

THE

# LYCEUM BANNER

VOL. XLVII. No. 569.

JULY, 1938.

PRICE TWOPENCE

## THE 49TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**T**HE B.S.L. Union held its 49th Annual Conference in the Collyhurst National Spiritualist Church, Collyhurst Street, Manchester, on Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th.

Mr. J. Slimin, President, was in the Chair.

Mrs. E. Guy, a Past President, offered a welcome to the Conference on behalf of the Manchester and Salford L.D.C., and Mr. Bragg, Collyhurst Church President, associated himself and his Church with the welcome. Mr. Slimin suitably replied on behalf of the delegates assembled.

Several important decisions were arrived at during Conference and the enthusiasm of the delegates waxed high during the discussion on the financial position of the Union. A spontaneous collection realised the sum of £19 19s. 6d. in a very short time, and several promises, yet to be redeemed, were made for further donations.

The M.C. is faced with the task of finding £50 as Daisy Dimple monies before the end of June. This money must be paid into the Ainsworth Home of Rest Fund, in order to meet the requirements of the agreement reached by B.S.L.U. Trustees and S.N.U. representatives. The Daisy Dimple Fund was started for a very similar purpose to that of the Ainsworth Fund and the S.N.U. people will be satisfied if the B.S.L.U. will use the Daisy Dimple money for this purpose.

Lyceums who feel the urge to help forward the Union can do so by sending whatever amount they can afford to the Union's Secretary, as soon as possible. The £19 19s. 6d. collected during Conference will be used for the sole purpose of helping to redeem the Daisy Dimple Fund.

Arising from the President's Address the Management Committee were instructed to formulate working schemes from the four progressive points in the Presidential Address, suggesting that Conductors' Classes be introduced by the District Councils on instruction from the Management Committee. (The President's Address was printed in the June issue of the LYCEUM BANNER and readers will find the four points alluded to on page 86 of that issue.)

Arising from the Treasurer's Report, the Trustees

were instructed to realise the mortgages with the Sowerby Bridge U.D.C., amounting to £450, as shown in the Trustees' statement of accounts for the £2,000 Effort in the Annual Statement of Accounts for 1937, and to transfer the money to the General Fund of the B.S.L. Union for the sole and specific purpose of reducing the debt due to Messrs. Wadsworth & Co.

It must be stressed that the £2,000 Effort is not closed, and Lyceums can still keep on striving towards the idea aimed at when the Scheme was originated.

The question as to whether we should institute a composite fee, which would cover the cost of a supply of BANNERS monthly, and the affiliation fee, led to the Management Committee being empowered to work out a scheme of composite payment to cover Union fees and an adequate supply of BANNERS, and that the figures show the payments due, quarterly, half-yearly, and yearly. That such a scheme be circularised to Lyceums as soon as possible and necessary resolutions be placed on 1939 Conference Agenda.

A scheme whereby all Lyceums can help their Union is suggested in the motion which calls for a volun-

tary levy on Lyceums, the amount to be subscribed being in proportion to the membership. Details of this scheme will be forwarded to all members of the Union at a later date.

A motion that we revert to an Honorary Secretary and a Voluntary BANNER Editor, and that Messrs. Wadsworth & Co. be asked to handle all our stock, was defeated, gaining only four votes in favour.

Arising from the Trustees' Report was a motion to the effect that the Trustees be empowered to take the necessary action for the termination of the present Joint Trust Deed between the B.S.L.U. and the S.N.U., and a further motion provided that the Management Committee, in consultation with the Trustees, be instructed to consider the advisability of drawing up a new Trust Deed and report to the next Conference.

Mr. J. Taylor, because of a change in employment, has been compelled to retire from active association



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

with the Union for the time being, and, after Conference had expressed their appreciation of the work he has done as Secretary of the Restoration Fund, and in other capacities, Mrs. Fruin, 'Ruberrondo,' 126, Woodlands Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, was appointed to act as Secretary of the Restoration Fund.

The children of the Manchester Lyceums offered a beautiful floral welcome to Conference, and presented all the officials with buttonholes. To each delegate was given a pencil suitably inscribed with the date and place of Conference.

Mr. Slimin, Mrs. George and Mr. Edwards feelingly replied to the welcome, speaking more especially to the young people than to the remainder of those present.

The election of Officers resulted in the following elections:—

President: Mr. J. Slimin.

Vice-President: Mrs. L. George.

Treasurer: Mr. W. Burrows.

Elective Auditor (2 years): Mr. A. Shaw.

S.N.U.E.C. Representative: Mr. J. Slimin.

S.N.U. A.G.M. Delegates: Mr. W. Burrows and Mr. A. E. Fruin.

M.C. Members (two years): Mr. A. E. Fruin and Mr. J. N. Railton.

Miss Halliday was re-elected Guild Leader. This is a very popular re-appointment.

Mrs. A. H. Mills was re-appointed General Secretary.

Mrs. Pickles, a Past President, and the S.N.U. Representative, spoke to the Arisen Workers. A standing vote of congratulation was offered to those who have passed to the higher service.

Discussion on the BANNER Report resulted in Conference deciding to adopt a smaller size for the LYCEUM BANNER. It is hoped that Lyceumists will rally round and will do their utmost to help the Management Committee in their efforts to keep the Union solvent.

A new Education Scheme was introduced and we refer readers to the Education Page in this issue, where will be found full details of the change. The S.N.U. Education Committee have also adopted several important alterations.

The B.S.L.U. section of the Joint Inter-relations Committee received their instructions for carrying on discussion for more harmonious joint workings with the S.N.U.

A full report of the whole Proceedings of Conference will appear in the August issue of the LYCEUM BANNER and readers are urged to place their orders *now* to ensure obtaining their copy.

#### PROPAGANDA MEETING.

On the Sunday evening the Management Committee, with the President in the Chair, conducted a Propaganda Meeting in the Collyhurst Church.

The President gave the invocation.

In his address the President said that to him the week-end had been one of revelation. There was not only a desire on our side for things spiritual, but there

was a desire from the other side of life that we carry on our work. The hope of the future of Spiritualism lies, to-day, in the continuance of a greater and better Lyceum Movement. To-night, he said, he was making a call to all who are interested in real Spiritualism to join up with the Lyceum Movement, giving all the knowledge and help they could, to help to realise the ideals for which we are aiming.

Mr. Mack spoke to the congregation on the 'Utility of Spiritualism'. Showing how various things can be useful if used properly, and not abused, he showed that Spiritualism was very useful to mankind when not abused. He said that if Spiritualism has been of no other use to him than to teach him that he must do good deeds, then it had been worth while. Mr. Mack ended up his talk by reading a whole list of ways in which Spiritualism can and has proved its worth to mankind.

Mrs. George opened her talk by assuming that every thinking individual had at some time or other asked the question 'What is life?' She said that our scientists had tried to find an answer, but she thought we could say that life is a stream of consciousness. Life has different experiences. These experiences lead to change. And we find change all round us.

She went on to say that we are not trying to make Spiritualists of our children, but we are trying to give them the truth as far as we can.

Mrs. George, too, appealed for a greater support of our Lyceum Movement.

Mr. Robson, in his talk to the congregation, used several lively little stories to illustrate his point,

and he got home his lesson in a good-humoured and merry manner.

Mr. Burrows appealed for the National Union's Fund of Benevolence, stating that a retiring collection would be taken at the close of the service. He also expressed thanks to all who had helped to make Conference so happy and worth while.

Benediction by the President closed another Conference, the results of which will show during the coming months.

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A friend loveth at all times.

If commonsense rules from your head to your feet  
You never can go far astray;  
It's easy to walk in the way you should go  
If your head is screwed on the right way.

Fortune brings in many boats that are not steered.

What men want is not talent, it is purpose; not the power to achieve, but the will to labour.

You can imagine things are impossible—if you've courage they will become possible.



Mrs. L. GEORGE,  
Vice-President.

## THE TRIALS OF A CONDUCTOR.

IN a song taken from one of our Comic Operas we are assured that a Policeman's life is not a happy one. Generally speaking a Lyceum Conductor's lot is considerably happier, but would probably be rather monotonous if there were no variation.

The following amusing incidents have been culled from some years of experience in office. There have, of course, been certain occasions when more serious matters merited attention, but one has no particular desire to relate these.

A little girl had been attending the Sessions for about three Sundays, then approached me for conditions of membership. "Please, do I have to be vaccinated before I join your Sunday School?" I explained that we did not impose any such harsh conditions, to which she replied that she did not mean "vaccinated," she meant—"you know, put in the water," this, of course, referring to baptism and not to ablation. Needless to say I again reassured her.

"Efforts" were never on any occasion offered by another little girl. Weeks and months passed, but nothing would persuade her to mount the rostrum. As last she rose from her place one day, and made her way to the platform amidst astonished and encouraging applause, then she went to her coat which was hanging on a peg near the platform, took her handkerchief from her pocket, blew her nose, and returned to her seat amidst shrieks of laughter.

As Group Leader it was my duty to take the "Liberty," but one little boy, aged 7, was most anxious to be included with the grown-ups. I pointed out that he would not understand our discussions, but as he was so insistent, allowed him to sit with us for one occasion. He was most interested in all that I said during the Group; a model of attention and good behaviour. I felt considerably flattered to think that I had managed to explain my subject so well that this little boy was evidently so thrilled. Then at the finish of my remarks, I enquired, "Would anybody like to ask a question?" "Yes," was the Sonny's immediate response, "Could you let me have two half-pennies for a penny?"

One of my young Group-Leaders was wrestling with the various themes which she thought might be helpful to her "kiddies." "Does anyone know what a peacemaker is?" "Yes," was the response of a little boy, "people who make boots and shoes." "Oh, no, you are mistaken." "No, he's not," prompted a little girl, "My Mum's a peacemaker, and she makes boots and shoes." The confusion evidently arose with "piece-workers." In the same group, a new little girl was telling her Leader what "that man" said. "What man?" she was asked. "You know," pointing to me, "the Vicar."

Finding myself in the company of one of the young Lyceumists when boarding a tram, I offered to pay her fare, but did not know her destination. "Where are you going?" I asked. "Adjico Law," was the

reply. Long residence in the district had made me fairly familiar with the tram route, but I have never previously heard of this place, which sounded to me as much like a solicitor's office as anything. Enter the conductor (tram, not Lyceum). "I am paying this little girl's fare, but I don't know where she wants to go," I explained. "Where are you for, Topsy?" was his enquiry. "Adjico Law," responded the alleged Topsy. "Agricultural Hall," repeated the conductor, with just a flicker of a smile as he punched the ticket.

At an Open Session, a little boy who was always prepared with his "pearls" was for once caught un-awares. He could not think of one. Suddenly his face brightened and he offered me the following admonition: "Cast not your pearls before swine."

In the course of years a number of plays have been performed by the children. On one occasion an unfortunate little fairy fell asleep standing, and had to be held in position by one of the adult helpers, to the amusement of the audience. On another, a Fairy Chariot was booked to appear at a certain time, but for some reason failed to do so. A few moments of painful silence, when suddenly the mystic vehicle shot forward on the stage, propelled by a huge, unfairylike foot. It careered wildly along, scattering the cast, turned over on its side with wheels towards the audience, and revealed a striking advertisement for somebody's soap. The impact had dislodged most of the trimmings, and also the impromptu seat, which refused to be replaced. Nothing daunted, the "Princess" mounted the primitive looking chariot and sat very gingerly on the side, but it was scarcely heavy enough to allow even a child to put her weight all on one side. It tipped. It sheared her arms in the air in a desperate endeavour to balance, whilst the onlookers gasped. However, it righted itself, although every now and then it showed an alarming tendency to overbalance to the accompaniment of "Whoops" from a nervy audience.

In the last play performed by our Lyceumists, one of the children appeared as a fairy, then was supposed to come to earth as "one of earth's children," necessitating change of attire. Somebody gave unsolicited assistance to the dressing-room by issuing instructions—which were mistaken—as to when it was time to change. The little performer made the alarming discovery that she was due on the stage at one time, and she was not dressed for the occasion. However, nothing daunted, she escaped somehow, and to my dismay tripped on to the stage and gave an elevating address on all things beautiful, clad only in a petticoat!

Space forbids a further recital of events, but it can be truly said that although a Conductor's duties are sometimes rather exacting, there is usually plenty of amusement to insure them against monotony.

W.W.D.

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

*New Secretary—*

MRS. R. A. FRUIN,  
Ruberrondo,  
126, Woodlands Road,  
Isleworth, Mddx.

**T**HE magic wand has been blamed for many things in the past; but to be changed into a "Professional beggar" by the upraising of the hands of a number of Conference delegates surely equals its mystic powers.

Further to be handed a receipt book by Mr. Joe Taylor who has succeeded so well in playing the beggar's role, but who now finds himself unable to carry on owing to changes in his business career, thus being forced to walk off the stage of action for a time, leaving me to carry on his part.

Knowing that you are all part in this play as well, I feel some relief. Your part, as you know, is to send along donations, while I have to get overworked making out receipts.

The other characters are, first, those who, because they are always so generous, get bored stiff with reading appeals. Never-the-less they still continue to give freely. Then there are those who have not yet responded. It is here that I come on the stage of action, telling them that Conference delegates undoubtedly spoke with a decided voice that they wished the Union to continue its good work. The present income is insufficient to meet their needs. Hence the Restoration Fund provides the necessary link whereby every Lyceumist can resolve to give a little each week or month.

Every Lyceum can arrange some effort on behalf of the fund. Every District Council can give a lead. In this way and this way only can we hope to rebuild our Union on a strong financial basis. Therefore I appeal to those inside and outside the movement to start me off with a real "Bumper Month." Make your Postal orders or cheques out to the British Spiritualist Lyceum Union, crossed "& Co." and despatch.

To—MRS. FRUIN,  
Ruberrondo, 126, Woodlands Road,  
Isleworth, Middx.

I have pleasure in acknowledging the following effort this month—

The Sheffield Lyceum District Council are conducting a personal Appeal Scheme until October 31st. Their first effort included Mr. F. R. Cook £1; Mr. Shreeve 2s. 6d., Anon 10s., Mr. A. Walker 1s. Total £1 13s. 6d. This amount was handed direct to the Treasurer towards the Home Fund account, future donations will come into this fund.

Other donations—Flower Day: Kingston Hill Lyceum, 5s. 6d.; Ashington Lyceum, 3s.; Weekly Pennies: Wakefield, 15s.; Donations: Mr. Fruin, 10s.; Birthday Gift: Miss Williams, Bowes Park, 1s. Total for the month £1 14s. 6d.

I must congratulate the Sheffield District Council for launching such a fine scheme on our behalf. Perhaps the other District Councils share their view concerning contributors. They realise that there are those who give weekly, monthly, or quarterly and that these are usually Lyceumists who have the cause at heart.

Beyond these however there are Church Members and friends who have not yet been approached. In order to reach such friends they are advertising this appeal monthly and by their first effort it would appear as though it will be a great success.

Of course there are many novel ways of raising funds and I shall always appreciate hearing of any new ideas.

In addition to the donations received this month. Miss Pennington, D.V. London D.C. is presenting the Fund with a cake; you may be able to get a slice of this later. Then Miss Moore of Kingston Hill Lyceum is collecting new pennies and halfpennies, also farthings. Some individual members have started giving a penny a week.

I welcome all these efforts and feel sure that those who read this report if not already subscribing will not wait to be asked by some local friend, but will just get a postal order and send it off to me at once.

When you listen to the appeals on the wireless, remember we are not so fortunate as some societies, we are barred from broadcasting, therefore I have to rely upon readers of this magazine acting as a human wireless.

When you hear those words, "let me repeat the address," just think how nice it would be if it could be our appeal asking the whole world to assist us in preaching the Gospel of Spiritualism, a Gospel which has brought so much hope and comfort to thousands.

It is surprising what a host of people there are in the world who have good intentions and just fail to put them into practice, owing to just a little forgetfulness. For instance I know there are quite a lot of friends who would willingly send along a donation, but somehow or other they mislay the BANNER and cannot remember the address to send it to.

To avoid this being your lot will you get a pencil now and write my name and address in your diary or some suitable place, so that it is always handy.

There are others who I would remind that "Procrastination is the thief of time." I know even as you read this you will be saying to yourselves, "Yes I'll send a donation"; but it just happens that you have not a stamp handy and you put it off to-day—you put it off to-morrow and then the next day, then in a month's time you have such a shock when you realise that your good intentions have not been carried out.

Now if you have my address handy, if you always keep a few postage stamps on hand, if you add the word postal order to your weekly shopping list, there only remains one thing to do, post off at once.

I know some of my London friends are getting quite excited about helping me to make a great success of my new task. I want you to become partners also. Remember, next year will be our Jubilee, how grand it will be if we can present a record year, this can be done if you will help me, please do.

RUTH A. FRUIN.



# SPIRITUALISTS' EDUCATION SCHEME

## B.S.L.U. SECTION—LYCEUMISTS' COURSE

**M**ANY Lyceumists who have been very much perturbed at the gradual decrease of enthusiasm in the educational side of our movement will welcome the decisions made at the B.S.L.U. Conference to adopt for our section a scheme more in keeping with modern methods, and we hope after the S.N.U. Conference adopts their section that the whole scheme will be put into operation for next year's examinations.

At the outset it was made clear to Conference, that, although many of us would like to base our examinations upon an entirely new set of Handbooks and would be prepared to scrap all the present books, the Union could not afford to finance a new lot which would be absolutely necessary.

To meet as far as possible a satisfactory revision, the Scheme adopted will enable all students to use the Manual and Handbooks in an entirely new way and the first paper in *each* Grade will present a series of questions in quite a new form. We are looking forward to *every* Lyceumist entering the scheme, irrespective of having taken the previous five grades. One paper at least will revive your memory, test your knowledge, and we hope in its new style will prove really interesting.

The object of the B.S.L.U. Section called the "Lyceumists' Course" is to help Lyceumists to become interested Spiritualists and platform workers.

The course will consist of Four Grades, all written examinations—

1. Junior Grade for Lyceumists 12 to 14 years.
2. Lower Middle for Lyceumists 14 to 16 years.
3. Upper Middle for Lyceumists 16 to 18 years.
4. Senior (Joint B.S.L.U. and S.N.U. exam.) 18 years and over.

Lyceumists must take up the course at the appropriate age. This is to avoid the undesirability of young children sitting with elderly people and also to help the setting of questions to meet the general standard of mentality for the various ages. No student turned 14 years of age may take Junior Grade. No student turned 16 years may take Lower Middle. No Student turned 18 years may take Upper Middle. This must be strictly adhered to. But in each grade there will be sufficient scope to enable the student to obtain a comprehensive summary of the matter contained in the previous grades. So that a "senior grade" student may not necessarily feel deprived of knowledge he ought to possess as an interested student.

### SUGGESTED SYLLABUS.

**Junior Grade. For Lyceumists 12 to 14 years.**

Duration of Examination 1 hr. 30 mins.

Handbooks required—"Oral Grade Primer," and "Oral Grade Reader."

*First Paper.* Intelligence Questions taken from the Handbooks to be answered within  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour.

*Second Paper.* A story from the Handbooks to be retold in the candidate's own words and/or simple questions from the Handbook.

**Lower Middle for Lyceumists 14 to 16 years.**

Duration of Examination 2 hours.

Handbooks required—"Manual," "No. 1 Handbook," "Advent," (Chapter 1 to x inclusive and Summaries and Glossaries.

*First Paper.* Intelligence Questions taken from the Handbooks to be answered within  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour.

*Second Paper.* Essays and questions set from the Handbooks and Manual (except the G.C.R.)

**Upper Middle for Lyceumists, 16 to 18 years.**

Duration of Examinations 2 hours.

Handbooks required—"Manual," "No. 2. Handbook," "Advent," "Summaries and Glossaries."

*First Paper.* Intelligence Questions taken from the Handbooks to be answered within  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour.

*Second Paper.* Essays and questions set from the Manual and Handbooks.

**Senior. For Lyceumists 18 years and over.**

Duration of Examination, 2 hours.

Handbooks required: "Manual," "No. 3. Handbook," "Advent," "Essays on Reasoning," and "Summaries and Glossaries."

*First Paper.* Intelligence Questions taken from the Manual and Handbooks. To be answered within  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour.

*Second Paper.* Essays and questions set from the Manual and Handbooks.

No particular readings or recitations from the Manual will be set for study, so that candidates who wish to be successful will require a good general knowledge of the Manual as a whole, but as in previous years we hope to give a choice of questions.

All the details of the scheme have not yet been worked out but the Education Committee hope to meet on August 28th, after which a full report will be published in the October BANNER.

There is one suggestion which I feel sure all Lyceums will welcome and that is, our intention to obtain a Shield which will be awarded to and held for one year by the Lyceum whose students gain the highest percentage of marks. This should arouse the competitive spirit and result in a greater desire to pass the examinations with honours or distinction.

The Education Committee were very pleased with the unanimous response of the Conference to their efforts to modernise the scheme, and feel sure that if all Lyceumists put their shoulder to the wheel, enter the examinations, minimise the quantity of Handbooks in stock, in a very short time, a *real* revision satisfactory to everyone concerned can be put into operation.

**We want the help of every Lyceumist and in return will work strenuously to put new life into what we consider an essential part of Lyceumist and Spiritualist Education.**

On behalf of the Education Committee.

LILLIE GEORGE,

Hon. Education Sec.

(continued on page 108)

# UNCLE BERT'S LETTER

FOR HOME  
AND OVER-  
SEAS

My dear Boys and Girls,

I am going to talk to you about growing this month. I expect most of you have gardens, and about ten weeks ago your father came home with some seeds in packets. These he planted in the ground; now each day you are able to watch the plants growing up, taking great care to do your part in seeing that they are looked after in order that you get beautiful flowers or vegetables as the case may be.

In exactly the same way mother and dad watch you grow day by day, and, of course, they too hope that you will become as a beautiful flower.

Of course they feel very proud when they hear people say what a fine boy or girl you have grown up into. While you are very tiny they have to wrap you up so that you do not catch cold, but as you get older you have to look after yourselves more.

You would not like it if they came to school with you and sat by you while you were doing your lessons. Of course not; you want to feel you are big boys and girls and able to look after yourselves.

This being so, it is very important that you know something about growing up, and becoming what they wish you to become, just a beautiful flower.

Why do I say like a beautiful flower? It is because flowers are God's messengers, they bring happiness, joy and sunshine to others.

If you should live near a hospital I expect you have noticed that nearly every one who is visiting those who are ill, is carrying a bunch of flowers. This is because flowers help to cheer people up. Therefore I do want you little ones to grow up so that as you become old enough you will not only make your parents feel proud of you, but that you will carry a message of cheer everywhere you go.

## Message Bearers.

I want to continue this lesson to the older boys and girls, those of you who have become old enough to be able to look after yourselves, but who started growing in the same way as I have told my younger readers.

Although some of you may feel quite independent in deciding how you should grow up, I want you always to remember that parents never grow too independent as not to care for their children.

At our recent Conference at Manchester the Lyceum-ists gave a beautiful and inspiring welcome to the officers and delegates.

## Youth Alive.

In thanking the children, Mr. Slimin, our President, expressed his pleasure and hopefulness, using these words: "Youth is still alive, and youth can still play its part in being message bearers."

To me, too, there is so much hope contained in these words that they are worth our while to consider the hidden meaning.

## Cultivation.

As I have already used an illustration from the garden I cannot do better than continue it. Think

of the time and care a gardener will spend on his plants to bring out the best results.

In our growing up should not we give earnest thought to the cultivation of high ideals, which must result in making the world a better place because we have lived in it.

## Alive to play its Part.

What a stirring message, and yet with all the attractions the present day offers to youth on a social scale are we really living as we should?

Living for pleasure to satisfy our own selfish ends or living to become message bearers.

## What Youth has Done.

If we look back over the history of the past, we can pick out many outstanding characters who have become leaders of nations, who started their work when in their youth.

If we take the life of Jesus, as only one example, we must remember he was only a young man when he became a message bearer to the whole world. He lived to play his part and from the records we have we can at least accept the example of service to others. We may not even see eye to eye with the method by which those who followed him translated his message, but it does not remove the fact that as a young man he had a message for the world and he delivered it.

## What is Your Message.

You are growing up into manhood and womanhood into a world which at the present period is forgetting the laws of brotherhood.

Little children are suffering daily and even have to cry "give us bread," and yet the Lyceum Manual gives the answer to how all this could be saved, if only applied. What is your reply, "Growing too old for the Lyceum when you are so much needed as its message bearers;"

## What's the Attraction.

Oh yes, I know! The Dirt Track, the Dance Hall, the Pictures are full of excitement, all of which are quite alright in their place, but do they help you to grow in likeness to men and women who have sacrificed their lives for others. Have they a message to save a war stricken world.

## You Have the Message.

Many of you have grown up in the Lyceum Movement, you have given your message Sunday by Sunday in the form of an individual effort. Are you still alive to the needs of others?

It may not be possible for you to even go out into the world at present with your message. Then why not make up your mind to continue to work in your Lyceum, helping the younger members to grow up with a knowledge of love and service for others.

I hope you will consider our President's message, asking yourselves how it applies to you. Let me repeat it "Youth is still alive, and youth can still play its part in being message bearers."

I should appreciate hearing from some of my younger readers. If you have a problem to face in which you want some help, let me help you.

Greetings to all,

UNCLE BERT.

Ruberrondo,  
126, Woodlands Road,  
Isleworth, Middx.

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor: ANNIE H. MILLS.

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

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

JULY, 1938.

## NEW IDEAS.

**F**EW Conferences of late have been marked with such a spirit of enthusiasm and keenness as the recent one. It is no idle chatter to contend that much of this was due to the presence of those who have been promoted to higher service, but who still share our desires for the movement for which they once worked on the earthplane.

To some their presence was made manifest; while all appeared to feel the influence of their power.

While all this was most inspiring to those attending Conference, how hard for the delegates giving their reports to create the same atmosphere in your midst.

You listen to their report and feel an inward pleasure that there are evident signs of hope on the horizon, then frequently you move on to the next business.

There are, however, new ideas to be put into force whereby the Union will save money and it is hoped be in a position to reconstruct much of its work on more up to date lines.

There will be a new Education Scheme, a new BANNER, a decided plan for closer-working with the S.N.U. All these changes will be found in Conference Reports. I think, however, a word here on new ideas will be in season.

However much we talk about wanting modern methods in keeping with the present age, the fact remains that the majority of us grow very conservative in our ideas. There is a tendency immediately the word change is mentioned to want to oppose it and not be prepared to give new methods a trial.

In other words we want to see progress, but would prefer it being worked up on old foundations, rather than seeing some of those cherished ideas of the past going to the four winds.

The day has dawned when such ideas can no longer be tolerated. We must be prepared to sink our worn out notions and give place for new endeavour.

Take for illustration the proposed new BANNER, it will be smaller in size, the articles may not be quite so long. There may have to be a little cut here and there, but let us consider the financial side it will mean to the Union.

Whatever we do, do not let us start saying I shall discontinue taking it because it is a few inches smaller than the copy we have grown so accustomed to.

In Education, let us not find fault, because it so happens that we passed the grades under some other plan.

1938-39 will be a testing time for how deep our national interest lies.

If we want our Union to continue, and I believe it is the sincere desire of every Lyceumist, then we have got to be prepared to make sacrifices to re-establish it in order that we shall have something worthy to place before the world.

Great as the present financial need is for the purpose of reconstruction on up to date methods, there is also a moral appeal which must touch the very soul of every Lyceumist.

While you have a Management Committee whose duty it is to give a lead, they are more or less powerless without your full support and co-operation. The future of our Union is a vital question to the individual Lyceumist.

The more we look upon the Movement as a National Institution the greater will be our success in presenting to the world an educational system worthy of our high calling.

(Contd. from page 106.)

### 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 HAND-BOOKS.

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.U. 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.

### THE RAINY DAY.

The day is cold, and dark, and dreary;  
It rains, and the wind is never weary;  
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,  
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,  
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;  
It rains, and the wind is never weary;  
My thoughts still cling to the mouldering Past,  
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,  
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining,  
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;  
Thy fate is the common fate of all,  
Into each life some rain must fall,  
Some days must be dark and dreary.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

## BELPER LYCEUM—AN INTERESTING LECTURE.

MISS WINIFRED HAWKINS, B.A., one of the Conductors at the Belper Lyceum, recently gave an interesting talk on her second tour of Italy. She well illustrated her talk with snaps, postcards, and panoramic views.

Here is the story. The party, numbering 38, and organised by the National Union of Students, left London at midnight, Friday, travelling to Paris via Newhaven and Dieppe, arriving there in time for breakfast, Saturday. A trip round the Paris exhibition, built round the Eiffel Tower, proved very interesting, the British section, of course, calling for most interest. Other sections visited were the Canadian, Indian, South African, Japanese, German, Italian, Belgian and Egyptian sections. Parties of school-children were to be seen everywhere, learning geography in a very new and interesting manner.

On the Sunday the party visited Versailles, really a large suburb of Paris, and possessing the largest and most magnificent palace in France, built by Louis XIX.

The famous cathedral of Notre Dame was also visited. It is a veritable marvel of architecture.

Very early on the Monday morning the party left for Turin, and had a fine experience in crossing France and passing through the Alps in daylight. Many mountain peaks were snow-capped and huge waterfalls dropped into deep ravines, making entrancing scenes.

The stay at Turin was for an evening meal only, then on through the night, reaching Genoa about 2 a.m., Tuesday, a very tired, but happy party.

Genoa (The Proud) stands on the Gulf of Genoa and is the "Liverpool of Italy," commanding a glorious view of the Mediterranean Sea. There are ideal bathing facilities, the sea always lapping at your feet. On the beach the party met an English lady and her sister, who have lived in Genoa 12 years, and who love it. Here it was that we saw the tiny cottage where Columbus was born in 1446, and it was from Genoa that Columbus set forth in 1492 to discover America.

Pisa, the next place visited, is now a quiet dull place, famous only for its 'leaning Tower' of white marble, a very fine Church, and a Baptistry, all very wonderfully carved. In the Baptistry the doorkeeper, on closing the door, asked for silence, and then sang a note which boomed in echo like the note of an organ. Then a major chord, followed by a minor chord, all resounding as from a beautifully toned organ.

Next to Rome, the Capital of Italy and once the Mistress of the World, and still a wonderful city. Within its walls are countless churches, containing splendid examples of all kinds of painting, sculpture, engraving and carving. The party visited the Vatican, the Colosseum (fast decaying) and St. Peter's Church. St. Peter's Church contains many fine statues carved by Michael Angelo, the most famous Italian artist. The pictures on the walls are carried out in mosaic, the most celebrated being "The Transfiguration of Christ" and said to contain 20,000 pieces of marble of all colours.

At the Sunday morning service there were easily 1,000 people present, and still they looked lost on the enormous floor space.

The Vatican library, a magnificent place, has a wonderfully painted ceiling and mosaic floors of all colours. It contains 4,000 rooms, filled with 100,000 volumes, as well as many gems of art. Through the windows we could look down on the beautiful gardens of the Vatican, the residence of the Pope.

On to Naples, the city rising from the sea in terraces, the hills clothed with groves of orange, olive and lemon, and palm trees, and, behind all, the snow-clad peaks of the Apennines.

The famous Vesuvius can be seen from all parts of the city. It has a flattened cone, about 4,100 feet high. In the year 79 B.C. it buried the city of Pompeii under showers of ashes and streams of mud. 3,000 people perished. Excavations are now going on and wonderful buildings and streets are now being brought to light. A whole morning was spent in visiting these ruins. On the trip out to the ruins the motor coach stopped at a cameo factory, where the most beautiful cameos were being manufactured from real coral.

In Naples, too, are to be found iron foundries. A midnight trip to Vesuvius was most interesting, and the party went right into the crater. The active cone from which the burning lava was flowing was about a quarter of a mile away and looked ghastly in the dark. Loud explosions occur every few minutes inside the cone, from which belches forth fire and lava.

The Isle of Capri, where Gracie Fields has a lovely white house, was next visited, and the two hours sail much enjoyed.

Florence, the home of great artists, and of Dante and Galileo, was our next port of call. It is a city of Churches, which shelter the tombs of many of the great artists.

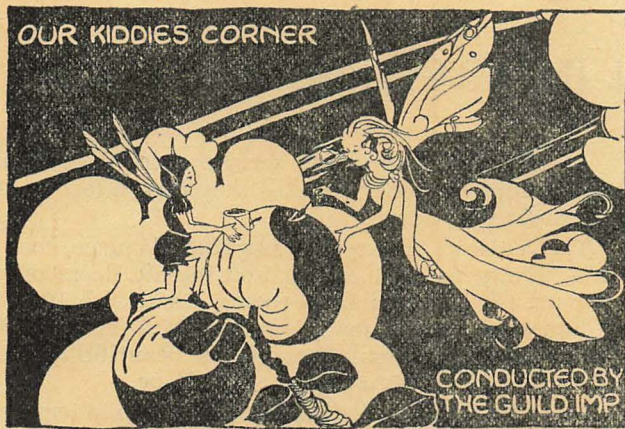
Across the plain of Lombardy to Venice, the "Queen of the Adriatic," standing on 72 islands. The streets are canals, and it was so strange to come out of the station right on to a boat and up the Grand Canal for half an hour to our hotel. Glass and lace are the chief manufactures. We saw the Doge's Palace, with its Bridge of Sighs.

A train ride lasting two days brought us well on our return journey. We were back in Paris. Then train again to Dieppe, boat to Newhaven, and back in England again, where our first request was for an English cup of tea.

Our chief food had been, for breakfast, coffee and rolls; lunch, chiefly veal, spaghetti, fried potatoes, fruit, such as peaches, melons, grapes; dinner, same as lunch, including soup.

All the party agreed the tour had been most educational and enjoyable and well organised.

The Lyceumists at Belper are fortunate in having a Conductor who can tell them of the wonders of the world. Perhaps other travellers will be urged to tell their experiences to people who cannot afford to travel abroad, but who are interested in things continental.



Dear Little Imps,

A new kind of visitor has come to live at our house! At first I thought he had come to stay but now I am not quite sure. About a fortnight ago a toad appeared leaping about the yard. How he could leap! He even leapt into the house a few times, and loved to snooze on the door step. Sometimes he'd settle down near the drain, but if ever water was thrown down, he soon leapt out of the way.

One evening he had an accident. He must have been too near the corner of the door, for one leg was crushed a little. For a time he crawled with long strides. The next day, however, he was leaping as usual, and the leg seemed quite healed, but, wise toad, he didn't like the door step any more. I never knew till then that toads could *remember*, but ours evidently can.

There is another Imp lives at this house, and between us, I'm afraid we've rather muddled our toad. It's about his name! I named the toad "Joey," because I'm sure that's the right name for toads. The other Imp will call him "Timothy." I wonder if the toad knows? He just sits and stares if either of us goes near, and listens without a sound as though he knew all about everything.

At all events he is clever, especially about birds! I found that out last week, quite accidentally. I went into the yard and saw a Tom-tit standing quite near to the drain. At first I wondered why, because all the bird food was at the other end of the yard. I had gone to throw out some water, and, of course, the bird flew off when I came near. Then, when I'd thrown away the water, our toad appeared from out of the drain-pipe. He'd found a safe hiding place from that Tom-tit. Now, wasn't that clever? I'm growing quite proud of Joey (or is it Timothy?) and I am wondering how long it will be before he will be like another toad we once knew, who would come out of his hiding place every time we called his name. That one was a Joey, too, and a two year old baby at that house used to stoop down by Joey's hole, and say "Come out, Joey!" Sure enough Joey would come to sight, and sit quite still whilst the little boy talked to him. I suppose that Joey knew he was safe with the baby, who never tried to touch him. He was great fun.

A friend of mine used to have two toads living in her wash-house. She never saw them for most of the week, but every washing day they used to be out, hopping near to the mangle. That lady was quite certain the toads knew her and could answer their names.

Now, that has set me wondering! Do these clever toads really know their names? Or is it that they know the sound of our voices, and are able to tell whether we sound friendly or not? Can you tell me?

Talking about the toads has taken up nearly all our story room, so, instead of our usual long story, here is a short one, about the toad's cousins—frogs. It isn't a new story, either, and not one by me, but an old, old story, which was written ever so long ago, so that I cannot even tell who wrote it. It is about a very silly frog too.

### THE FOOLISH FROG.

One very warm summer day, four little frogs went out to play. The day was so warm that they decided to go down to the pond and play in the water and amongst the mud there.

At the pond they had great fun. They played at leap-frog and had swimming races, and played hide-and-peek amongst the tall grasses. Then they had such a fright. All at once the sun was hidden from their view by a big shadow. They looked up and saw a huge creature, who had come down to the water's edge to drink. Really the creature was only a big brown cow, but the little frogs didn't know that. You see they were very young.

The cow hadn't even noticed the little frogs until she heard their funny little croaking and then the bravest of the frogs said: "Oh, great living mountain, please mind where you tread, do, do be careful or you will kill us."

The cow looked down at the ground, saw the little frogs and said "Moo! run away little froggies, who wants to eat you?"

Off went those frogs, as fast as they could leap. When they reached home they were quite out of breath, and trembling with fright. They had just started to tell Mother frog all about their fright when a visitor called, and so they had to start telling the tale all over again.

Now as it happened, the visitor was another frog, their uncle, who was the biggest frog in those parts and very proud of his size.

When he heard the frogs' story, he sat up very straight, puffed out his chest, and said, "What silly frogs you are. Why, look at me! Your great living mountain couldn't be any bigger than I am."

The little frogs stared hard at their uncle, for a moment, and then said, "Oh, uncle, it was ever so much bigger than you are! It was just like a mountain."

"Rubbish!" replied Uncle Frog. "Look at me now!" and he puffed himself out again.

"You are not nearly so big!" said the little ones. "But I can be!" answered the proud uncle. And that silly frog puffed, and puffed and puffed, trying to look as big as the monster the frogs had seen. But, each time he puffed himself larger the little ones only shook their heads.

This made their uncle so very angry that he tried his very hardest to puff himself out still more. Indeed, he puffed himself so much, that all at once, he burst like a pricked balloon. All that was left of that foolish frog was a little bit of skin, and a little bit of bone, whilst four little frogs sadly shook their heads as they repeated. "Our great living mountain was ever so much bigger than that!"

My love to all Imps,  
MEG.

## The Knight Crusaders.

Well, Crusaders, the holiday season is upon us, and I am wondering how much it means to all of us. In the days of the early Crusaders, holidays, in the sense we know them now, were non-existent, and the Church organised various Holy-days, whereon everyone rested from their ordinary avocations, and gradually, as time went on, the idea grew, until, in 1871, the English Parliament decreed certain National or Bank Holidays throughout the year.

At that time only a comparative few went away for longer holiday periods to sea or country for a real relaxation, but now the day is very close when everyone will claim as a right at least a week of real holiday, the outcome of another Crusade for the betterment of mankind.

But are we losing the real holiday spirit? The idea of *rest*, the most essential thing in our present-day hurry-scurry existence. Or are we planning to cram into a week or a fortnight about a month's hard labour?

Shall we decide to have at least one day in a week of our holidays to 'laze' entirely, and give body and mind a rest. A great idea. Personally, I am intending to make 'laziness' the keynote of my entire holiday. I've no doubt I shall go away to my quiet spot in Devon (oh, no, I'm not giving the address) with a sheaf of last-minute entries for our Peace Essay Competition, but that will bring an added Peace flavour, I hope.

I am going to begin right away with a shorter article than usual.

Happy holidays to all of you. I shall like to hear about some of them and the 'Crusading' you do on them. Don't forget, one good deed every day is a very fine idea, but Crusaders should not limit their Good Deeds.

F. C. PETZ,  
Knight Commander.

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### PEARLS.

He who is "on the level" climbs the fastest.

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Our chief want in life is somebody who shall make us do what we can.

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We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.

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Our map of life will always have some positions with bright marks upon them, making them stand out like oases on a map of the Sahara.

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Life is to be reckoned not only extensively, but intensively; not merely by the number of the days, but by the amount of thought and energy we infuse into them.

## 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 it advisable that young Lyceumists should be informed of the murdered pedlar story?*

It is true that to present a clear evidential case for survival and a strong basis for the establishment of Modern Spiritualism, the whole details of the pedlar's story be given, but it is not *necessary* to relate these to young children, because the object at this stage should not be to *convince* the child of survival, but rather to *introduce* it to the subject. Conviction should come later.

The effect of the story depends upon the child's temperament. To a timid or very sensitive child such may establish a fear of spirit people and result later in a hindrance, if not a refusal to take up the development of mediumship. On the other hand, it may not affect a strong fearless temperament. Some children revel in 'murder' stories.

But, because of the possible harmful effect, it does seem advisable that this story be revised and while containing a complete outline, remove all reasonable possibility of fear being developed in the child mind.

*Why is it that some Lyceumists who are Spiritualists, become very prejudiced against other forms of religion.*

We all inherit certain prejudices, often including religious ones. These may be strengthened by (a) temperament and (b) neglect of comparison with other forms of religion.

Strong, dogmatic people, in any school of thought are usually prejudiced although they are not always aware of it. Their conviction, enthusiasm and purpose sometimes blind them to the fact that there are *many* ways by which their particular truth or development may be found.

Through a want of investigation of, and a neglect of comparison with other forms of religion, a "pre-judgment" is formed. Because of this, a very important fact may be missed, that while there are differences in all forms, there are points of agreement. The true Lyceumist, through investigation, recognises that every form reveals some truth and no form has all truth, so that, while adopting a certain basis of teaching keeps an open mind, which is the only progressive attitude.

*Seeing that children cannot appreciate the deeper significance of the principles of Spiritualism, will not the constant repetition and emphasis of them at an early age, tend in later life to develop the adage that "familiarity breeds contempt."*

It is accepted by a large majority of people that the memorising or reiteration of certain ideas in early life prepares the mind in readiness for the grasping of their significance in later life. It has also been suggested that well planted ideas in the child mind are difficult to uproot. This may justify our emphasis of teachings which we believe are good and true.

(continued on page 116.)

# CHILDREN'S PAGE.

## LAUGH A WHILE.

### IM-MATERIAL.

Taylor: When your father sent you for samples of cloth didn't he say what colour and material he wanted?

Boy: I don't think it matters, sir. He wants them for pen-wipers.

### SHURE.

Pat (to foreman): Can you give me a job, mate?

Foreman: Oi've got a man here to-day that ain't come, and if he don't turn up to-morrow, oi'll send him away and take you on.

The student thumped and pounded his way through his piece at the recital.

"Wonderful, wonderful," said one of the audience to another.

"How he plays, you mean?"

"No, how the piano stands it."

Teacher: "Robert, if you are always very kind and polite to your playmates, what will they think of you?"

Robert: "Some of them will think they can lick me."

Mother (at tea): "Why didn't you wash your hands, Sonny?"

Sonny: "I didn't think it mattered, because we were having brown bread."

Editor: "You should construct your sentences so that the most ignorant of people will understand."

Author: "Well, what part of my manuscript do you not understand?"

## LIMERICKS.

A dashing young cyclist named Wynne,  
Went out on his bike for a spin;  
But a pig on the stray  
Got into his way,  
And Wynne hit the road with his chin.

A barber who lived in Batavia,  
Was known for his fearless behavior;  
An enormous baboon,  
Broke in his saloon,  
So he murmured, "I'm blowed if I'll shavia."

One night with a thriller sat Peter,  
His leisure hours never seemed fletcher,  
He refused to be stirred  
Till he'd read every word,  
So they turned off the gas at the meter.

## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT

That a match has a head, but no face?  
That a watch has a face, but no head?  
That an umbrella has ribs, but no trunk?  
That a tree has a trunk, but no ribs?  
That a chicken has a comb, but no hair?  
That a rabbit has hair, but no comb?

## WHERE THE STING IS.

You never hear a bee complain,  
Nor hear it weep nor wail;  
But when it likes it can unfold  
A very painful 'tail.'

## TONGUE TWISTERS.

A glowing glass growing green.  
Five fantastic Frenchmen fanning five fainting  
females.

Cricket critic.

The sea ceaseth and it sufficeth us.

Seven suffering saints supping soup slowly.

Nine nimble noblemen nibbling nuts.

## THESE ARE QUEER BOOKS.

The Big Bang—By Dinah Myte.

Brass Bands—By Watt A. Dinn.

Just a Peep—By Esau A. Little.

The Question—By Y. R. U. Late.

The Culprit—By E. Diddit.

The Miner—By D. Cente.

The Fighting Fury—By Flora Mann.

## HOW MANY?

How many bowls make a boulder?

How many bats make a battle?

How many fans make a phantom?

How many ports make a porter?

How many plums make a plumber?

How many folks make a focus?

## A FRIEND.

O what a joy to have a friend  
Who knows and understands,  
Who gives you words of comfort,  
And offers a guiding hand.

When clouds are dark and life is dull—  
Your mind is full of doubt—  
Be sure He's there, your faithful friend,  
With firm, strong hands held out.

He lights a beacon for your steps,  
He makes your path so smooth,  
He gives you peace of heart and mind—  
A glorious Solitude.

So you who seek a quiet rest  
From Life's long, wearying span,  
Look up and thank the God above  
You've found a Friend—A Man.

# FROM OUR ORAL GRADE PRIMER AND JUNIOR GROUPS MANUAL

## TRUE COMRADESHIP.

*Leader:* What do we mean by saying that anyone is our comrade?

*Group:* We mean that he or she is a work-mate, or a friend in whom we trust.

*Leader:* Who are our comrades in the Lyceum Movement?

*Group:* Every other Lyceumist is our comrade.

*Leader:* What does this mean to us?

*Group:* It means that we are bound to help each other in every way.

*Leader:* How can Lyceumists help each other?

*Group:* We can always stand by other Lyceumists when in trouble. We can help them in many ways in the Session work. Those of us who have things to spare can give to those who have not enough to live on. And we can always give a word of cheer and encouragement to those who are sad.

*Leader:* What do we mean by a **true** comrade?

*Group:* We mean one who not only is trusted, but is fit to be trusted.

*Leader:* What should we, as true comrades, do for each other?

*Group:* We should refuse to believe anything said against each other. We should always refuse to say or hear anything against anyone who is not present. We should always be ready to make the interests of our friends equal to our own, and to play fair in all our dealings with others.

*Leader:* Does this mean that we may have comrades apart from other Lyceumists?

*Group:* It does. Our school-mates and our work-mates should all be our comrades. There should be true comradeship between all people who have to live or work together, and between all races and nations.

*Leader:* Does not this put a special duty on all Lyceumists?

*Group:* Yes—it puts on us the duty of trying, by our example, to teach all people and all nations to love and trust each other, and to live and work together in harmony.

“A constant fidelity in small things is a great and heroic virtue.”

*St. Bonaventure.*

“He is truly great that is great in charity—that is little in himself.”

*Thomas à Kempis.*

## ANGELS' EYES.

I love to go out, on a clear cold night,  
And gaze at the starry sky,  
And I love to imagine each twinkling light  
Is an Angel's loving eye;  
And then I feel that it *must* be so,  
And I wonder if they can see—  
And if from the skies those loving eyes  
Are guarding o'er you and me.

'Tis sweet to believe that our Angel Friends  
In their beautiful homes above,  
Are happily planning what they can do  
To brighten our lives with love;  
And that, when the dusk begins to fall,  
And stars light the evening sky,  
Each twinkling beam is the sparkling gleam  
Of an Angel's loving eye.

## A PRAYER.

The sun has set and night has come,  
And now, before I go to rest,  
I thank Thee for my happy home  
With parents' love so richly blest.

I pray that Angels, round my bed,  
Will keep their watch throughout the night,  
Till shades of darkness all have fled  
Before the morning's gladdening light. Amen.

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

SEE PAGE III OF COVER.

## A HAPPY COINCIDENCE

By THOMAS H. WRIGHT.

WHEN I was a small boy I attended a Wesleyan Sunday School, and for good attendance we were given a small card. On these cards were appropriate sayings, such as "Cast your bread upon the water and it will be returned a thousand fold." I often thought about this text, and was puzzled. However, the following story will to a certain extent, illustrate its meaning.

A Lady and Gentleman had come to live at the Hall in a country village, and, being desirous of making friends with their neighbours, went for a walk through the village street. As they were passing one of the cottages the door was flung open and a little girl rushed out and asked for their help, saying that her Grandmother could not move. The couple at once acceded to the request, entering the cottage with the little girl, where they found the old granny helpless in her chair, her legs paralysed. At once the lady was startled by a cry "It's Amy. It's Amy." She took the hands of the crippled one and said, "Yes, that is my name, but how do you know it? I don't remember you."

"No, you don't remember me. It is so long since you met me and I am now a very old woman of 86. But take your mind back to when you were a little girl. You were always in mischief, and would play beside the stream. One day you slipped in and would have been drowned but for a Mrs. Brooks, who pulled you out and took you back to the Hall. I am Mrs. Brooks."

Whilst this discussion was going on the gentleman had gone for a doctor, and the two now entered. The lady turned to her husband, saying, "What a happy coincidence, John. This is the lady who saved my life for you. Now it is my turn to help."

The doctor examined the old lady and said it was possibly a matter of a few weeks in this life. And so everything was made comfortable for her for the rest of her life. The Lady from the Hall also promised to see that the old lady's daughter and child should be taken care of.

So you see, after many days the good deed brought its reward. Of course, we don't do these things, these good deeds and kind actions, expecting a reward. The law however, is there, though we may not on this earth receive satisfaction. Yet, knowing that this life is only the beginning of our lives, the good will come eventually. Let us think good thoughts, act good deeds, then goodness will come to us and we shall be at peace with all men.

---

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

## LIKE ATTRACTS LIKE

By EVA C. DEAN.

This somewhat contradictory and sometimes disputed statement is nevertheless true. The intermediary being attraction is something rather difficult to define. Attraction usually results in the drawing together of opposites for the purpose of being complementary to each other and making a useful combination by adding or toning down to a necessary efficiency.

Attraction may come suddenly, that is, without concentration, or it may result from concentrated thought and desire. If we are of a very sympathetic nature we find we attract people who require sympathy, but the person requiring sympathy may be quite a different personality to the one who is ready to sympathise. Like has attracted like in so far as sympathy is concerned, and the sympathetic person, if he or she is wise, knows how far to extend the sympathy.

Let us consider the same claim or statement with regard to spirit being. We sit for psychic development and we devote part of the time in sending out loving thoughts to those who need help. We must, therefore, expect that we shall attract spirits who require help. The spirit who requires help may possess a strong personality but uses it in its lowest form. Our desire to help has again attracted its like in so far as help is concerned. What is the result? We find we have to conquer a condition ourselves in order to help the spirit to overcome a certain desire. This means that we must give careful thought and preparedness in our likes and desires. If we are not strong enough to help we may succumb and further degrade the spirit. If we conquer we render service.

We must first prepare in the making of ourselves as fitting channels and worthy of that which we wish to attract or to be the instrument for helping others.

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### "CUT FINGERS."

By "STRONGHEARTE."

Cut fingers we each have got, tho' never hardly seen.  
So just for those whose do not smart I'll tell you what  
I mean.

The wounds don't bleed with a ruddy glow or physical  
pain impart.

These ten commandments speak their pain within  
the home of heart.

Cut Finger! bleeding night and day around this thing  
called earth,

Cut Fingers! that we seldom see are limbs to the real  
birth.

### MY DREAM.

By "STRONGHEARTE."

Come away with me in dream, the silken, silent  
scheme to see the dew ere it wets the rose

Where the sun is ever spun on its East to Western run  
by powerful yet noiseless dynamoes.

See the Artist in His style paint an unborn baby's  
smile and memories to soothe its natal throes.

Watch the remedy for disease put on the wings of  
breeze; inspiration to cure man of his woes.

And peace's gold chain; to make, and not to maim;  
welded by the wind of truth that flows.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.

## BRADFORD DISTRICT.

The above Council held its Monthly Meeting at the Saltaire Lyceum, on Sunday, June 12th, the following Lyceums being represented: Laisterdyke, Otley Road, Saltaire, Yeadon, also two representatives from Morley (Queen Street), two Associates, three Junior Associates, one Fraternal Delegate and five officers, a total of nineteen being present.

The meeting opened with the singing of Hymn No. 328 from the Manual, Mr. Hopwood giving the Invocation.

The agenda was gone through in a businesslike manner, great interest being taken in the various items thereon.

An Open Session was held in the afternoon, under the conductorship of the President of the Council. A splendid session. Congratulations to the Saltaire Lyceum on their progress.

In the evening, at 6-30, a Service was held, the Chair being taken by Mr. Westwood, of Saltaire, and the speakers were Mr. Wilman, President; Mr. Hargreaves, Secretary; Miss Clayton, D.V., and Miss Craig, Treasurer.

A wonderful day. Our thanks are due to the Saltaire friends for the splendid time they gave us.—H. Hargreaves, Hon. Sec.

## NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The first Quarterly Meeting of the Council was held at Padiham, on May 28th, 1938.

Mr. J. Railton presided. Messrs. T. Wood and W. Blackburn were appointed Credential Officers.

The Minutes of the A.G.M. were accepted and confirmed, after various questions were dealt with.

The Minutes of an E.C. meeting created considerable discussion on the suggestions offered re the Adjudication Scheme, especially on the allocation of marks. Finally, these E.C. recommendations were adopted.

Arising from the Correspondence, all stood in silent tribute to the memory of Mrs. Taft, a former delegate.

The President's Address was given by Mr. Railton. He dealt with the importance of representation at Conference, the need for initiative in Lyceum session, and for interesting mid-week activities, and the desirability of periodical meetings of Conductors. The address provoked an interesting discussion and resulted in a resolution urging the E.C. to consider the holding of Conductors' meetings, with a view to establishing classes for group leaders.

Mr. T. Wood was elected Adjudicator for 1938.

Reports. (a) Secretary's. This caused a request to be made to Mr. S. Lightboun (Blackburn) to deputise for the Secretary at the Council's Sports Day on June 18th, at Great Harwood. It was agreed that an appeal be made to those Lyceums that showed no interest in Council activities.

(b) Treasurer's Report showed a balance to date of £2 12s. 5½d.

(c) D.V.'s. Mrs. Grieve reported on Lancaster (Bulk Road) and Barrow (Dalkeith Street) Lyceums. Mr. Blackburn reported on Blackpool Lyceum.

(d) Fraternal Delegates. The N.E. Lancashire District Group meeting was reported by Mrs. Skeels and Mr. Holding. Mrs. Grieve reported on the N.W. Lancashire and S.W. Cumberland District Group.

Mr. Railton reported on the Manchester and Salford L.D.C.

(e) Credential Report. This showed the meeting to consist of 4 officers, 11 delegates (representing 7 Lyceums), 1 fraternal delegate and 1 visitor. The pooling was 6s. per Lyceum.

All reports were adopted.

Various items of Conference business received discussion, especially the Motions submitted by Liverpool (Daulby Hall) and N.E. Lancashire L.D.C.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Padiham friends for their hospitality. Congratulations were extended to the President

and his wife on the birth of their daughter. The good wishes of the meeting for a speedy return to good health were sent to Mrs. J. Greenwood.

The meeting concluded at 7-0 p.m.—M. E. Grieve, Hon. Sec.

## SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

A meeting of the above Council was held at Bacup on Saturday, May 14th, under the chairmanship of Mr. Shaw, newly-elected President.

The Credential Officers' returns shewed that there were present 8 delegates, representing 4 Lyceums, 1 D.V. 1 associate. Pool per delegate being 7½d.

The D.V. reported visits to Dearnley and Regent Hall, 30 Lyceumists and 22 Lyceumists, respectively, being present, the sessions being very ably conducted.

The Silver Bell financial report showed a balance of 10s. 1d.

An item of importance relative to the Silver Bell came in the form of a suggestion from Bacup:—That the D.C. draw up a programme of Session on which all Lyceums competing in the Silver Bell Competition shall be adjudicated upon. The foregoing suggestion to be placed on the agenda for next meeting as a notice of motion.

A second suggestion from Shaw, also to be placed on the agenda for next meeting, was:—

That Lyceums invite the Council once each year to conduct an Open Session in their respective Lyceums.

Our next meeting will be held at Duke Street, Shaw, on Saturday, September 10th.

A vote of thanks was extended to Bacup by Mr. Holt, seconded by Mr. Nurse, for the hospitality shown to the Council.

After confirmation of Minutes, the meeting terminated at 7-15.—W. Healy, Sec.

AINSWORTH HOME OF REST  
SCHEME.

The Ainsworth Home of Rest Fund exists for the purpose of sending Lyceumists to the seaside for convalescence in cases where Lyceumists cannot afford to pay for the treatment.

Arrangements can be made for convalescence in Homes at Blackpool, Southport, West Kirby, Weston-super-Mare, Exmouth, Hastings, Rustington, Bognor, St. Leonard's, Brighton, Bexhill-on-Sea, Broadstairs, Felixstowe, Great Yarmouth, Skegness, Withernsea, Redcar, Whitley Bay.

Lyceumists of all ages can be accommodated.

Forms of Application for treatment at the seaside may be obtained from the Clerk to the Ainsworth Home of Rest, B.S.L. Union, Third Floor, 41, John Dalton Street, Manchester 2.

## S.P.L. LOG.

By The Recorder

**JUNE** does not appear to have been a very active month, few reports being received of Special Events. I do, however, trust that Secretaries will not fail to keep our Union Secretary informed of their Lyceum activities. This is the Lyceum's page and as such, it should prove useful in passing on to others those things you find helpful in your district.

**WALKING** is an interesting feature in many Northern towns, but to those in other districts who have not witnessed it, let me warn you not to confuse it with hiking as for instance the Southerner might be tempted to do.

Walking is a most spectacular procession of various Sunday Schools and other Societies. Tiny Tots are dressed in pretty frocks or suits for the occasion, carrying baskets of flowers, while their elders carry their banner. Few processions are without a band. Lyceumists are not lagging behind in these events as reports show this month.

**DEWSBURY** Lyceumists were to be seen in such a procession on June 6th. Headed by the Gawthorpe Victoria Prize Band, they marched through the main streets to the Dewsbury Football Ground to enjoy games and dancing. During their march they made several halts to sing Lyceum Songs to the onlookers. Many years ago I had the pleasure of joining in one of their walks, so I can fully appreciate what such a day means to them.

**HAPPY AND CONTENTED** was the title of a solo sung by Miss Ivy Burrows at the Horwich Annual Church and Lyceum Sunday, on May 29th. This title certainly appeared to apply to the day's services which were conducted by Mr. Mycock, of Hollinwood. Here again walking was one of the features of the day's events, for the members marched through the streets, headed by the old Prize Band, while special singing by the choir and children added interest.

**IN A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN** the Carshalton Lyceum is situated, while outside hundreds of houses have sprung up. This Lyceum by the crowds of children living in the district has the making of one of the largest Lyceums in our Movement. We shall watch their progress with interest.

**TUTOR REWARDED** was one of the surprise items when Mr. H. Hopper, Vice-President of the Blackburn, St. Peter's Street Church, presented the Educational Examination Certificates. Those who had taken part in these examinations valued the services of their tutor, Mr. Holding, so much, that they made him a presentation also.

**TELLING THE STORY** is another feature of the Peckham Lyceum, but the story must have a moral in it and I understand one Lyceumist opens up with an idea, then others are called upon to add a part, it certainly sounds most interesting.

**THE WORKERS WIN** was certainly proved by the Army Lyceumists, who provided funds for their trip to Bridlington by the sale of goods made by the children at the handicraft class. This, together with other efforts, raised enough funds to cover all expenses for a real happy day by the sea.

**LOVE** and **SYMPATHY** were the spirit names given to Collin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Johnson, at the naming service at Macclesfield Lyceum, conducted by Mrs. Rushton. We trust that Collin will grow up to give full expression to the names received.

**THE OLD GIVING PLACE TO THE NEW** certainly seems to be suggested by the Sessions at Clapham Lyceum. They have a special subject each week which is always illustrated by pictures or objects. Sport was one of their recent subjects, which I understand was illustrated by pictures of past and present events. A girls' section of this Lyceum has been holding a Charm class at their midweek meeting, this includes etiquette, manners, poise, health, etc.

**KINDNESS TO ANIMALS** is one of the points which the Stratford Lyceum Officers are keen in placing before their members. At a recent meeting Mrs. E. Venton, a member of the West Ham Borough Council and Officer of the P.D.S.A., gave a most interesting and instructive talk to the children.

**LOCAL NEWS. PUBLICATIONS** are becoming very popular in District Councils. These are found useful for the purpose of keeping local workers in close touch with their Council's activities, at the same time a good medium for assisting the Union by calling attention to their appeals and publications. I have received copies of the "Lyceum Leader" issued by the Sheffield District Council, also the "Lyceum and Group News" issued by the London Lyceum District Council.

**VISITING CONFERENCE** I was pleased to see the three officers re-elected, namely, Mr. Slimin, President, Mrs. George, V.P., Mr. Burrows, Treasurer. All three have sacrificed much time and service for the Cause, and deserve this honour. Mr. Will Edwards, who gave himself the title "One of the Silver Gray's," can certainly look back on many years service. It was also a pleasure to see Mr. George Berry on the platform, his past work for the Cause of Spiritualism is known throughout the Movement.

The S.N.U. in electing Mrs. Pickles and Mr. Keeling as their representatives did well, for both are keen Lyceumists. While one could not help feeling regret at the absence of Mrs. Jessie Greenwood, we trust she will soon recover from the results of her accident.

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*(Continued from page 111).*

We agree that children cannot understand the deeper significance of our principles, but it depends, almost entirely, upon those in charge, both in the Lyceum and at home, whether a true simple meaning may not be conveyed and gradually, as time goes on, developed so that instead of "familiarity breeding contempt," greater and greater truth and beauty may be shown.