

THE

LYCEUM BANNER

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PRICE TWOPENCE

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

presented to the 49th Annual Conference of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, held in the Collyhurst National Spiritualist Church, Manchester, on June 4th and 5th, 1938.

Fellow Lyceumists,

In submitting to you my fourth consecutive presidential address I am faced with the rather discomfiting conviction that I *must* put before you, guided by a sense of duty, problems, situations, figures, matters for discussion and points for consideration that are, for the most part, emphasised reiterations of what I have said in previous years.

Like many of you I have looked forward eagerly to a time when new schemes, embodying enlarged ideas and ideals could be set progressively at work in our Union, and we would be able to detect decided signs of re-awakened interest and enthusiasm in our ranks. **WE ARE STILL HOPING FOR THAT TIME TO COME.**

It would be a futile and misplaced effort on my part if I even attempted to present a bright and glowing picture of our Union's working and present standing. It would be sheer hypocrisy to pretend that a feeling of care-free optimism prevails either with me personally or with any member of your Management Committee.

We are undoubtedly facing the crisis which many of our friends (inside and outside our Union) predicted a few years ago.

In case any of those friends should be inclined to preen themselves because of their apparently successful prophecy, however, I cannot refrain from expressing the opinion, a personal opinion be it understood, that the unrest, doubt and mistrust occasioned by their gloomy forebodings have had not a little to do with the precipitation of the crisis mentioned.

It should not be necessary for me to again give a detailed presentation of the situation as it faces us. You have the various reports, statistics and financial statements before you and they speak for themselves. Neither would it serve any useful purpose for me to laboriously analyse and compare year with year or period with period. A recital of the facts of decreasing and vanishing sales, reduced fees and general falling off in numbers and percentages, must inevitably bring us back to the old truism that if our membership decreases all other things fall or decrease in a natural sequence.

Before I go further into that matter however, I want us to face together a new angle of the situation that has not, to my knowledge, arisen at any previous Annual Conference of this Union. Always before when facing years of decreased income or excess of expenditure over income we have been able to feel that we had behind us the security of Capital reserves.

Whilst this was so, though we may have felt occasionally a little depressed over our position, we did not have any cause to consider a discontinuance of our Union's activities. That phase has passed. To-day I want you to realise that either we must find ways and means of obtaining fresh capital or decide whether we are morally justified in continuing as a Union, with the possibility ahead of us in the near future of being unable to fulfil our financial obligations.

In other words; unless you, representing your District Councils, and Lyceums, can give reasonable assurance to your Management Committee that income will be considerably increased, you are asking them to go on pledging the credit of the Union beyond the point of security.

Already I have heard the cry, "We must give up. Our work is finished. We cannot continue."

That 'giving up' would be a simple way out of it all I am prepared to admit, except for one thing. It would mean letting other people down. People who in years gone by gave their time and service to our cause and have handed on to us what is at once a heritage and a sacred charge.

Surely! we must leave consideration of the abandonment of our trust as a very last resort. To 'give up' would be, to my mind, even in so evidently serious a position as the present one, an admission of failure or a confession of defeat.

Nevertheless, the situation must be faced and I hope that all our deliberations during this Conference will be affected by, and all our decisions made after due consideration has been given to, our responsibilities past and present.

Before I revert to our membership figures and the possibility of improving them I wish to make it quite clear that I do not desire anything I have said so far to be construed as an argument either for or against

'Fusion' or as affecting the question of Inter-relations. To my mind the two issues are quite clear and distinct and I would urge that we all endeavour to keep them so during the whole of our meeting. I see no reason why our attitude to each question; the question of the continuance of our Union on new financial grounds and the question of the advisability of accepting 'fusion,' cannot be defined each on its own merits.

Later in our deliberations the Inter-relations report will afford ample opportunity for expression of opinion on the 'fusion' question and I am endeavouring to avoid the introduction into my address of anything that may tend to confuse the issue of our talk on that subject. I will content myself, then, with one remark to define my attitude on the possible converging of the 'fusion' and financial issues:—

I emphatically resent the implication that we *must* consent to fusion because of our inability to continue to manage our own affairs. With equal emphasis would I oppose the handing over of our Union merely with the motive of shuffling our responsibilities on to the shoulders of others. I maintain my previously expressed conviction that our decisions on 'fusion' must be based on higher motives and deeper issues than mere financial expediency.

Now to the real point on which I suggest we should focus all our attention during this week-end. The question as to whether we can re-build our membership so that the stability of our Union may be restored, confidence in our Cause re-established and the progress of former years resumed. Observe I am not urging consideration of the 'Gloomy alternative' for, though I confess to a sense of deep anxiety for the future I am far from the point of despair.

If I may be allowed I should like to again refer to my statement that all our problems centre round the question of membership. I would also like you to consider how restricted that membership is. As a Union we are almost entirely self-enclosed and self-supporting. We publish our own literature for sale to ourselves for our own use. The 'Manual,' our Handbooks, the BANNER and other publications are all almost exclusively adapted to Lyceum teachings which Lyceumists have accepted in years gone by and are still being offered for their acceptance to-day.

Further, our activities are almost wholly restricted to bodies of young people associated with our National Spiritualist Churches.

I suggest to you that our present state is largely the outcome of restrictions imposed upon us by our self-supporting Constitution and our dogged allegiance to the teachings of Modern Spiritualism.

As long as our teachings contain that which attracts and holds young people we will find our self-supporting form quite adequate for our purpose. But as soon as other forms of attraction touch them we find we have neither the means of getting our teachings into the hands of young people outside our Spiritualist Churches nor the additional attractions that will retain the interest of those already with us. We are not moving at the rate of a fast moving age and we must be prepared to consider whether self-restriction is not the cause of our handicap.

We still have, of course, the young people attached to our Spiritualist Churches and the children of Spiritualists as possible recruiting grounds for our Lyceums but I ask, without rancour or sarcasm, dare

anyone to-day assert that Modern Spiritualism, as expounded and practised, has anything to offer that is especially attractive or applicable to young people. Or is there any evidence, apart from our Lyceums, of its efforts or even desire to retain them.

Again! we may attempt to console ourselves by pointing out that all religious bodies are suffering from the same complaints we are. Sunday Schools of all denominations are complaining bitterly of decreased and still decreasing membership. That, friends, brings no comfort to me nor does it engender any complacency regarding our own Union.

Their failure, or partial failure, may have, probably has, the same root cause as ours: limitation of scope.

It appears to me that our energies for some time to come must be devoted more and more to:—

- (1) The promotion of a larger outlook in our Lyceum teachings. This cannot be obtained unless we are prepared to encourage the introduction into our sessions of subjects hitherto considered as outside the strict Lyceum curriculum.
- (2) Consideration of some scheme for lessening the dependence of our financial stability on the self-purchase of Lyceum literature. This may involve the consideration of the introduction and sale of other literature on a profit making basis and, if possible, finding outside sources for sales of our literature.
- (3) The introduction of methods of imparting information to Conductors and teachers that will assist them to keep abreast with modern educational, social and ethical progress.
- (4) The insistence on increased facilities for the spiritually educative entertainment and training of our young people both inside and outside our Churches.

There may be some who would object to the phrase 'Spiritually educative entertainment,' but I hold to it. I am sure that the children and young people of to-day are waiting to grasp the hand that will guide them spiritually, intellectually and morally, provided their natural buoyancy of spirit and brightness of outlook on life are not subdued.

If our Union can stretch out that hand it will not only find pleasure in a greater service but will, in a very practical sense, solve all the problems that beset us, including that greatest problem of all; decreasing membership.

In closing I would like to pay personal tribute to the work done during the year that is closing by my colleagues of the M.C. on your behalf. Without exception they have proved themselves worthy of your confidence and respect. No call to service, whether routine or exceptional, has been unanswered; no responsibility has been shirked or duty left undone. I am proud and pleased to pay this tribute and express the hope that they may see some reward for their labour in evidences of a Lyceum revival.

TURN TO PAGE 100

FOR OUR

LYCEUM LOG

HAVE YOU A GOOD MEMORY?

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

IN my last talk with you I told you something about the ways in which you could learn easily and efficiently. Really I put the 'cart before the horse' for after all you cannot learn if you have no memory. I daresay that many of you thought after reading that article "Oh! It's all very well for him to talk like that, but I've a bad memory." Well, that may be true, for some people have naturally good memories and some have equally bad ones. Moreover, the extent of our memory is fixed and we cannot add to it in any way; all we can do is to make the utmost use of the amount of memory which we have been given. Unfortunately very few people do make the greatest use of their memories.

The extent of our power of retentiveness varies during our lifetime. It gradually develops along with the physical development of childhood, and it is possibly because girls develop physically more quickly than boys that girls have, on the whole, better memories than boys. During adult life, the extent of our faculty of memory remains fairly constant, provided that we are not unlucky enough to suffer from one of those rare diseases which affect memory. In extreme old age memory gradually fails us, but it is strange that those things which we learnt first are forgotten last. This is why old people are always recalling the events of their early youth with considerable accuracy and detail. Their sense of time sequence, however, becomes faulty and events which to them happened but yesterday really occurred many years ago. Incidentally, students of the Bible may be interested to know that this is the reason given by some critics to account for the differences that exist between St. John's Gospel (which they think was written when he was a very old man) and the three remaining Gospels.

Memory is a very complex faculty indeed, for not only does it involve the power of storing up of experiences—which I have already said is fixed for each individual—but also it involves the recall, recognition, and sometimes the location of the recalled experience in the perspective of time. There are then, many factors which come into play before the power of retentiveness is invoked, and it is because we will not use these other factors to the best advantage that we find that we have not such good memories as we ought to have.

Possibly the most important factor conducing to a good memory is that of careful and accurate observation. Let me give you a personal example. I am told that a certain shop has changed hands recently and has had notices posted up to that effect. Now, I have passed that shop at least a dozen times since those notices have been put up, and still I have not seen them! Do you see what I mean when I say that my observation was faulty? It is no wonder that I have a bad memory if I cannot make careful observation of what is going on around me, for it is a truism to say that what we have not experienced we cannot remember. Just try this experiment for yourself to-morrow morning and see if you, too, do not find that you find some little thing which you had not noticed previously. The most stringent test of observation is that to which a witness in a court of law is subjected. Experiments have shown that even

reliable witnesses, on oath, make on the average 10% false statements. Should you ever be unlucky enough to witness an accident, write down there and then brief notes of what happened. You cannot trust to your memory on such occasions since you will probably be suffering from considerable emotional upset.

The next factor which helps you to remember well is that of interest. I said so much about 'attitude' in my last talk that I must not dwell upon it now, but interest does play an enormous part in our efforts of memorising. It is just because modern children are interested in the cinema and sporting events that they can tell you the names of hosts of film stars and the names of the films in which they played, while most boys seem to know even the smallest detail of the fortunes of their favourite football team. But ask them some simple question in geography or history and you will find them quite unable to answer it. They are interested in the former but not in the latter. Thus it becomes one of the greatest tasks of the teacher to find some means by which he can capture the interest of the pupils in his charge.

If we try to learn when we are physically unfit or tired, our labours are mainly in vain. We hear much these days about physical fitness, but we do not hear anything at all about the need for sufficient restful sleep without which it is quite impossible for anybody to be physically fit. How important it is to remember that our children must go to bed early if they are going to do well at school and in their examinations upon which frequently so much depends. It is not fair to the child to send him to school without adequate, rest for a sleepy child is bad-tempered, restless and quite unable to enjoy his school life as he should. To send the child who is entering for an examination to bed an hour earlier than usual would be a great help towards his success, for not only would he be fitted but also more able to make the fullest use of his school lessons.

The unconscious part of our brain never goes to sleep, so that while the body is resting, this part of our brain goes on working at the problems of the day. The person who says 'I will sleep upon this problem' is wise because he knows that his unconscious mind will go on wrestling with his problems and in fact it will do it all the better because at night it is not fettered by conscious desires. It can, therefore, deal with the problem as it is and not as we would like it to be, so that when morning comes we have prepared already for us a reasoned and objective solution to our overnight problem.

To sum up. Each one of us is given a fixed amount of a power which we call 'memory,' but very few people make the best use of their memories. A good memory depends largely upon accurate observation, for what we have not experienced we cannot remember. Interest plays an enormous part in the success of our memorisation. We remember most easily those items in which we are most interested. Physical fitness has an effect upon the success with which we can learn, while lack of sleep accounts for many failures of memory both at school and in the great world beyond the school doors. Many seemingly insoluble problems are solved if we 'sleep on them,' for in so doing we allow our unconscious minds to grapple with the problem without the interference of our conscious wishes.

OUR LYCEUM GUILD

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

Dear Guildites,

Here are the new members to introduce to you this month:—

- 32 Mr. G. P. Robson, North Shields.
- 33 Mrs. Andrews, Liverpool (Daulby).
- 34 Mr. E. A. Keeling, Liverpool (Daulby).
- 35 Edith Macdonald, Wallsend.
- 36 Mrs. Macdonald, "
- 37 Mr. G. Macdonald, "
- 38 Alan Macdonald, "
- 39 Mr. C. Brady, Moston.

Also, in addition to the above, three Guild Branches have enrolled. These are:—

1. Darwen (23 members).
2. Wallsend (Park Road) (4 members).
3. Batley Carr (50 members).

A hearty welcome to each new associate member, and the best of wishes from the Guild Leader for success in all efforts in Lyceum work.

A special welcome to the first three Guild Branches! Our thanks to Darwen, who were most generous in the fee that was sent; and did not want any of it returning when the Guild Leader offered to do so.

I *must* make special mention of Batley Carr Guild Branch, which is doing such good work. The Misses I. and M. Oldroyd are the joint local Guild Leaders, and they have now carried on the class for two years without a break. They meet every Tuesday evening, from 6-30 p.m. to 8 p.m., and, though the time is somewhat short, they manage to do quite a lot of needlework and handwork. At present 36 children under 14 years of age attend the Guild Class, and 14 seniors; and I must not forget that "Happy" is always present, and busy collecting stamps to carry out the promise he made last year. On Easter Monday the Guildites over nine years of age went for a ramble, and walked ten miles, and rode three. Even then they were not too tired to use the swings and roundabouts in a playing field, and to view the exhibits in a Museum. May you have many more enjoyable rambles during the summer, and then begin the winter season with vim and zest. Remember, I am looking forward to coming to your next New Year party, so let me know the date in good time, won't you?

Finance.

The balance in hand at the end of last month was £7. 16s. 9½d., and to add to that I have received 8s. in associate fees, and 6s. 6d. in Branch fees; whilst the only expenditure has been 4s. 6d. for postage so that the balance in hand now is £8. 6s. 9½d.

Items of interest to all.

A long while ago I was sent instructions on the method of making beads from wall-paper by rolling on knitting needles, and told you all about it in one of the BANNER articles. Now, as a result of something I said when visiting Moston Lyceum, a former Guildite has gone to great trouble to make me a machine for rolling beads. This he sent to me along with a very

detailed plan (which must have taken quite a lot of his spare time) and full instructions for using. These beads may be made any size, and used for window curtains, screens, etc. My thanks to the person in question for his very real and practical help!

Miss M. Winterbottom, B2 Side Ward, County Hospital, Clayton, Bradford, is still in hospital, and would be very glad to hear from any of you. I know that some of you write regularly, including our friend in South Africa, and I am very grateful for your help; but, I am sure that more letters would help the long days to pass for our sick friend. So just take up your pen, or go out and buy a cheery post-card to send to the address I have given you. Miss Winterbottom wrote to me a short while ago, and sent the stamps she had managed to collect; and though she is very cheerful she suffers a great deal, and a letter from *you* would be a help.

Your thoughts also for George H. Morgan, of Daulby Lyceum, who has been ill now for over three months, having just escaped rheumatic fever. His health is improving now, but he has lost his job; so please spare a moment for sending helpful thoughts that will, perhaps, bring him a new job sooner than he expects.

You have already heard of the accident to one of our members, Mrs. J. Greenwood, J.P., of Hebden Bridge, and will, no doubt, have already remembered her in your thoughts and prayers. But I would like to take this opportunity of telling you what, otherwise, you would perhaps never hear. When Mrs. Greenwood fell she cut her head so badly that the doctor had to insert nine stitches, and the courage she displayed whilst he was doing that was so marvellous that he said he had never come across such a brave woman before. You will be pleased to learn that "I am improving wonderfully, though not yet able to go downstairs. The wound has healed beautifully, and will not show a scar after the hair has grown—and it is growing fast—anyway, I am bobbed for good. The shock to the system is the worst difficulty, but that will soon pass, I hope." (These are her own words in a most unexpected letter to the Guild Leader.) So please let her have your thoughts of healing every day, so that she may soon be her former self.

Our good wishes for future happiness to two York Guildites, who were married at Easter. I refer to Mr. S. Smith and Miss A. Walker, conductor of the Lyceum. May you both live long to enjoy a life of happy companionship, and to continue working together in the Lyceum!

To All of You.

A happy holiday with plenty of sunshine and fresh air, so that you may go back to your school or work with renewed zeal and energy.

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

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Hands were made to be useful
If you just teach them the way.
Therefore for yourself and neighbour
Make them useful day by day.

Hate ends in defeat, love in victory.

UNCLE BERT'S LETTER

FOR HOME
AND OVER-
SEAS

My dear Boys and Girls,

In the first place I want to thank all who sent me their views about this page; I value your help and suggestions.

This month I propose to return to common place things, that is things we see every day of our lives and yet do not think a great deal about or the lessons they teach us.

Just Playing.

A few Sunday mornings ago a little boy and girl were playing outside my front gate. One was on a small tricycle and one in a small motor car. As I usually do, I just watched and listened to their conversation to see if I could learn any hints.

It so happened that my front gate became their garage. Here it was that they changed machines from time to time. They also bought or pretended to buy their supply of petrol here too.

After a time, thinking I would like to join in the fun they were having, I asked them if I could have a ride, they both considered the idea but came to the conclusion that I was a little too big, or the bicycle and car were a bit too small, so I had to content myself by looking on.

On the Roadway.

While all this was going on, older boys and girls and men and women were going by on bicycles or in motor cars, but I doubt very much if they were getting so much pleasure out of it as my two young friends. Let that be as it may. Shall we try and see if we can get a few lessons from the bicycle this month. We cannot go very far without seeing quite a number of them; and just at present we read quite a lot in the papers about what cyclists should or should not do. I do not think I need worry about that side, as those on the roads should know all about it.

Keep your balance.

The first lesson the bicycle (whether large or small) teaches us, is to keep our balance. When we start learning to ride, this is not quite so simple as it looks, we generally have to have someone to help us until we can ride alone. Is not that just like our lives, when we are very young we have to look to mother and father to help us. Then when we get old enough we are able to set off on our own.

The First Spill.

Here we get a very good example from some who think they are so clever that they ride carelessly. I am thinking of those who put both hands in their pockets while they are riding, without thinking of the danger they are likely to cause to themselves or those who follow them. Sometimes of course it is done to look big or show off and sometimes because they get over confident. The lesson I want to convey here is to think of others.

If you were riding with both hands in your pockets

and a motor car was coming behind you suppose you had a spill, the motor driver would have little chance to pull up in time to avoid injuring you. If this happened you cause pain not only to yourself, but to those who have to look after you until you are well again. Remember "It is better to be safe than sorry."

Going Straight.

Even the most careful riders sometimes have a skid and I expect you have noticed that when they remount they usually wobble.

This is because their handle bars "are out of true," therefore they are unable to steer straight ahead.

In life our ideals are the handle bars, it is up to us to see that they are "set true", or in other words that we always aim at going straight. Should we have a spill, let us get up again adjust our ideals with right thinking, and then all will be well.

Pedal for all you are worth.

Here we have a great lesson to think about. "The more you pedal the further you go." You do not get far if you rely on free wheeling.

If you want to get on at school or at work it is a case of working hard all the time. The more energy you put into your task the further you go, so just pedal away.

Good Companions.

My two young friends of whom I spoke at the opening of this letter appeared to be real chums. When you set out on a cycle ride it is always pleasant to have the company of a friend. The choosing of friends as we ride through life is a very important thing to be considered. You will find that your journey will take you over rough and smooth roads.

You will also run into fair and wet periods, or you may meet hardships or joys. There will be temptations to encounter along the roadway, but if you choose the right type of companions it will make all the difference in the world to you.

Choosing Routes.

When you set out for a spin it is necessary to decide what destination to make for. For this purpose you study maps and guide books, finding out the best roads to take. The best road I know in life is Service Road leading to the highest point of ambition. When you reach this, and look back, you have little to regret that you chose this route.

A Good Clean Up.

In conclusion, just as it is necessary to keep your bicycle clean and well adjusted, so it is with your character. It makes for good running.

Greetings to all,

Ruberrondo,
126, Woodlands Rd., Isleworth, Mddx.

UNCLE BERT.

SEE OUR

SPECIAL OFFER

PAGE 3 OF COVER

THE CONVERT.

A Psychic Story.

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

JOHN HADFIELD was a typical example of a hard headed man of business, a doubting Thomas to the Nth degree. He was the sort of man that would be the dying beggar's last call for help, a tight-fisted, short tempered fool of a man. Most of his office staff hated him with deep malice, such was their eagerness to hate him that when he took one of his rare holidays they made it an occasion of real jollity. Even his own children refrained from asking the slightest of favours lest he should give them a severe lecture upon the virtues of working instead of idling. Other people's dislike of him was reciprocated by his aversion to everyone else. Now you have a fair idea of what he was in 1936. Let me show you how he changed.

On the 8th May, 1936, Mr. John Hadfield travelled north to the City of Liverpool. The train was three minutes late, an excuse for a display of temper, and so irritated was he by this small delay that he ignored the stream of traffic that was pouring down the street when, half-way across the road one of the passing cars swerved to avoid him causing another to brake sharply and to run him down before the full effect of the brakes was felt on the car. Well the upshot of that bit of carelessness and ill temper was an artificial leg. Thus from being an able bodied man he was a cripple, and he resented the fact of his disability each hour of the day. He demanded that he be allowed to go to business instead of 'fooling round like an old woman of 80.' The Dr. warned him of such a silly action as thinking about trying to get about until nature had had time to deal with the complaint, but Hadfield was adamant.

So a very surprised staff saw him come to his office minus a leg, in half the usual time it takes for such cases to go about. Of course everything was all in a muddle to hear him rave. By lunch time he was like a madman. As he came out of his office to go to his lunch he saw that the lift was temporarily out of action, due to repairs. Angriely he started to walk down the stairs, and in his haste he slipped down the complete flight. The next thing he knew was that he was in hospital, and that two Drs. were conversing in low tones with a nurse. He listened diligently to the talk and now and then he heard them debate whether he would live until the morning. It took a long time for his brain to register the fact that it was really him they were talking about, and it took still longer for him to realise that his time on this plane of matter may be only a very short one. When the realisation did come he found out that he wanted to scream and aren't, how could a grown man act like a child. He was afraid.

As the night wore on he became more restless and he begun to think very seriously of what he might be about to lose. He thought of his business, what would happen to that? The more he dwelt on the matter and the greater became his fear of losing his money and all his possessions, and the more determined he was that he would live. The mighty

battle for life commenced at that hour, and he was secretly elated that he gained strength with the passing of each hour. The day succeeded the night and still he lived, and the night returned with an increasing pain in his leg. He fell into a stupor, he woke and saw beside his bed the figure of his father. His mind quickly fled to the story of Dicken's Christmas Carol, and with a look of scorn he said to the figure "Get to the age to which you belong." The figure beckoned to him and surprisingly to himself he felt that he was leaving the physical body. The figure of his father was displaced by a stranger, they spoke not but continued their way into space. His eyes grew accustomed to the light, and he could discern that he was now in a world of spirit. His guide pointed to a particular spot and there he saw many of his old earthly friends, or rather his earthly business associates. He went eagerly forward to greet them until he was amazed to see the look of sheer misery on their faces, and as one figure came into view, that of a wealthy landowner, he was startled to see that even he who had so much wealth was the unhappiest of the lot. He felt a touch of grief for these people who were his closest associates and now were extremely miserable. The guide showed him another group of people, and instantly he recognised several of the men he had called fools because they were too liberal with their money to their employees and they were not hard drivers of business bargains. Instead of seeing them in tears at their lack of business acumen he saw instead that they seemed on the contrary quite cheerful. The guide took him to a third and last place. Here they viewed a collection of people who had often called upon John Hadfield for some cause or other, he saw the undersized local preacher, one of his own employees—a poor man but a good liver—he rubbed his eyes when the figure of his poor mother own came into view. "Why are you here among all this rabble," he asked the advancing figure of his mother. In a very quiet voice she replied, "John, God let us have money to use, not to hoard or to deprive other people of some of it. He gave us our lives, too, that we may use them also, not to confine them to the amassing of wealth. Go and live like a human being, go and see the beauty of God's works, go and live in happiness with those that are of your own flesh and blood."

It was almost noon before he awoke, and as he did so he remembered the last words of the spirit of his mother, "go and live in happiness with those that are of your own flesh and blood." Gradually he sorted the whole thing out, he realised that he had been dead, and had been given a chance to redeem himself. He was sure that he had seen both of his parents, and he was positive that he had seen his old business acquaintances, and he recollected that those who most greatly resembled himself were the most unhappy. Those who had done something for the betterment of someone other than themselves were by far the brighter and cheerful.

Surely it does not need telling that John Hadfield changed his habits, he was a different man, he became a father to his children instead of a tyrant. He became an employer to his staff rather than a boss. To his friends he became a real friend, replacing the old vile tempered Hadfield. He started to live to see what the reason for his existence really was.



Dear Little Imps,

Now, I wonder if this topsy-turvy year of weather will give us "flaming June?" Though April forgot its showers, at least in this district, I found May-time flowers, a good week before their proper coming-out times. If this kind of thing continues, we shall need all our old, old weather rhymes re-writing, and the odd part will be that no-one will know what to put into the new rhymes. Then what shall we do? I suppose the best thing will be to ask Mr. Weather-Clerk to cry for peace amongst the sun and wind and rain, and all the other weather makers. It's all very strange! I think we had better consult the fairies. After all, our weather matters to them, just as much as it does to us.

DROUGHT AMONGST THE WEE FOLKS.

"I wonder what next?" said a little fairy, wearily. "Whatever, at all, can be the matter?" asked a pixie, peeping through the blue-bell leaves at the fairy.

"Matter, enough!" said the fairy crossly. "It's those people on earth! They are grumbling again. It seems to me they will never be satisfied. What do you think? It is the sunshine they are grumbling about this time! Whoever heard of having too much sunshine? Ridiculous, I say! But it is no use with some people. We'll never, never please them if we try for ever and the day after that!"

"Dear, dear me!" murmured the pixie, sympathetically. "It sounds very serious. Are the earth people really grumbling about having too much sunshine? That certainly is strange. Now, for myself, I think the sunshine is the best gift we ever have from the weather. Still, one never knows!"

"That is exactly the case!" chimed in an old elf who had been listening to the fairy and the pixie. "For once, those earth people are right. Do you know, that even the Fairy Queen, yes, our very own queen, is rather worried about so much sunshine?"

The fairy and the pixie stared open-mouthed at the little old elf. "Our Queen worried about the weather?" said the fairy. "That's the strangest thing I've heard yet," remarked the pixie.

The elf sat down on the ground beside the others. "And yet it is quite, quite true," he replied. "I think she is right to be worried, too. Why! I haven't

found a single toad-stool on which I can rest this year. It is most uncomfortable! I am really annoyed about it!"

The fairy nodded her head. "Yes! I tried to find a toad-stool yesterday and I couldn't. I wanted one of those nice spotted red ones, but I couldn't even find a puff-ball. And it was for my new house, too! But, the Queen doesn't go hunting toad-stools, so why is she worrying?"

"It all comes to the same thing, feather-brain," retorted the elf. "I can't find toad-stools because the rain hasn't come to help them to grow. Well, the Queen can't find a good 'fairy-ring' for her June parties. No rain—no nice soft grass! Can't you see?"

"Mmm!" murmured the pixie. "That isn't all, either! I've just remembered that yesterday I heard some fairies grumbling that we'd be short of honey-dew this year, and the nectar wouldn't be as good as usual. Indeed, I even heard a whisper that we might have to be rationed at the parties. Wouldn't that be awful?"

Just then a blackbird sank rather wearily on a nearby twig. "Have you heard about the shortage of rain," asked the fairy. "Have I heard about it? I don't need to be told. I know well enough for myself. Why! I've just had to fly at least two miles to find a drink. Shocking, I call it! I believe even the nightingales are complaining of thirst nowadays."

A fairy, a pixie, an elf and a tired blackbird, all sat looking sadly at each other. Then a skylark dropped to earth at their feet. "It is even hard work singing in weather like this," she said. "As for my poor babies, their nest is hard to hide in this poor grass, and they are ever so thirsty. Sunshine is fine, but we can have too much of a good thing."

"That's just how I feel" quietly murmured a drooping daisy plant.

Just then, a very young fairy came by feeling ever so proud of her dainty new summer outfit. She was ever so gay, and so she stopped in dismay when she saw the little company of grumblers. She stopped beside them with "What a dreary crowd you look! Cheer up, the sun is shining, it is June, our party month, and you all ought to be ever so happy. I am! What ails all of you? Do cheer up!"

The others looked at her, almost in pity, for a moment. Of course, she couldn't know any better, being a new young fairy! Then the elf spoke: "It's the need for rain we are sighing about, little fairy. Hadn't you heard that even the Queen of the Fairies was worried about it?"

And then the little fairy threw back her head and laughed, and laughed and laughed, until her laughter sounded like the delicious trickle of sweet raindrops on a tired and thirsty land. Even the grumblers had to smile for, soon she stopped her laughing to say "But I forgot to tell you. I am a shower fairy. Lots of my friends are on their way. We couldn't come in April, so we've all agreed to make it up to you. Now, scurry, and take cover, for here comes rain."

And down pattered the silvery raindrops, whilst all the worried frowns cleared to make room for smiles on the faces of a fairy, a pixie, an elf and two very grateful birds.

Lots of love, Imps,

MEG.

THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: ANNIE H. MILLS.

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

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

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

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

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

JUNE, 1938.

THE SPIRIT OF CONFERENCE.

AS we open this issue delegates from the various Districts Councils and Lyceums will be assembled in Conference.

They will have arrived with instructions from their own particular centres regarding the manner in which they shall vote on matters relating to the business and financial side of our Union.

This of course is most essential and in order, but underlying all this, what of the spiritual signification of Conference. We meet together to consider ways and means of carrying on a work which was started under spirit guidance.

During the week-end the whole Conference will stand to arisen workers, recognising that they are still with us, sharing our interest.

In as much as we hold this knowledge of the continuity of life, should not our first efforts be an endeavour to attune our thoughts to the divine force, that centre which gave birth to our organisation?

Unfortunately when our minds are perplexed with the problems of business routine, it is not always easy to do this.

It is questionable if we have not failed in the past by not opening our Conference deliberations with what I will term a fellowship meeting of officers and delegates whereby we might draw unto ourselves that spiritual power which would permeate the whole conference.

Although no organised meeting for such is arranged it does not prevent the individual spending some little time preceding Conference, entering into the silence of his or her own soul, thus drawing to themselves those higher vibrations.

In this way we should surely bring into the Conference Hall a spiritual force which would have a general effect to the results of our deliberations.

Let us now consider the spirit of conference from its results aspect.

We elect a President together with others to carry on the work for the coming year, but do we make a point of remembering them in our prayers, after their election? It is wise to remember they are but human beings who need the power of our highest thoughts to enable them to carry out the tasks we assign them. Enthusiasm is yet a further aspect which plays a

large part in such a gathering, but an enthusiasm which only lasts a few hours or weeks after Conference is of little value to the movement.

It is like a house newly decorated. For a few weeks it is pleasant to look at, then when its newness begins to wear off it is passed by unnoticed. What we need is to draw to ourselves a power which gives a lasting desire to work for the cause.

Whatever the results of Conference as to the future of our movement one thing remains, it is the reports of individual delegates to their District Councils and Lyceums which carry back the spirit of enthusiasm or discontent, and which can make or mar our future history.

B.S.L.U. RESTORATION FUND.

Kindly note change of address—

21, Brunswick Street,
Ardwick Green, Manchester, 13.

Fellow Lyceumists,

We acknowledge with gratitude the following donations for the month of May.

Flower Day: Bradford Milton, 4s. 2d.; Croydon, 6s. 6d.; Ashton-u-Lyne, 2s. 3d.; Wigan, 2s. 2d.; Wakefield, 3s. 6d.; Chester, 3s. 6d.; Heaton and Byker, 15s.; Benwell, 4s. 6d.; Stretford, 4s. 0d.; South Shields, 9s.; Mansfield, 3s. 4d.

Weekly Pennies: Fulham 5s. Total £3 2s. 11d.

There are still a number of Lyceums who have not yet made returns for Flower Day and we would appeal to you not to delay any longer. If you have been holding back to sell all the flowers, please send along what you have now raised so that the Flower Day accounts may be completed.

Birthdays: To Mr. Mills and Leah Mills we send Hearty Greetings for "a Happy Birthday."

Kindly send all donations to Mr. J. Taylor, Hon. Secretary, B.S.L.U. Restoration Fund at the *above* new address.

Look up with hopeful eyes though all things seem forlorn.

The sun that sets to-night will rise again the morn.

Be thyself, no man was great for imitation.

Don't laugh at people who can't count. The greatest men we knew took their shoes and stockings off to count up to ten.

A good celery is good, but a good salary is better.

Links of gold may rust and sever,
But links of friendship last for ever.

EDUCATION SCHEME.

WHEN this month's BANNER arrives, in time for June 5th, the B.S.L.U. Annual Conference will be taking place at Manchester, and amongst the many items on the Agenda is the 'Education Report.'

A general survey of the year's work will be considered and during the Interim Report details of a revised scheme will be offered for discussion and, with any necessary alterations or suggestions, it is hoped will be adopted.

It is too soon to prophesy its adoption, but the Education Committee hopes that whatever revision may be agreed upon (if any), that *all* Lyceumists will join together in trying to: (a) improve the standard of efficiency, (b) work for an increase in the number of candidates, and (c) renew enthusiasm which will be productive of successful results.

The Lyceum Movement needs a better response to its educational side, and it is only by exploring all possibilities and venturing upon new methods more in keeping with modern ideas, that this response may be realised. The Committee is trying to do this; but we want *your* co-operation.

In my last month's report I stated that we had still a stock of 11,775 Handbooks. To some extent this is a handicap to a complete revision, but we hope our ideas presented at Conference will show that at least there is an effort to bring ourselves in keeping with the times, while being obliged, owing to financial limitations, to confine ourselves to the present set of Handbooks.

For this year's examinations all the certificates have been despatched and we hope arrived safely.

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to all candidates who have passed, and to those who were not successful in obtaining 50% marks, may we assure them that, although it may appear poor consolation to state it, and children may not appreciate it, the fact remains that "all effort is worth while". Don't be discouraged but try again.

If the revised scheme is adopted we are going to suggest that *all* Lyceumists, whether having passed the five grades or not, make an attempt at the particular examination suitable to their age. It will be interesting and worth while.

May I draw your special attention to the Management Committee's offer of 150 complete parcels of Education literature at the reduced price of 2s. per parcel, post free. This is a big reduction and a splendid opportunity for intending students. It is a useful parcel for propaganda literature, and for the purpose of handing any single copy of a handbook to an interested friend or investigator, would cost the purchaser less than 3d. Do grasp this opportunity and help to decrease the stock and give the Union an opportunity of complete revision. For all text books apply to Mrs. Mills.

LILLIE GEORGE,
Hon. Education Secretary.

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.

ELECTIVE AUDITORS' AMENDED REPORT TO CONFERENCE.

Owing to the original report, compiled very early in the year, having unfortunately been lost, some errors crept into the Elective Auditors' Report to Conference. We take this opportunity of printing the correct report, and trust that Delegates will take this into consideration when discussing the Elective Auditors' Report.

Stock has been taken, all books, vouchers and books of the Union examined, and we have received satisfactory answers to all questions asked.

We again ask Lyceumists to await Conference for fuller explanation of the contingent liability.

We recommend the following—

1. That the BANNER be temporarily suspended until this can be published on a paying basis.

Should this not be accepted we recommend the following—

a. That the Knight Crusaders be approached for a donation towards the cost of their page in the BANNER.

b. That the BANNER poster be discontinued.

c. That the Bound Volumes be discontinued, and that binders be obtained for contributors' use.

2. That the Education Scheme be re-organised.

3. That the Elective Auditors be given permission to clear the stock room, scrapping all goods that prove to be of no value.

4. That some of the selling prices in the Publishing Fund be increased.

We have made the above recommendations after seriously considering the position and request that Conference give a definite stated time on Saturday to the full discussion of the financial situation.

J. E. HART, } Elective Auditors.
A. SHAW. }

B.S.L.U. RESTORATION FUND.

Change of Secretary's Address.

Mr. J. Taylor,
21, Brunswick St.,
Ardwick Green,
Manchester, 13.

**COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD
INTERIM REPORT TO CONFERENCE,**

The College Governing Board submit the following report on proposed changes, of which they solicit your endorsement:—

“That the title ‘National Spiritualist College’ be changed to ‘Spiritualists’ Education Scheme.’

B.S.L.U. Section—Lyceumists’ Course.
S.N.U. Section—Platform Workers’ Course.

The B.S.L.U. Section to consist of:

- Junior Grade 12—14 years.
- Lower Middle Grade 14—16 years.
- Upper Middle Grade 16—19 years.
- Senior Grade 18 years and over.

Lyceumists must enter the course at the appropriate age. Certificates to be granted to successful students, in addition to which three prizes will be awarded to each grade.

It is intended to obtain a Silver Shield to be awarded to, and held for one year by the Lyceum whose students obtained the highest percentage of marks.

The S.N.U. Section to consist of
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, which will be the same as the B.S.L.U. Senior Grade.

A FIRST COURSE in Science and Psychology.
A SECOND YEAR COURSE in Religion and Philosophy.

The fees to be:—

	£	s.	d.
Entrance Examination		2	6
First Year (including books)	1	1	0
Second Year (including books)	1	1	0

The degrees at present awarded by the College to be discontinued.

In both sections the list of books and examination times are being revised.”

E. A. KEELING, Chairman.
G. M. HALLIDAY, Secretary.

QUESTION BOX.

THIS COLUMN IS OPEN FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS. PLEASE ADDRESS THEM TO “PATHFINDER,” c/o EDITOR, B.S.L. UNION, 41, JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER 2.

Is the object of the Lyceum training to make our children Spiritualists?

The Lyceum system of training is an attempt to carry out the educational ideal adopted in the spirit spheres, and because of its connection with the spirit world, Spiritualists have adopted it. The primary object of that training is the harmonious development of all the faculties with the search of truth as a basis. If Spiritualism is true, then because it is true it is contained in the Lyceum Ideal. If Lyceumists search for this truth, then, although the sole object is not to make them Spiritualists, such searchers will automatically become same. The Lyceum system affords an opportunity for self-expression which helps towards the development of the faculties of the mind.

Should children be encouraged to develop their mediumship?

Experience has taught that it is not wise to encourage the development of mediumship in the young child. There is a gradual growth and change in the organism of a child up to 15 years. During this period the child is gradually adapting itself to the environments of life and is comparatively ignorant of the nature and manipulation of psychic forces.

If the operation of these is encouraged it may lead to a want of control and weakening of the will power, because the child has not gathered sufficient self-protective force against influences which may not be desirable.

When a child manifests natural psychic ability, it need not be repressed, but neither should it be encouraged, especially for the display of other people. Encouragement often causes injustice to the child in giving it undue prominence and a feeling of self-centredness which is not desirable.

In the few cases where child mediumship has been purposely developed it has seldom lasted. It is a natural faculty, but is stronger and more lasting when developed after school age, when the child is better able to learn how to control its sensitivity to psychical influences.

Should physical exercises be part of a Lyceum Session?

The value of physical exercises is generally agreed upon, as they are considered necessary to keep the body fit for mental and spiritual expression.

In contrast to the time when the Lyceum system was inaugurated, physical exercises of different kinds are now adopted in the ordinary day schools for children and classes are held for adults. Thus, the inclusion of these exercises during the Lyceum Session is not absolutely necessary, but for those who believe that a break from mental exercises is desirable they serve a useful purpose.

Another aspect is that when a symbolical meaning is given to them, and concentrated upon, an additional benefit can be gained, mentally and spiritually.

“PATHFINDER.”

**HAVE YOU
TAKEN
ADVANTAGE
OF OUR
SPECIAL
OFFER?**

SEE PAGE III OF COVER.

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

SILLY RHYME.

I once knew an Indian lady.
 She stood about six feet high.
 Her hair was the colour of sky-blue pink,
 And she only had one eye.
 I asked her to become my wife,
 And live with me the rest of my life.
 I wonder what my mother would say
 If she saw me with that Indian lady.

Dearly beloved brethren, isn't it a sin,
 When you peel potatoes to throw away the skin.
 The skin feeds the pigs, the pigs feed you;
 Dearly beloved brethren, isn't this true?

HELPFUL.

"In this matter," said the Squire, "commentators do not agree with me."

Next day a farmer came to the door with a sack of potatoes.

"Thank you, my man," said the Squire. "But what made you send these?"

"Well," said the farmer, "yesterday you said that commentaters (common taters) didn't agree with you. These ought to; they are the best kidneys."

JUST LIKE MAMMA.

When I'm a grown-up woman,
 Just like Mamma, you know,
 I'm going to have the daintiest things
 When I have learned to sew.

I'll hemstitch and embroider,
 And orient patterns trace.
 I'll trim my frocks with needlework
 As delicate as lace.

When I'm a grown-up woman,
 I'm going to learn to bake
 The most delicious puddings
 And thirteen kinds of cake.

My bread shall be the lightest
 And the whitest in the town.
 And your mouth will water
 When you see my coffee, golden brown.

But when Mamma this morning
 Was brushing out my curls,
 She smiled and said that women
 Were grown-up little girls.

And, oh to gain such skilful fingers,
 The only certain way
 Is to learn to work while I am young
 And practise every day.

PRIMROSES AND WATERCRESS.

Mary and Fanny have wander'd afar
 To find pretty flowers for mother's brown jar.
 They're both rather tired, but happy and bright,
 For they take home some cresses for tea to-night.

Fanny is resting with a bunch on her knee,
 While Mary is peeping round a tall tree.
 Two sweet little sisters, so fond of each other,
 They love no-one better, except their dear mother.

IN CONCLUSION.

"In conclusion we are now waiting for the day when all intoxicating drinks are thrown into the River Thames," said the speaker. "We will now sing the hymn, 'Shall we gather at the river.'"

PEARLS.

Sunshine and hope are comrades.

—*L. E. Landon.*

It is better to pull up the weeds from your own garden than to grumble at those in your neighbour's ground.

—*Sage sayings.*

The kindly word that falls to-day
 May bear its fruit to-morrow.

—*Mackay.*

Chance comes from Providence
 And man must mould it to his own designs.

—*Schiller.*

Wisdom . . . is a structure of the understanding rising out of the moral and spiritual nature.

—*Henry Taylor.*

"Come forth into the light of things,
 Let nature be your teacher. . . .
 Come forth, and bring with you a heart
 That watches and receives."

—*Wordsworth.*

"A healthy body is good; but a soul in right health—
 is the blesseddest thing this earth receives of Heaven."

—*Carlyle.*

"The pleasure of what we enjoy is lost by coveting more."

—*Proverb.*

"Happiness is a roadside flower growing on the highways of usefulness."

—*Tupper.*

"Live peaceably with all,
 So shalt thou live a happy life thyself."

—*Goethe.*

FROM OUR ORAL GRADE PRIMER

CORRESPONDENCE.

AND

JUNIOR GROUPS MANUAL.

DEATH.

BEDTIME HAS COME.

- Leader:* Little birds, little birds, fly to your nest
Make up your soft beds and have a nice rest;
- Group:* The sun is SO tired, and it wants to go home,
- Leader:* So sleep sound till morning,
The gay hills adorning
Shall once more awake you the wide world
to roam.
- Group:* Cuddle together, close packed in your nest;
Little tired head tucked into your breast.
- All:* Little birds, little birds, fly away home,
The sun is SO tired, and your bedtime has
come.
- Leader:* Little boys, little girls, safe in Love's nest,
Get into bed now and have a nice rest:
- Group:* Eyes are SO tired, and legs will NOT move;
- Leader:* So kneel down by Mammy,
Or sister, or granny,
And lisp your sweet prayer to Our Father of
Love—
- Group:* Then in between sheets that are white as the
snow
You snuggle, and off into Sleepland you'll
go.
- All:* Little boys, little girls, "crows have come
home,"
Eyes are SO tired and your bedtime has
come.

Mr. Le Noury in his reply to my request for further points, in reference to my article "Death IS", uses this definition. "Death is the annihilation, the complete extinction of *any* form of life, a void, nothing".

Eva C. Dean in her reply says that death is something and defines this something as ". . . the severing of the silver cord from the human body."

Annihilation is accepted by science as an impossibility.

If death is annihilation then the severing of this cord is an impossibility.

If death is a void, nothing, what is it that happens which is the cause of the spirit leaving the body? Whatever it is, it must have a name.

Spirit-life is a form of life accepted by every spiritualist and Eva C. Dean says that death is *not* the extinction of the spirit, while Mr. Le Noury states that Death *IS* the complete extinction of any form of life.

The two definitions are obviously in direct contradiction to each other and I think that the trouble lies in the fact that, even though this is so, both are used by the average spiritualist. At one time they will think of death as the stepping from one existence to another and perhaps with the next breath will refer to it as annihilation.

I am aware that words often have more than one meaning but I know of no word with the different meaning in direct contradiction.

Only two courses are open for consideration for either one is wrong and the other right, or else both are wrong.

Of the two I think that as death is a proven fact and so cannot be impossible (annihilation), the definition given by Eva C. Dean is nearer correct.

It is a considerable time since I wrote the article "Death IS" and have since been able to use other experiences to aid me in consideration of this subject. I was privileged to view death taking place and saw the cord, referred to by Eva C. Dean, joining the material body to a something else, cloud-like in appearance, immediately above the patient. When this cord appeared to sever (close to the solar-plexus of the patient) the body took on every sign of death.

I now think of the verb "To die" as referring to the passing of experiences and of birth as to the coming of experiences.

BIRTH and DEATH together constitute LIFE.

Each phase of life, each year, each moment, each opportunity, is composed of BIRTH AND DEATH.

Birth Death and Life are THE Trinity in Unity and as far as the finite mind of man can comprehend, the ULTIMATE TRUTH.

JACK LYNE.

(This Correspondence is now closed—EDITOR.)

PEARLS.

Wisdom . . . is a structure of the understanding rising out of the moral and spiritual nature.

—Henry Taylor.

True glory is the unanimous approbation of good men.

—Cicero.

**SEE OUR
SPECIAL OFFER
ON
PAGE III COVER**

The Knight Crusaders.

Headquarters:

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

UNDER THE CRUSADING BANNERS.

Each month I receive reports from the various Cohorts and Squadrons all over the country, and sometimes these give me many pleasant surprises. During the past month I received with the Squadron reports from one of our northern strongholds, further evidence of the serious attitude with which Crusaders view life as a result of taking the accolade and becoming a Knight of the Crusade. The Squadron Leader asked for each member of the Squadron to write a concise essay on why they joined the Order, and I have pleasure in reproducing two of the letters taken at random from the large number sent for my perusal.

“**Why I am a Knight Crusader.**” (Age of writer 14 years). Why am I a Knight Crusader? Yes! I think my reasons for being a Knight are:—Firstly, previous to their existence attending Lyceum was just a habit, with no real reasons for my attending, no interests, just a humdrum habit. When the Knight Crusaders began, it opened up new aspects, opportunities and activities, for my perusal, and it gave me an entirely new outlook on Spiritualism. Secondly, the movement in its ideals is what I stand for—Peace. But not peace at all costs. If I am compelled to fight, I will fight for what is right. Lastly by thinking of these ideals I am prompted to live a good life and to be a true Knight and Chivalrous.

“**Why I am a Knight Crusader.**” (Age of writer 15). I am a Knight Crusader because of the ideal behind the movement. We are trying to bring about peace, not with bloodshed, but by striving to be better men and women, doing kind deeds to one another and trying to realise the Brotherhood of Man. We also try to have better characters and while we often fail in our attempts to overcome bad tempers and other faults, if we keep on trying we shall become better and our ideal is to become examples for others to follow. “What is wanted is not someone to lead the multitude, but someone to give the multitude a lead.”

Both of these youngsters and all those others who submitted papers have realised the fact that the Knight Crusaders is the practical application of the Lyceum training and teaching to everyday life in its every aspect, and all deserve every commendation.

Following the lead of this Squadron, and to get an inside knowledge of the thoughts of All the Knights and Squires, yes and Officers, too, Headquarters are organising an Essay Competition for your ideas on “Peace, nationally and internationally, and how it could be brought about.” Closing date will be July 15th, and entries should be handed in to your Squadron Leaders who will in turn forward them to me, while the Knight Errants (lone Crusaders) should send them direct to H.Q.

There has been a very pleasing response to the formation of the new branch of the Crusade—the Knight Errants or lone Crusaders. I found a very heavy mail on the Monday morning following the publication of

last months' BANNER, and I hope that many more will be writing to me for particulars. By the way, now my Hospital studies have come to a conclusion, and I have more time available, I shall be very pleased to maintain personal contact by letter with any Crusader who would like to drop a line and exchange a thought.

The Crusade is advancing yet another step, and this time is throwing open its portals to those Churches who are unfortunate enough not to have a Lyceum attached to them. Now a Church not having a Lyceum may form a Squadron of Knight Crusaders, and there is every possibility that out of the Squadron will be formed a Lyceum. Thus is the Crusade fulfilling its intention of materially stimulating the growth of the Lyceum movement—everywhere where a Lyceum has formed a Squadron of Crusaders, that Lyceum has increased not only in numbers, but in the quality of its session and the enthusiasm of its members.

And now a message to all Crusaders from the Crusaders of the Spirit. Despite all outward signs of international turmoil and strife, the world is nearer to Peace now than it has ever been. Think Peace, act Peace and have Peace and Harmony in your homes and the Peace we desire will become a thing of reality.

F. C. PETZ,
Knight-Commander.

SHEFFIELD LYCEUMISTS' WORK FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

During the past few months the Lyceumists in Sheffield have been doing extremely valuable work for the cause of international peace. The matter was first brought to notice of the Sheffield Lyceum Council that the International Peace Campaign was to organise in the locality. As a result the Council were invited to send a representative to the I.P.C. Executive, which position the Council gladly accepted, electing Mrs. Thorpe of Darnall to be the representative. Our heartfelt tribute must be paid to Mrs. Thorpe for her valiant efforts in attending meetings of all kinds and being to the fore-front in getting the Lyceumists in the District to take an interest in the matter of International Peace Campaign.

Several Lyceumists acted as Stewards at a magnificent Peace Exhibition arranged in the City Library, Sheffield. Work included distribution of handbills, getting people to sign the roll-book and also taking parties round the Exhibition. Meetings have been stewarded, posters put up in houses, Churches, etc. Literature has been handed out, and even the preparation of a Peace Shop during Sheffield's Peace week has not been forgotten.

The final effort was on the 7th of May when Lyceumists carried banners, walked in a massed Peace Demonstration, and assisted in the carrying out of some of the arrangements. Let it be noted that the Spiritualists' Lyceums were the *best* represented religious organisation at the Demonstration.

A further aid to world peace was the appointment of Mrs. Thorpe and Mrs. Le Noury as delegates to a big Pacifist Convention that was held in the Sheffield City Hall on the 23rd of April. We are also pleased to say that the Churches' District Committee sent two representatives to the Convention.

BIRTH.

RAILTON. At 65, Queen Victoria St., Mill Hill, Blackburn, on May 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Railton, (née Edith Hopper), the gift of a daughter.

WEDDING.

YORK.—A wedding was solemnized on Saturday, April 16th, at National Spiritual Church, Spen Lane, York. The contracting Parties were Mr. S. W. Smith and Miss A. Walker. Mr. A. Whyman, of Hanley, officiated. The bride and bridegroom have been associated with the Church and Sunday School for many years. The Church was filled to its capacity.—S. Whitwam, Sec.

IN MEMORIAM.

NASH.—In ever loving memory of Beatrice, beloved daughter of Charles and Beatrice Nash, called to Higher Service June 3rd, 1937.

She has only dropped her mantle, her soul can never die.

MACCLESFIELD.—On April 20th Harriet Belfield, aged 21, a Lyceumist, passed to the High Life. A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 24th; this was taken by Mr. Smith, of Cheadle, who also officiated at the funeral, which took place in the afternoon.

CHANGE OF SECRETARIES, ETC.

Bolton. Bradford St. 10-30. Mrs. Edden, 287, Lever Street, Bolton.

Hindley. William St. 10-30. Mr. J. Rudd, 37, George Street, Hindley, nr. Wigan.

Leigh. Evans St. Mr. S. Leadbetter, 31, Langdale Street, Leigh.

Coventry. Cox St. Mr. A. H. Swann, 26, Leyland Road, Highlands, Coventry.

Birkenhead. Miss B. Murray, 12, Stuart Road, Hr. Tranmere, Birkenhead.

Southport. Mrs. E. Crewe, 76, Hawkshead Street, Southport. Crewe. Mr. P. Buxton, 144, Market Street, Crewe.

Brixton. Mr. Holt, 113, Replingham Road, Southfield, London.

Croydon. Miss I. Hardwick, 119, Northway Road, East Croydon.

Forest Hill. E. E. Standen, 6, Wylen Street, Honor Oak Park, London, S.E.23.

Fulham. Mr. H. A. Halfacre, 57, Crabtree Lane, Fulham, S.W.

Manchester & Salford L.D.C. District Visitor. Miss M. Lamb, 2, Henderson Grove, Moss Side, Manchester.

Manchester & Salford L.D.C. Secretary. Mr. J. Taylor, 21, Brunswick Street, Ardwick Green, Manchester 13.

Manchester, Progressive. Mrs. M. Ford, 5, Dolphin Street, Ardwick, Manchester.

Harpurhey. Miss E. Betney, 67, Ventnor St., Harpurhey, Manchester.

Macclesfield. Miss M. Downing, 86, Park Lane, Macclesfield.

N.E. Lancashire L.D.C. District Visitor. Northern Section, Mrs. M. E. Grieve, 134, Ainslie Street, Barrow.

Southern Section. Mr. W. Blackburn, 42, Barnes Avenue, Rawtenstall.

Blackburn. Mr. S. Lightbown, 68, Bower Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn.

Nottingham L.D.C. Miss L. M. Sharp, 2, Malt Cottages, Eland Street, New Basford, Nottingham.

Derby. Mr. S. Higginbottom, "Charnwood," 15, Frederick Avenue, Alvaston, Derby.

Sheffield, Darnall. Mr. Wadsworth, 48, St. Joseph Rd, Handsworth, Sheffield.

Reading. Mrs. R. Chester, 7, Shepherds Avenue, Shepherds Hill, Reading.

Ryde. Mrs. E. Oak, Hazeldene, 66, Monkton St., Ryde, I.O.W.

Rochdale. Regent St. Master J. Nurse, 28, Gowers Street, Rochdale.

SPECIAL REPORT.

NORTHAMPTON.—Lyceum 14th Anniversary held May 1st and 2nd. Sunday Services conducted by Mr. J. H. Wicks, Leicester. Subject of Address at Evening Service, "My visits to Spirit World," an interesting and convincing address. On Monday a variety concert given by Lyceumists followed a Tea which was well attended. This happy evening concluded with a Dance.

E. WAITE, Sec.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The above Council held its Monthly Meeting on Sunday, May 8th, 1938, at the Otley Road Lyceum. Mr. Wilman, President, in the Chair. There were seven delegates representing five Lyceums, one Associate, five Junior Associates, five Officers, one Visitor, making a total of eighteen present. The Meeting opened with the singing of Hymn 409 from the Manual, Miss Clayton offering the Invocation. Mr. A. Horn, the Conductor of the Lyceum, gave the Council Welcome and hoped everyone would spend a happy time with them. The usual routine of business was gone through, great interest being taken in the various items on the Agenda. At the close of the meeting the Otley Road friends had provided a good dinner, to which full justice was given. In the afternoon an Open Session was held under the conductorship of the President of the Council. All delegates and associates staying to this. The various readings were gone through, questions being asked and answered in a very able manner. The marching and callisthenics were very good indeed and this Lyceum is making wonderful progress, and at the close the President voiced the thanks of those present. Another day well spent on behalf of the Lyceum Cause.—H. Hargreaves, Hon. Sec.

BOLTON DISTRICT.

The B.L.D.C. held their Quarterly Meeting at Westhoughton Church on May 14th, when five Lyceums were present, seven delegates, four associates, one fraternal delegate.

The meeting opened with singing Lyceum Song (320) "Open wide the gates." Miss Butterfield gave invocation. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Correspondence, Secretary's and Treasurer's Report were read and approved.

The Conference Agenda was read and studied and various items of interest were well discussed, and the delegates were given instructions for same. A hearty vote of thanks to the Westhoughton people for the way they catered for us. The meeting closed with singing of Lyceum Song (340) "Joy Bells." Mrs. Sherrington gave the Benediction.—E. Vernon, Sec.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

Quarterly Conference will be held on Saturday, June 18th, 1938, at National Spiritual Church, Spen Lane, York, 3-30 p.m.

Opening Exercise, Invocation, Welcome, Roll Call, Minutes, Correspondence, Reports: District Visitors', L.D.C., Financial Statement, B.S.L.U., Silver Bell Progress Scheme, Field Day Secretary, Associates, Birthdays, Socials. Amendments: Silver Bell Progress Scheme, Field Day, etc. Open Council. Vote of thanks to local friends. Date and Place next Conference.

The E.C. expresses the wish that all Lyceums will try and send delegates to the Conference and support the York Friends. A social effort will be held in aid of the Council Funds.

Delegate's best way of getting to York is via Leeds New Station. Train service, 2 p.m. and 2-45 p.m. Returning York 9-40 and 9-48 p.m., arriving Leeds 10-15 and 10-23 p.m.

Mr. Silcock, Royston, has given an Eiderdown for Field Day Fund. Tickets 1d. each or 4 for 3d. We all thank you, Mr. Silcock.—A. W. Harding, Council Secretary.

The kindly word that falls to-day
May bear its fruit to-morrow.

—Mackay.

The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself.

—Tales.

S.P.L. LOG.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE owing to space not being available in the May issue, we regret that a number of reports had to be held over until this month. In order to keep future reports up to date as far as possible, allowing for the date of going to press, Secretaries can assist us by sending in their reports immediately events have occurred, at the same time making a point of stating any outstanding features.

EFFICIENCY REWARDED. Most District Councils find the awarding of Shields, Bells, or other tokens of recognition to Lyceums an aid to progressive working.

This month we have pleasure in offering our sincere congratulations to the following Lyceums who have won such trophies:—

Blackburn, Nottingham (Sherwood Street), Walsall, Harpurhey.

MR. SLIMIN. President of our Union, and well known for his energetic labours for the Cause of both Church and Lyceum, conducted the Anniversary Services at Blackburn. We feel sure his efforts have left their mark.

BOLTON BACHELORS of the Bradford Street Lyceum have an eye to business and a view to increasing their membership, so gave a tea party. In addition the Lyceum held a reunion party also. Spinsters should follow suit.

MACCLESFIELD HONOURED. Following a massed Session, conducted by Mrs. Moulton, President N.E.C., L.D.C., which was supported by Lyceumists from Stockport, Ashton and Hyde, a prize giving evening was arranged. This was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, supported by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor J. Potts and Mrs. Pimblott.

The events included an entertainment given by girls of the Physical Culture Class.

Our special congratulations go to Constance Fearick, who received a wristlet watch, having completed seven years perfect attendance. What a record!

On Good Friday, a happy party enjoyed a ramble to Prestbury.

THE WAYSIDE POSTER. Rochester Square Anniversary Services were conducted by Uncle Bert, supported by members of the Council. Miss Lily Hollamby speaking on posters which bore helpful slogans, Miss Bartlett on Individual Responsibility. During the Session the Lyceum presented gifts of £2 2s. 0d. to the Church, 10s. 6d. to the District Council. Bouquets to Mrs. Street (Church President), Auntie Ruth and Miss Moore.

SOMETHING FOR MOTHERS. At a recent session the Northampton Lyceumists sang a special hymn composed for mothers. What about fathers turn next?

NAMING SERVICES at Dewsbury Lyceum. The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Dyson, received the name of Shirley (spirit name, Dawn). Ceremony

was conducted by the Secretary. Mr. Joseph Whittle named the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, giving the names John William (spirit name, Sunbeam). We extend our good wishes.

RHYTHM was amongst the list of special subjects the Peckham Lyceum have adopted for their Sessions. Might we suggest "SWING" to add to the list.

THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY of the Fulham Lyceum was held on May 1st. A pleasing feature of the day's event was the part taken by the young people.

Mr. Dix, a past Conductor, was presented with an Officers' Manual in recognition of his past services. Mr. Fruin gave addresses and Clairvoyant descriptions.

A CANADIAN BADGE won by Victoria Collet for Marching and Callisthenics in the Calgary Lyceum denotes how individuals are encouraged to carry out these exercises. This Lyceum has also the following slogan, "A pearl by everyone."

OLD FOLKS AT HOME was the motto of the Southampton Lyceumists who gave them a real good evening. Their efforts included three amusing sketches, also Community Singing.

ONWARD was the message conveyed by the floral welcome given to visitors and friends attending a Special Session at the Westcliff Lyceum.

TREES were the subject of the Afternoon Session of the Forest Hill Lyceum Anniversary. Mr. Fruin, President of the L.L.D.C., demonstrating the subject with Posters and Sketches.

A VISITOR FROM SCOTLAND. The Moston Lyceumists were pleased to welcome Mrs. Davenport, a past member, at their Session on Easter Sunday.

A MODEL SESSION. Members from Clapham and Fulham Lyceums supported the Officers of the London Lyceum District Council in giving a demonstration of "What is a Lyceum" to the members of the Hayes (Middlesex) Church. It is hoped that the result will be the formation of a Lyceum in this district.

A GOOD COLLECTION: The sum of £9 9s. was the total amount at the Nuneaton Anniversary Services. Miss Wardle, of Peterborough, was the Speaker and Clairvoyant on the Sunday, and the Lyceumists on Monday evening.

A HAPPY DAY resulted by Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Heath conducting the Anniversary Services at Chesterfield Lyceum.

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT at Portsmouth, between Gerald Chambers and O. Jones resulted in a victory for Gerald Chambers, who won the Challenge Cup presented by the Conductor.

OPEN SESSIONS. Encouraging news received from the following Lyceum Secretaries:—

Bacup, Crewe, Doncaster, Stockport, Birkenhead, Earby, Bury, Bolton, Armley, Lancaster Alliance.