve, Hon. Sec.

#### TEESSIDE DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting of this Council was held at the Darlington (Elmfield) National Spiritualist Church on Sunday, 13th February.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. E. M. Ainsworth (Redcar); Vice-President, Mrs. E. J. Mordaunt (West Hartlepool); Secretary, Mr. E. Nellist, D.N.S.C. (Middlesbrough); Treasurer, Mr. A. H. Colbourne (Middlesbrough); District Visitor, Mr. S. G. Donald (Darlington); Auditors, Mr. J. W. Sunter (Darlington), Mr. G. R. McAdam (Shildon); Credential Secretaries: Miss Cartwright (Middlesbrough), Mr. Pierson (Middlesbrough).

The Balance Sheet showed a deficit on the General Fund of £1 7s. 6d., Field Day account 8s., and Education Fund £2 15s. 11d., both credit balances. Actual Cash in hand and at Bank £1 16s. 5d. The Bookstall had made purchases to the amount of £3 1s. 3d., the total sales being £3 10s. 9d., approx. value of stock in hand 14s.

An interesting report was given by Knight Ensign Mrs. Dinsdale on behalf of the Knight Adjutant "E" Cohort, some discussion ensued.

Rule 7, section (d) was amended by the addition of these words:—"Also the enrolment of Junior Associates 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 the ages of 14—18 (inclusive)."

Middlesbrough Lyceum have qualified to hold the Shield for a further 12 months with 92 marks, whilst West Hartlepool (Charles St.) with 77 marks are awarded the "Cup."

The Secretary's Report revealed a decrease of 3 Lyceums only 9 now being in affiliation. There were 44 Associate members during 1937. Arising out of this report, Mr. T. W. Harrison (Middlesbrough) was appointed to act as Assistant Secretary. The following extract from the report is to be discussed at a later Conference:—

"The time has come when we must seriously consider the furthering of the Educational side of the Movement. For this purpose I suggest that the District should be divided into three areas:—(A) Easington Colliery, Horden and the West Hartlepoons; (B) Crook, Darlington, Shildon and Witton Gilbert; and (C) Middlesbrough and Redcar (efforts to be made to re-open Lyceums at Grangetown, South Bank and North Ormesby). That the E.C. Representatives from these Lyceums together with one or two others elected by each Lyceum shall constitute an Area Education Committee, each committee to appoint a Chairman and Secretary. The F. & G.P. Committee to continue as at present to be the central education committee. It is to be borne in mind that the Education Fund (see Statement of Accounts) is derived from the profits of the Bookstall, which under this scheme would no doubt be greatly extended. The duty of these committees would be to administer the B.S.L.U. Education Scheme with a view to the Council becoming a District Centre of the National Spiritualist College, the formation of Speaker's Groups, the examination and recommenda-

tion of applicants for Speakers' and Demonstrators' Plan, and the examination, discussion and recommendation of new educational methods within the Lyceum Session."

The following appointments have been made, B.S.L.U. Conference Delegates, Mr. Nellist, Mr. McAdam; Representative to Northern D.C. (S.N.U.) Executive, Mrs. Ainsworth; Delegate to N.D.C., Mr. McAdam, and Finance and General Purposes Committee, Miss Cartwright and Mr. Foster.

Following the Conference, Mrs. Ainsworth conducted a most interesting and instructive Lyceum Session. Greetings were received from 8 of our affiliated Lyceums. Mr. Harry Foster was the recipient of a handsome Westminster Chime Clock, subscribed to by the various Lyceums within the District. It is pleasing to note that Mr. Foster is to continue active work for the Council, although ill-health prevents him being District Visitor. The Council Secretary, in a few well chosen words, expressing the deep appreciation of the many years of service Mr. Foster has rendered the Council, made the presentation, and was supported by many old and new colleagues. Mr. Foster found it very difficult to reply.

A discussion on the subject of the LYCEUM BANNER called for some scathing comments. Some of the comments, etc., were that a cheaper paper could be used, that production costs were excessive, that the publishing house should be changed, that Lyceum Reports should be excluded, that the reading matter was poor. One worthy suggested that Affiliation Fees might be raised and that each registered member of a Lyceum be given a BANNER gratis. Something might be done to provide good reading matter for young people between the ages of 12—18, for which no provision is at present made. It was thought that a page of readers' views might be of value. One collection a month could be used for the purpose of supplying BANNERS to the children.

As is customary, the Council conducted the Evening Services in the Church. Mrs. Ainsworth presided, the speakers were Mr. E. Nellist (District Secretary), and Knight Ensign A. Dinsdale. Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Mordaunt and Knight Ensign (Mrs.) Dinsdale were the demonstrators.—E. Nellist, D.N.S.C., Sec.

#### BOLTON DISTRICT.

We held our Annual Meeting on Sat., Feb. 19th, at the National Spiritual Church, Bradford St., Bolton. Mrs. Mills in the Chair. Meeting opened at 3-20 p.m., with the singing of Lyceum song, "Steps of Progress." Miss Butterfield gave the invocation. Lyceums present were Horwich, Westhoughton, Bolton, Bury, Hindley, and several associates, also Mr. Cooke, the Fraternal Delegate of L.L.D.C.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was read and accepted. Arising out of correspondence was the fraternal representative discussion; and discussion on the BANNER circular.

President's Address. Mrs. Mills gave a very encouraging address. She also dealt with the future of the Council and its activities.

Secretary's report submitted and accepted. Treasurer's Report showed a Balance in hand, £1 15s., and there were a few items to still come in.

Election of officers were as follows: President, Mrs. Mills; Secretary, Mr. Vernon; Treasurer, Miss Butterfield; D.V., Mr. Walsh.

Result of the Shield Competition for 1937: Horwich (1), Bury (2), Bolton (3), Westhoughton (4), Hindley (5).

The arrangement for Interchange of Conductors was agreed to, also to Massed Sessions at various Lyceums on the invitation of the Lyceums.

During the Meeting all present stood in silence for the memory of our late auditor, Mr. Powers, of Westhoughton.

A hearty vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Cooke to the Bradford St. friends for the way they catered for us. The meeting closed at 7-30 p.m.—Mr. Vernon, 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 St.—We held our Open Session, March 6th; the following Lyceumists took part. Recitations, Thomas Laycock, Walter Swift, Muriel Taylor, Mr. Taylor, Fred Hilton Trio, Jean Wright, Stella Wright, Jean Hilton; Duets, Thomas Laycock and Richard Lightbound, Miss Demain

and Mr. Swift, Walter Swift and Mr. Herbert Johnson; Solos, Phyllis Edwards, Nellie Laycock. An enjoyable morning was spent.—Mrs. Laycock, Sec.

**ARMLEY.**—March 6th, we held our Open Session. This Session was conducted by two of our assistant Conductors, who chose for the theme of their lessons "The Workers Win." Every Lyceumist contributed to the Session by their individual efforts and readings. Another enjoyable and instructive session. A. Massey, Sec.

**BACUP.**—Open Session on March 6th. Conductor, Mrs. Carter, Assistant, James Kemp. Pearls, Jean Taylor, Dorothy Procter, H. N. Shaw, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Alice Wright, Dennis Hollinsworth, Dorothy Stott, Mrs. Carter, James Kemp. Recitations, Harry Hollinsworth. Trio, Harry Salts, Harry Hollinsworth, Derick Barton. Solo, Molly Patchett, George Ashworth, Kenneth Halstead.

Afternoon and Evening Lyceum Anniversary Services conducted by Mrs. Lillie George, of Liverpool. Musical items by scholars. Singing Leader, Mr. H. Shaw. Accompanist, Jean Patchett.—S. Carter, A.N.S.C.

**BIRKENHEAD.**—March 6th. We held our Open Session with the following Lyceumists taking part: Elsie Adams, Jenny, Mary, and Joan Nicholls, Eva Taylor, Ernest Kneale, Mrs. Harding, Lily Saunders, Irene and Gertie Watson, Georgina Hamilton, Peggy Murray.

On February 26th our Annual Prize giving and Tea Party was held, and an enjoyable time was had by everyone. P. Murray, Sec.

**BRADFORD,** Milton.—Open Session, March 6th. Songs, duets, readings, recitations, pianoforte solos by each Lyceumist. A bright, helpful, instructive session. Mrs. Fowler, Sec.

**CHESTERFIELD.**—March 6th, Open Session, with Mr. Heath conducting. Individual items were rendered by:—Audrey, David and Kathleen Clements; Mrs. Briggs, Irene Hobster and Kathleen Clements sang "Heart Flowers." We ended our enjoyable Session by singing "Thanksgiving." It was fairly well attended. A pleasing ceremony was performed by Mr. Heath on March 13th, when the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Green was given the earthly names John Barry, and spirit name "Power."—Glyn Cowell, Session Sec.

**CREWE.**—Our Open Session was held on Sunday, March 6th, with the following Lyceumists taking part, Shelia Kay, Ada Gawthorne, Irene Hirtsch, Myfanwy Hughes, Ivy Gawthorne and Victor Wood, who gave recitations. Shelia Kay also sang unaccompanied. Pearls were very plentiful. A very enjoyable session.—Percy Buxton, Sec.

**DARWEN.**—During the morning session, March 20th, Mrs. Shuttleworth named the baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gomm "Valerie Janice Pearl," spirit name, "Lily." Mr. Shuttleworth, Conductor.—Mrs. Skeels, Sec.

**DONCASTER,** Catherine St.—We held our Open Session, March 13th, conducted by Mrs. Maltby. Invocation given by Mrs. Badger. Betty Maltby and Rosie Badger sang a duet. Stephen Banks, Brenda Maltby, May Taylor, Vida Woffinden and Roy Skill gave recitations. We spent a very happy and enjoyable session.—Mrs. Webb, Sec.

**EARBY.**—On March 6th we held our Open Session with the following Lyceumists taking part: Recitations, E. Greenhalgh, B. Fellows, T. Bradley, E. Wellock, I. Davies, E. Cryer, V. Drinkwater, Miss E. Crossley and Mr. G. Bradley. Songs, I. Cryer, I. Davies, Mrs. Clark, Miss Crossley.—Miss B. Smith, Sec.

**FLEETWOOD.**—We held our Open Session, March 6th. Recitations by June Wilson, Derek Wilson, Jane Oldman, Jack Johnson, Alan Wilkinson, Jackie Kerr, Joan M. Convell. Solo, Alice Johnson. Duet, Carrie and Margaret Johnson.—L. Volland, Sec.

**FULHAM.**—During full Lyceum Session on March 6th, an interesting naming ceremony took place, when the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair was given the name of Carol Ann and the spirit name of "Faith." Mrs. Atmore, the President of the Church, performed the ceremony under an arch of flowers, which was supported by two of the Lyceum Scholars. The infant was presented with a silver spoon and Lyceum badge on behalf of the Fulham Lyceum.—F. J. Bew, Sec.

**HORWICH.**—On March 12th we held a Social and Dance, band in attendance, to mark the occasion as Winners of the Shield. Mr. Cooke, of Runcorn, made the presentation to our Lyceum before a large gathering of friends and Lyceumists from

various Lyceums who came along to congratulate us in our success. Many encouraging remarks were given, also pleasing items of tap and toe dancing were given by Miss M. Davies, of Chorley, which was well appreciated by all. A most enjoyable evening. May we always strive to be worthy recipients.—Mrs. Williams, Sec.

**LANCASTER,** Skerton.—We held our Open Session on March 20th, and the following Lyceumists obliged, O. Tedescoe, Stanley Ashworth, Mary Hudson, Recitations; Elsie Tarney, Ada Aldren; Duets; Barbara Dunkeld, Ada Aldren, solos.—J. Allison, Ban. Sec.

**LEEDS,** Brunswick Place.—On the 13th of March we had a very large session. Armley Lyceum came to visit us, and during the study groups, two Lyceumists from the Blackpool Lyceum joined us. Altogether we had about 50, with our own scholars.—G. Ellis, Sec.

**MACCLESFIELD.**—The Annual Meeting was held on Feb. 20th, Mr. Challinor was in the Chair. Report and Balance Sheet of Flower Day was passed with thanks to all who had helped to make it so successful. The following officers were appointed for 1938. Conductor, Mrs. Challinor; Assistant Conductor, Miss J. Potts; Musical Conductor, Miss Kenyon, Assistants, Alice Birchenough and Ethel Thompson; Secretary, Miss C. Downing; Guardians, Miss Downing and Miss Bristow; Librarians, Young Men's Class; Guards, Ethel Thompson, Marjorie Findlow, Andrew Broderick and Frank Needham; Delegate, Miss Kenyon. Mass Session on Sunday, March 20th, was arranged for. Leaders, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Rushton, Miss Kenyon and Miss Swindells.—H. Rushton.

**MOSTON.**—March 6th. Our Anniversary was a great success, everybody enjoyed the visit of Miss Halliday, Our Guild Leader. Both services were very interesting. Items by Mr. Gershon, Sidney Brady, Mrs. J. Shearsmith.—R. Temple, Sec.

**NOTTINGHAM.**—Sherwood St., Feb. 27th, was a sad day for this Lyceum, for we had to say good-bye to two of our best members and workers, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, who have, owing to Mr. Johnson's work, had to leave the district. Although we shall miss them, we wish them the best of luck and may they be guiding lights wherever they go.—Alan Birch, Sec.

**PORTSMOUTH.**—Open Session held March 6th. Recitations, songs, and musical duets were rendered by Lyceumists, both old and young. A harmonious session. Lyceum Guild still progressing.—O. Jones, Sec.

**ROCHDALE,** Regent Hall.—Jan. 29th. Mr. Dearden, an old Lyceumist, passed to the higher life. March 6th, Lyceum Anniversary. Afternoon Session, a discussion class in place of service proved interesting. Chairman, Miss Jenkinson, also Mrs. Richards, Mr. Nurse, Mrs. Baron and Mr. Blomley took part. Evening, Open Session. Conductor, Miss Jenkinson. Soloists, Mrs. Firth, Miss Jenkinson, Mr. C. Reeves and friend from Baron St. A well spent and highly successful day.—H. T. Blomley, Sec.

**SOUTH SHIELDS.**—Feb. 27th, re-arrangement of Groups. The children marched around the hall behind their leaders with respective banners. Leaders, Misses Williamson, E. Ritchie, E. Nixon, G. Ritchie, Mesdames Barry and Ross.—H. Dunn, Sec.

**STOCKPORT.**—On March 5th we had a very successful Social Evening and presentation of silver bell, awarded by the N.E.C.L.D.C. Mr. Markham, Secretary of the Council, handed over the bell to the Conductor, with well chosen remarks. Mr. Hook presented books to younger Lyceumists. Games and dancing was indulged in. Friends from Ashton and Macclesfield were present and congratulated Stockport on their success. A happy time was spent together.—H. L. Ennion, Sec.

**WALSALL,** Bradford St.—Held Annual Prize Distribution and Concert, Monday Evening, Feb. 28th. Prizes were distributed by Miss G. Keay. Very enjoyable evening.—W. Hollinshead, Ban. Sec.

**WINNIPEG,** Mass., Polson Ave.—Celebrated our Anniversary and Founders Day on January 23rd. Mr. H. Forrest, a former Lyceumist, was our guest conductor for the afternoon, we had a splendid attendance, and a wonderful session. Mr. H. Forrest, Mrs. Forrest, Mrs. Parkinson and Mr. K. Orchard favoured us with songs. Ray Clasper, piano solo, and Ray Parkinson on the accordion; also little Daphne Orchard gave us a song. Readings and recitations by the following:—Margaret and Alice Commons, Agnes Runzer, Kenneth Varnum, and Margaret Anderson.