

THE  
**LYCEUM BANNER**

OL. XLVII. No. 574.

DECEMBER, 1938.

PRICE TWOPENCE

**Xmas Greetings From Our M.C. Members**

PEACE is not cessation of action; that is stagnation.  
PEACE is undisturbed, harmonious activity.

GOOD-WILL is not the mere wishing that good may come to us. That may be selfishness.  
GOOD-WILL can only be expressed in acts of goodness.

That is why the angels couple PEACE and GOOD-WILL together.  
Both are forms of 'ACTIVE SERVICE.'

So here's wishing that in the joy of service to others we may all have—

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.  
THE PRESIDENT.

Dear Lyceumists,

Once again Christmas is upon us and we have hardly got over the last. Well! here's wishing everyone all the best wishes that one can wish, even to those who in these times seem to do their best to chill us to the marrow.

Let us try to make peace and all that it brings in its train our main thought; peace; and goodwill to all, even to those who call themselves our enemies and do not always wish us well. Let peace and love alone hold all our hearts in thrall and then we shall need neither armies nor air raid shelters.

Yours faithfully,  
THE TREASURER.

Christmas comes but once a year. Therein lies my regret. Oh! that Christmas, with its goodwill and cheer would come every day. A wholehearted feeling of comradeship, without animosity, would be welcome to all. Cannot we as Lyceumists and Spiritualists make our impression for good in the world. Our little may be just that which will turn the table in someone's favour and cause him to follow our example. The minority will probably be the majority some day. So let me define success—"TRY ONCE OFTENER THAN YOU HAVE TRIED." My wish is that you will receive the best. My prayer is that you will give your best, because therein lies your greatness.

GEO. A. MACK.

Greetings to all, let's be Merry and Bright by making someone else happy. Give your old pensioners a bit extra for Xmas. You know who I mean; the one or two or three that you help week by week in your own particular circle. What? you haven't any. Well find one; they are not hard to find. There's bound to be someone you know who can do with a little assistance, give a little extra joy at the Festive Season, so "Gan on hinney, dee it noo."

Yours with all the best  
GEO. P. ROBSON.  
"GEORDIE"

Fellow Comrades

"I see no reason why we should not prepare ourselves for the festive season in a spirit of cheerfulness and confidence."

Such was the Prime Minister's message to the Nation on November 5th.

In extending to you my Christmas Greetings I do not hesitate to repeat these words, not from a political point of view alone, but from a deeper sense of their spiritual meaning.

The world can only hope for peace and goodwill throughout the nations when we are prepared to bring into being the true teachings of the Brotherhood of Man.

Herein the youth of our movement especially have their golden opportunity to play their part in leading the nations back to this ideal state.

May joy and peace radiate from your hearts to the whole world this Christmas and throughout the days to follow.

ALBERT E. FRUIN.

Christmas time again draws near,

Happiest season of the year,  
Real goodwill is cast around,  
In it love and joy abound.  
So, if you would like to try,  
To spread this joy as you pass by—  
Make your lives with love complete,  
Attempt to give the poor a treat,  
Sacrifice from what you've got,

Many need your help a lot.  
Every little thing you do,  
Swells your store of pleasure too,  
So, if you could all combine,  
And say, "ours" not "yours and mine,"  
Goodness would reign over all,  
Every heart with love enthral.

J. RAILTON.

# WHY I AM A MEDIUM

By FRANK T. BLAKE, President, S.N.U. Ltd.



Your Editor has asked me to tell you why I am a medium—not an easy question to answer. Why is anyone anything in particular? Most active people find some outlet for their energy, especially if the energy is inspired by an ideal. In my case, even though I was compelled from a very early age to work for a living—and, by the way, this is a youngster's good fortune—I was always anxious to find an outlet for the religious zeal which was awakened in me when a youth. Brought up a non-conformist, my natural religious fervour was stimulated by listening to some of the most eloquent nonconformist preachers of fifty years ago. Whatever usefulness I may have as a medium to-day can be traced back to this early training.

It was not until I was about twenty-eight years of age, however, that I heard for the first time of Spiritualism and Mediumship. That was a revelation indeed; it altered my whole outlook upon life and my attitude towards religion. I began to realise—slowly at first—that religion was not merely a belief or a faith, but a life to be lived.

Fortunately I came under the training of a most excellent spirit friend—he refuses to be called a guide. Under his tuition, lasting several years, what mental and psychic ability I had was trained and developed on the distinct and definite understanding that I would give what time I could and what ability I attained to the cause of Spiritualism. That, then, is the first reason why I am a medium and still seek to serve the cause which gave to me so much of comfort and enlightenment.

The second reason—which perhaps is as important as the first—is that mediumship affords

many opportunities for self education. It opens up wide fields of knowledge and many new interests. In short, it pushes back one's mental horizon so that one gets a vision of life that is not hemmed in by physical conditions and material prospects.

But the greatest reason is found in the opportunities mediumship offers to serve others. In a world that is full of mourning and sadness, filled with people who have a heart-ache which none of the pleasures of this life can alleviate, it is a glorious thing to be able to comfort, encourage and assist others to gain a real interest in life and to show them the way to true happiness. In such a service, as in all other service which has for its object human betterment, there is both joy and happiness for those who serve.

Like all other attainments the development of mediumship requires patient and persistent training and sacrifice. Mediumship can no more be attained without these than can proficiency in any calling. Any young man or woman who wishes to become proficient in any trade or profession must train and make sacrifice. You can blunder through life if you want to and be just one of the aimless crowd proficient in nothing but inefficiency, or, you can become a key man or woman in your job—that depends on you. An artisan can be a blunderer or a finished product at his trade. Professional men give long years of training, entailing much sacrifice, to reach the top rung of their particular ladder, and even sportsmen must train and be content to sacrifice much to win their laurels.

So with mediumship. Put yourself under the training of those who best can teach you, but first learn to discipline yourself. Form your own character and learn to control your own emotions. Develop control of yourself, so that when you offer yourself to the spirit people for their use you are steady and confident. An undisciplined mind and an untrained body are worse than useless to our spirit friends. Only when we can work in happy co-operation with them are they able to do their best and serve this world with credit to themselves and to us.

Lastly—take your mediumship seriously; it is a great responsibility. Upon your success much depends, but do not let success get to your head. If you do you will soon find your power diminishing and perhaps vanishing altogether. Confidence born of training and experience, held with humility and with gratitude for the opportunities of service, is the surest way to hold the friendship of the spirit people and to serve our comrades here.

*(Continued on page 199).*

# THE LYCEUM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA.

“The National Spiritualist,” a monthly magazine issued by The National Spiritualist Association of U.S.A., gives in its November issue, a lengthy and instructive account of the 46th Annual Convention of the Association.

We have no doubt that a large number of our readers would find the full report to be most interesting reading but, obviously, its publication in these pages is an impossibility, and it is with a certain amount of regret we find ourselves compelled to pass on to our readers only a few brief extracts from that, to us, most interesting portion of the report which deals with the Lyceum section.

From the report of the Committee of Lyceums, by Mrs. Anna W. Wallace, Superintendent of the Bureau of Lyceums of the N.S.A. :—

“Each year it has been urged upon the delegates or the leaders of local societies throughout the States to organize new Lyceums to enlist new members in this Sunshine Army.

We realize there is a great battle to be fought, and if we call upon our developing youth, and they receive the proper training, upon reaching maturity they will have no fear of the Spiritual battles of to-morrow. May we, therefore, at this time ask those interested in Lyceum work, to band together, with the spirit forces, not only at this convention, but throughout the year to continue the success of this department.

We are very happy to know that through the efforts of the office of “The National Spiritualist” there are now available complete Lyceum supplies. Miss Verna Kuhlrig, assistant National Superintendent in the office of “The National Spiritualist,” will be glad to hear from any superintendents or conductors who need supplies such as manuals, leaflets, songbooks, and all other necessary Lyceum supplies.”

The following is a report of Lyceums and Superintendents from the following States:

No Reporting.	Enrolled Membership	State Supts.
Connecticut	2 29	Mrs. Gertrude Quimet
Illinois	6 175	Mrs. Elsie Lather
Indiana	1 35	
Kansas	1 64	Mrs. Amelia Todorovich
Missouri	1 20	
Michigan	3 68	Mr. Joe Clayton
New Jersey	3 82	
New York	5 108	
Ohio	3 120	Edward Howland
Oklahoma	2 58	Mrs. Mae Blair
Texas	4 133	Mrs. Nina Bradley

Washington	2	19	
West Virginia	1	131	
Wisconsin	5	120	Verna Kuhlrig
	39	1,162	

From the report of the Superintendent of Lyceums:—

“Many Lyceum groups have been formed, have in their day done a useful part. It would be difficult to determine but we are left to realize that not nearly enough has been done. In large part our lack of strength lies in the fact that we who teach have not been prepared for that work. Our teaching equipment must include a sensing of fundamentals, a grasp of basic teachings upon which the religion is founded, familiarity with the early history and the progress that has been and is being made by adherents and students in this and other lands. It is essential that the teacher shall have had experience in those matters which the manifestations and evidences prove the reality and the value of spirit teachings, and their application to human affairs and living.

At the 1935 convention held in Cleveland, Rev. Melvina Hostak, my Associate of the Bureau of Lyceums, made an analysis of Lyceum needs. This from her report:

(1) We need more and deeper interest in the Lyceum, and greater effort for the children;

(2) Means to hold the interest of the young people after they come, social interests, and a spirit of comradeship, class meetings, parties, plays, etc., all these are helpful;

(3) The graded lesson, establishing a standard for each grade, so that the student will have completed certain definite studies when he advances to the next class, a course of study;

(4) Teachers' meetings for the development of talent and originality, discussion of lessons by a group furnishes the teacher with added material and inspiration;

(5) A course that will fit students that have natural ability to teach when they have completed the range of classes;

(6) Realize that the Lyceum is an asset to the church, by class organization and by striving to earn a certain quota to be given to the church.”

From the Lyceum report of Rev. Melvina Hostak, Associate with Mrs. Anna W. Wallace:—

“Realizing with regret and sorrow the passing of many of the “Old Guard” to the Larger Life, it behooves us to make greater effort than ever

(Continued on page 201)

# TOO OLD AT

## Mr. McIndoe Indicts

The Editor—LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Madame,—I regret that the report of the B.S.L.U. delegates to the S.N.U. A.G.M., in your September issue does not give a correct impression of the views I expressed on Lyceum matters. I did not say "There is no evidence apart from the Lyceum." I replied to Mr. Slimin's question containing these words, that for a long time it had been understood between the S.N.U. and the B.S.L.U. that the teaching of the young was the special province of the B.S.L.U., who had resented any tendency suggesting departure from that policy.

I am surprised to see the bare quotation of Mr. Slimin's remark that "if control is to be adhered to, control will only lead to trouble." The implication is that I had advocated 'control.' I did nothing of the kind. I did not use the word in that connection. I certainly urged the delegates to accept, as the B.S.L.U. A.G.M. had done, the resolution as to the Lyceum movement becoming a department of the S.N.U. I thought I had made my position clear in my address, and particularly in my reply to Mr. Slimin's remarks. Apparently it is not clear to Messrs. Burrows and Fruin. Will you give me space to summarise it in your columns?

I suggested that the remedies for the parlous state of the Lyceum movement which Mr. Slimin outlined in his address to the B.S.L.U. A.G.M. would be ineffective, as they did not touch the root cause of the trouble, which, in my opinion are:

- (1) While Andrew Jackson Davies originated a system of educating children up to sixteen in groups, we frequently hear the foolish boast "The Lyceums cater for all ages from one to a hundred," (and usually all in one room). Well, it simply can't be done, successfully. Any educationalist will tell you why, if you don't know.
- (2) The Lyceum movement is ostensibly intended to encourage self-expression among the young, but as it is run to-day, the youth of Spiritualism is almost completely barred from any effective voice in its control and administration. At its conference and annual meetings will anyone say that youth predominates? Are there any young, really young people on its M.C?

Are we to assume from the present state of

affairs that the Lyceum movement is not producing even one or two young people in their teens or early twenties capable and worthy of prominence at annual meetings, of sitting on the M.C., or even of being delegates to the A.G.M. of the S.N.U. Or is there some other reason why age—old or middle—seems to be a *sine qua non* for election to such positions.

I said I saw no future for a youth movement run on these lines, but that I did see great possibilities for a youth movement in Spiritualism run by youth.

I would not hesitate to give a very much larger voice in the management of their own movement—or what should be their own movement—to our young people, than they have enjoyed under the 'control' of the old folk, who, doubtless with the best intentions, have dominated the B.S.L.U. for years.

To ensure this I would—as I said in my address—make twenty-five the maximum age for delegates to the meetings of the youth organisation. That would not mean depriving them of the benefit of the counsel and advice of those whose age has given them that greater experience which should render their counsel of value.

But in the expression of their aspirations and ideals, in the statement of their desires and their needs, and in the solution of their own special problems, I would leave the young people the utmost possible freedom compatible with the maintenance of the principles for which we stand.

Such an organisation would doubtless make blunders. Who does not, who does anything worth the doing? But the steady flow of younger minds into its councils, as age automatically moved on the older ones would tend to prevent these blunders being perpetuated, and would ensure the trying out of new ideas.

The transition of Mrs. George makes a vacancy on the committee which is to discuss Lyceum matters with representatives of the S.N.U. Those responsible for filling it have an opportunity to show what they really think of the capabilities of the youth they claim to represent.

Will they select one whose age at least entitles him or her to voice at first hand the views of the youth for whom he speaks; or will the choice be such as but to add another whose age makes it impossible for him to give first-hand expression to any but the hazy recollections of the aspirations of the youth of a past generation. The many

# TWENTY-FIVE

## Mr. Slimin Replies

changes which have occurred since then, if only in our social and economic conditions, have radically altered many of the problems confronting youth.

J. B. McINDOE.

14th October 1938.

Whilst unhesitatingly granting to Mr. McIndoe the use of space in our columns to ventilate his complaint against what he considers to be an inadequate, and possibly misleading, report of the views he expressed at the S.N.U. A.G.M., we consider that his letter of October 14th (which appears on opposite page) calls for a reply showing *our* side of the question raised.

In the first part of his letter, Mr. McIndoe is rather lavish in his accusations of misquotation and implication; but one thing he has entirely overlooked, or ignored, viz., That the whole of his remarks (one might almost use the term 'attack') on the Lyceum Movement, its President and management, as voiced in his Presidential address, were based on a misquotation.

He asserted that the President of the B.S.L.U., in his address to the Annual Conference, had asked if Modern Spiritualism had anything to offer to young people or if there was any evidence, apart from our Lyceums, of its efforts to retain them.

Reference to the June BANNER will show that what was actually asked was, whether anyone dare assert that Modern Spiritualism *as expounded and practised*, has anything to offer that is *especially attractive or applicable* to young people. . . The words in italics place an entirely different construction on the question, and we suggest Mr. McIndoe would have been well advised had he considered that point before launching his complaint against 'incorrect impressions' and 'bare' quotations.

Again, Mr. McIndoe trips up rather badly when he proceeds to enunciate the root causes of the trouble in the Lyceum Movement.

He begins by stating that Andrew Jackson Davis originated a system of educating children up to sixteen in groups and proceeds to build his argument on that proposition.

Let A. J. Davis speak for himself. In his inaugural address at Dodsworth Hall, New York, on January 26th, 1863, his first uttered sentence was "We have assembled this afternoon to inaugurate an association for the physical and spiritual improvement of both sexes *and of all*

ages.'" Mr. McIndoe, then, is obviously reasoning from a false proposition and;—well! it simply can't be done successfully. Any logician will tell him why if he doesn't know.

When Mr. McIndoe goes on to state that the youth of Spiritualism is almost completely barred from any effective voice in its control and administration we can only conclude he is using inference rather than observation. He asks if anyone will say that youth predominates at Lyceum Conferences and annual meetings. Certainly not at any such meeting at which Mr. McIndoe has been present and the most effective answer we can give to his question is 'come and see.' Further, we would refer him to the report of this year's Lyceum Conference where the presence of so many young delegates was commented on by the President as giving great pleasure.

Mr. McIndoe's scheme for imposing an age limit on delegateship has much to commend it, though it is not by any means original. But, we would ask, does it not infer as a logical sequence that on reaching the age of 25, our young people would automatically expect to find a place and scope for their talents in the 'parent body.' Would Mr. McIndoe also specify a retiring age for our Spiritualist legislators so that room would be made for those who had grown too old for the Lyceum.

We regret that, in the latter part of his letter, Mr. McIndoe has failed to steer quite clear of that great destroyer of friendly, constructive discussion—'personalities.' Some of his thinly veiled inferences, especially his reference to Mrs. George, can hardly be described as being in good taste.

Retaliation, be it ever so excusable, seldom serves any good purpose, yet we cannot refrain from comment on the concluding portion of the letter before us. Mr. McIndoe speaks of—"one whose age entitles him, or her, to voice at first hand the views of Youth."—and "another whose age makes it impossible for him to give first hand expression to any but the hazy recollections of the inspirations of the youth of a past generation." With these distinctions in view, may we ask, What *first hand* knowledge has Mr. McIndoe that the youth of to-day desires or demands the reforms he, Mr. McIndoe, advocates.

J. SLIMIN,  
Editor (*pro tem*)  
LYCEUM BANNER.

## B.S.L.U. EDUCATION PAGE.

### Upper Middle Grade.

You who are between 16 and 18 years old need to be acquainted with the whole of the Manual; and if you have attended a Lyceum for any length of time that should offer no difficulty to you. It is often said that the Manual should be replaced, but it is usually found that those who grumble most know least about the contents of it. I am afraid that we should have many surprises if every lyceumist were compelled to take a general knowledge paper based on the Manual; for, it isn't the length of time you have spent in reading that counts, but rather the amount of intelligent studying. And I am quite sure that neither A. J. Davis nor Alfred Kitson meant the Manual to be the *only* book read in a Lyceum. Rather did they intend it to be an outline of study, so that each recitation should suggest a course of study and further reading. But we have taken the easier course, and save ourselves the trouble of looking up books in the Public Library; and so we get the dreadfully monotonous sessions.

But to get back to our preparations for the examinations in 1939. As I said last month, study your Manual and Summaries together, and also the chapters in the Handbook which deal with Manual subjects. For instance, when you are studying the chapters on "The Teachings of Spiritualism" and "The Principles" study G.C.R. 136 at the same time; when it is "The Aim" on page 14 you will find the same subject dealt with in G.C.R. 142; and when it is "Phases of Mediumship" you will find similar ideas expressed in a different manner in G.C.Rs. 140 and 141. I think you would find it a great help if you got a small notebook and jotted down in it the titles in the Handbook, leaving a few pages between each one. Then go through your Manual and jot down the readings which deal with the subjects in your notebook. Then when you are making your final revision you will have all your references to hand.

When you are studying "Advent" I should get another notebook, and after you have read one chapter make a list of the chief outstanding points, referring to your book whilst you are doing it. Then do the same for the second chapter, and so on until you get to the end of the book. As time is so short (only eleven weeks left now) you will have to do more than one chapter a week. Then test your studies by trying to write out your points or summaries from memory.

### Senior Grade.

What I have said to the Upper Middle students is equally applicable to you. Being older you have been longer in the Lyceum, and therefore

should be better acquainted with the books set for study. When you are studying the handbooks do the three together. By that, I do not mean that I want you to try to read three books at one and the same time. What I do mean is, read about the Principles in handbook No. 1 on pages 5 and 6; then in handbook No. 2, pages 9 to 13; and then in handbook No. 3, pages 19 to 27; and so with any other subjects you can find that are dealt with in each of the three books.

Study the Manual and Summaries together; and follow the plan I have outlined above when you are reading "Advent" and "Essays on Reasoning," and then you will really know something about the books when you have finished.

### To all Student Lyceums.

Before Christmas I hope that secretaries of Lyceums will have received large envelopes containing a fee form, a candidates' form (on which they are asked to write the names of those who intend to take the exams. next year), and a circular letter appealing for entries.

Could I ask *each* secretary and conductor to see that this packet is brought to the notice of the lyceumists, and a decision made straight away? Will you help me by doing this? See that names are written on the form immediately, and the fees collected; and then send along to me. If your people decide not to enter please drop me a post-card saying so, and so lessen the expenses of the Union. If each Lyceum could reply before the end of the year I should be able to do my work during the school holidays.

To all of you sincere greetings for Christmas and the New Year from the members of the Education Committee. May the New Year see your hopes and desires realised, and may you have more successes than ever in the 1939 examinations.

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### SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

**ALL the text books needed for the B.S.L.U. Examinations are supplied from the General Offices. Miss G. M. HALLIDAY 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, apply to—  
THE GENERAL SECRETARY, B.S.L. Union, 41, John Dalton Street, Deansgate, Manchester, 2.

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

The Secretary, Miss G. M. Halliday, 28 Moorlands Place, Free School Lane, Halifax, Yorks.

# OUR LYCEUM GUILD

AIMS. To be progressive, To develop ourselves.

MOTTO: "We Live to Learn and Learn to Live."

Dear Guild Members,

As you were warned in the November BANNER, circumstances have thrust upon you a change of leadership. I confess it is with some trepidation that I attempt to carry on the traditions which have grown up with "Our Guild." However, I am seeking strength for the responsibility in the knowledge that this is "Ours"—not "yours," not "mine," but a very co-operative affair. I feel sure that it is only in that feeling of fellowship that "Our Guild" can really fulfil its function in Lyceum work.

Last week I received from Miss Halliday all the "properties" belonging to the Guild. Since then I have spent a most interesting time trying to feel in contact with you, my fellow-members. Looking through your membership forms has been most illuminating. I have learnt quite a lot about you, many of whom of course, I already know personally. But, just looking through your lists of hobbies, occupations, and Lyceum activities, has made you all seem very real to me, and given me a much closer sense of fraternity with you.

Glancing at the ages has shown that most of the members are adults, with years of Lyceum work behind them. There are few children. Is that because our membership fee is too high for youngsters? I wonder! But, at least I am satisfied that Our Guild is composed of *keen* Lyceumists, and I am hoping that, out of that keenness, we'll find just how serviceable Our Guild can be to our Movement. For I am convinced that we can be of real service. Just how we can widen our scope, I am not yet quite sure, but I have a feeling that out of the Guild we can each find even more than its happy sense of fellowship and friendship, invaluable as they surely are! Between us, I know we can find out the way.

This letter seems to have assumed so personal a note, that I am going to take this present mood as a chance of a little introduction for myself. If possible, I would like you, too, to appreciate just what Our Guild has meant to me.

When, under Miss Kitson's leadership, Our Guild commenced in 1920, an appeal was made for help with the hobbies and studies of members. A non-Lyceumist friend, read through the Guild

page, and then urged me to offer help in my own hobby—nature-study. From my first little article, I date a whole wealth of Lyceum friends, interests, and activities. In the first place, it gave me the very real friendship of Nellie Kitson, and both her parents. In fact, it is with her pen that I am now writing. That friendship has led on to an active interest in the educational work of the Movement—and, for me, each extra bit of work, each new interest, has led to more friendships, and I alone can know how they have influenced my life. Yes! I owe much to "Our Guild." I'd like to feel that for you others, too, it has meant just as much, and will continue to do so as we work together.

## Membership.

Last month, Miss Halliday had to tell you that there were no new members. I have better news, for I start my new career with one new associate member, and one new Guild Branch. I know you will join with me in most cordially welcoming Gladys Halliday as member No. 79. I believe Miss Kitson waited until she could be No. 1,000 before she enrolled, but I'm glad our second Leader gave me such an encouraging welcome into office. Our new Guild Branch is No. 6, Macclesfield, with 20 senior and 4 junior members, under the leadership of Miss B. Kenyon. Welcome, Macclesfield!

## Our Invalids.

Miss Winterbottom will still welcome your comradeship in letters and thoughts. Mr. Tom Ellis is now, I hope, once more at home after a stay in a convalescent home at Southport. To both of these members go our good wishes.

## Finance.

The Guild's finances continue to be healthy. From Miss Halliday I received £9 15s. 5½d. To this, we must add 1 associate fee of 1s., and 1 Branch fee of 2s. 6d., giving a total of £9 18s. 11½d. Our expenses include 2s. 10d. for transferring the stock from Halifax to Barrow, and 1s. 3d. in postage, so that we are left with a balance of £9 14s. 10½d. Of that, £9 has now been banked.

## Our Annual Returns.

Since we now come to a year end, before Dec. 31st, I am hoping to let you all, through your Lyceums, receive your renewal forms so that you carry on your Guild membership into 1939. Please do maintain your membership, and introduce newcomers to our numbers so that 1939 sees a healthy, useful life for Our Guild.

With my cordial greetings to all,

MARGARET E. GRIEVE.

# THE LYCEUM BANNER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

Editor (Pro. Tem.): J. SLIMIN.

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.

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DECEMBER, 1938.

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## LOOKING OUT OF THE WINDOW

"Let there be many windows to your Soul  
That all the glory of the universe  
May beautify it,—"

—*Ella Wheeler Wilcox.*

As these lines are being written something rather remarkable is happening. In a city which, rightly or wrongly, has acquired an unenviable notoriety for rain, fog and general dullness of weather conditions; at a time of the year when, according to tradition and general experience, all those conditions should be at their worst; a small, insignificant office, perched on the third floor of a building in the heart of that city is bathed in glorious sunlight.

Think of it! you searchers in the gloom and darkness for the unique, the extraordinary, the wonderful, the phenomenal. Here is a phenomenon that exceeds in significance all that you may learn from an age of research. Perfectly natural; yet with a world-wealth of illumination, revelation, warming, health-giving stimulation of body and mind, the sun reaches each nook and cranny of that room. And all because a wise architect—whose plans have been followed by a sensible builder—has provided an adequate number of windows.

The poet's words, which head this page, get right home to our hearts at such a time and their appropriateness is made very apparent.

That insignificant little office of which we write is, after all, very important in its own way. It is the business centre of a Union. From it emanates, and into it is received, all the correspondence that serves to keep in association with each other all those who, in their various ways and degrees, are interested in the welfare and progress of the Union that claims it as its headquarters.

Here are stored all the records of days gone by;

those 'things of the past' to which we can so often refer for help and guidance in the present. Here too is all (or, at least, as much as it has been possible to acquire) the equipment for our present maintenance of an organisation. There is the stock-room, too, with its shelves, and store-cupboards where the needs of the future and the discards of the past are stored awaiting their disposal according to their value.

This—at least for the time being—sunlit room is the heart and the nerve centre of the business side of our Union, and though it may be, and may contain, much less than we would desire, it has that which many more spacious and pretentious places lack:—a full complement of well-placed windows.

But it is for 'windows to the soul' that the poet appeals and the soul of a movement, or organisation, is just as much in need of its 'windows' as is the soul of the individual.

Can we feel satisfied that what is true in a material sense of this place is also true, 'with deeper meaning fraught' of that much more important part of us; the 'soul', or 'spirit' of our Movement?

Are we so introspective that we prefer to shut ourselves within blank walls, content with the artificial light and warmth of our own making, rather than have many windows through which the light of reason, knowledge, companionship and love can stream from the universe around us?

Are we bounded by self-opinion, belief and custom; walls that, viewed from outside, may have the appearance of prejudice and intolerance? Could we not, with profit to ourselves and others, break many parts of them down and replace them with 'windows'?

What a number of questions these windows foster. What a difference they make to our outlook.

But that brings a reminder that the heading of this page is "Looking out of the Window." So far we have not had the time or opportunity to look outward.

Probably, on another occasion, we may stand together at our windows and compare the thoughts that the outward view may bring.

### SANTA CLAUS SUNDAY.

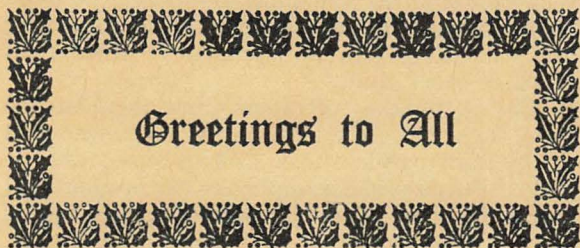
Further to the appeal in last month's LYCEUM BANNER, will any Lyceumist please forward any gifts for distribution to Sick Children in Hospital this Christmas.

So far no replies have been received from you. Does this mean you are not interested in this effort or will you please decide now that it is worth supporting.

**A handful of toys to a sick child is very like manna from heaven.**

Help us to help them back to health. The last day for your gifts is 10th December 1938.

G. H. MORGAN,  
Lyceum Secretary.



**Greetings to All**

**Balance Sheets.**

Lyceum, District Councils and Church Treasurers will shortly be preparing their Annual Balance Sheets. In like manner I shall be faced with the task of preparing my returns for the Union.

As far as I can judge at the moment the income shows signs of being about £20 short of the previous year's donation.

This, you will agree, is rather a serious state of affairs seeing the Union relies to-day so much on this fund to carry on its work.

At first sight it does not appear to be a reasonable proposition, or even an anticipation that this lost ground can be covered by the end of this month. On second thoughts it would be the simplest thing in the world to do if every Lyceum-ist would rise to the occasion.

**3d. each £62 - 10 - 0**

With a membership of over 7,000, allowing for the young children, who could not be expected to subscribe, this leaves my estimate at 5,000 members, giving me a Xmas donation of 3d. each.

**ONLY 3d. each**

That reminds me, in many homes it has been a custom to put silver threepenny pieces in the Xmas Pudding.

The present threepenny piece is not at all suitable, in fact it is a question as to whether it is not dangerous to put them in puddings.

**THEN WHY NOT DO THE NEXT BEST THING**

send them to me, and I will put them altogether and call it

**THE RESTORATION FUND XMAS PUDDING.**

If this appears to be too small to send alone, fearing one might get lonely on the way by itself, I am making provision at the foot of this page for those who desire to send more

The fact remains I am asking each individual Lyceumist to at least send me 3d.

There are many suggestions made for those who experience sleepless nights such as counting sheep jumping over a stile, etc.

A very good one is counting your blessings, but here is a new one for you, add threepenny pieces up and see if you can reach my desired amount of

**£62 - 10 - 0**

Then there is another helpful suggestion I would like to give you.

I am fully aware what a task Christmas shopping is.

To try and carry in one's mind, the hundred and one things required for the festive season is almost an impossible undertaking, if you do not provide yourselves with a list.

Just as a reminder will you please add to your list threepence for the Restoration Fund.

**TRY YOUR SKILL**

by sending in your suggestions as to how much the Restoration Fund Xmas Pudding will bring in.

**Receipts.**

Flower Day:	Darnall	.....	2	1
	Carshalton	.....	5	5
Weekly Pennies:	Fulham	.....	5	0
Retiring Collection:	Kingston on Hill	.....	14	6
Donations:	Mr. Drinkwater	.....	1	0
	Wakefield	.....	4	0
	Miss Williams	.....	6	0
	Anon II. Sheffield	.....	5	0

**£1 17 6**

To MRS. R. A. FRUIN,  
 Ruberrondo,  
 126, Woodlands Rd.,  
 ISLEWORTH, Middx.

I enclose the sum of £    s.    d.

As a Xmas Gift to the Restoration Fund.

Mr., Mrs., or Miss.....

.....

Please make Postal Orders and Cheques payable to British Spiritualist Lyceum Union, crossed = & Co.

# UNCLE BERT'S LETTER

## FOR HOME AND OVER- SEAS

My Dear Boys and Girls,

This is whoopee month, therefore we have all to become "Whoopee Imps" and make whoopee.

The first thing is to know what whoopee is, the second how to make it.

It is creating a spirit of happiness, peace, and goodwill, which we make by our thoughts, words, and activities towards others.

There is no other period in the year when we can find so many people engaged in making this spirit of happiness. Whether we take a peep into the King's palace, the ordinary home of those who live in town houses and modern estates or those humble half hidden cottages away on the mountain side or lying in the valley, in each we shall find preparations being made for Christmas festivities.

The decorations of the walls with evergreens, paper chains, and fairy lights. The preparations for the many dainty dishes required not forgetting plum pudding, mince pies and jellies.

Why is all this sort of thing necessary? Is it a waste of time? Oh no; there is no time wasted when it is spent on making others happy.

We have only to enter any home at Christmas time and as soon as we see these decorations and preparations we at once feel the spirit of happiness creeping over us, it holds a kind of magic spell for us.

In exactly the same way, when we go with Mother and Dad to do the shopping, the shops are just a blaze of light, the display of toys and good things in the windows gives us this same feeling of happiness within.

It seems to me that the greatest lesson we have to consider at this time of the year is how can we make others happy. Shall we consider some of the ways this is done, then perhaps we shall find out if we can play our little part.

I think the best illustration I can give you is that of a children's ward in the hospital. Here we find quite a lot of boys and girls who unfortunately will not be at home for Christmas, but they are never forgotten. The doctors and nurses decorate their wards and usually there is a large Xmas tree lit up with fairy lights, just crowded with toys.

On Christmas day they have a party, and although some of them are not able to romp about like you do, these doctors and nurses do all they can to make them forget their little pains by making them feel happy.

This illustration shows you children who will not be at home for Xmas, now there is another side to the story. There are quite a lot of Daddies who will not be at home, this especially applies to quite a lot of the boys and girls who sometimes write to me from Portsmouth and other seaport towns.

They are away at sea or in some other country. Whatever you do you must not forget to send them a Xmas Card and perhaps a little present for this will bring greater happiness to them than heaps of other things.

This is thinking of others, and there are so many boys and girls, men and women, who will not be enjoying Christmas, as I am sure you hope to do. This especially applies to our brothers and sisters in those countries where war is taking place. We do not know their names or addresses, therefore we cannot send them a card, but we can send them a kind thought, we can think of them when we say our prayers and ask God to bless them.

It is so easy to let Christmastime be a time of selfishness. I mean by this that in thinking about what Father Xmas is going to bring *me*, and what presents *I* am going to receive from Mother and Dad, Uncles and Aunties, that we might forget some of those less fortunate than we are.

Selfishness never makes for happiness, even those people who are in a position to buy everything they want, never find happiness unless they are making others happy.

Therefore in making this a real Whoopee Xmas we are all going to try and think of others.

However small it may be we are going to get a present for Mother and Dad. Those toys or books we have finished with, we will find some little boy and girl who would like them. Having done this we shall feel so happy knowing we have not been selfish; that we in our own little way have tried to make someone else happy.

There is a saying "Saying poor pussy, does not feed the cat." I think this might be applied to this time of the year. "Saying a happy Xmas, will not feed a hungry man," it must be 'deeds not words.'

There is just space enough for a word to my older readers. I have just been reading a book in which a young girl takes her first cocktail, after three glasses her whole brain is in a whirl.

I know there is a strong tendency in these days for our young people to do the big thing, and there are those who consider making Whoopee must be associated with the gaiety of modern times. I would say to all who are so tempted to think upon these lines "Enjoy the fullness of life in every way" but if to reach the desired end, it means losing your balance, it means defacing God's plans concerning you, then 'Stop; Look! and Listen' to

(Continued on page 19.)

## THOUGHTS ON RELATIONSHIP.

It seems almost unnecessary to point out that nothing can exist, whether concrete or abstract, unless it is related by some means to something else. It is upon this simple fact that the whole intricate structure of the creation is based.

One by one, the planets were thrust into space by gigantic forces working both within and without them. In the beginning, then, the lifeless creation realised that if it was to be progressive, it must conform to a set of rules, and any member who tended to disobey was ruthlessly shattered, and remained only as stardust, etc., an impediment to the rest.

When life appeared, it became more obvious that things were related to one another, for example, the grain crops would only follow the seasonal changes, and any variations in the latter, meant the ruination of the former. Animal life, however, showed the first concrete evidence that mutual assistance was beneficial all round.

The dog species realised that they must pool resources, and consequently formed packs, the cat species preferred to hunt in ones or twos. I venture to suggest, that on the whole, the dogs show more intelligence than the cats, at least they take more kindly to domestication.

Human beings, as the highest form of animal life, realise more than ever that they are dependent upon one another for their joys or their sorrows. This realisation has been called civilisation. The more advanced the civilisation, the more intricate do human relationships become, and in order to govern and perfect them, religions have been formed. The highest degree of perfection is known as 'The God' in all religions. If we are intelligent—and most of us prefer to think that we are,—how can we make ourselves more happy? Surely by perfecting our human relationship.

It has been said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and I believe the chain of humanity is only as strong as the weakest mortal in it. If this is our conviction, then it is also our duty as well as our advantage to help those who are physically, mentally and morally weak. By so doing we strengthen ourselves.

Be kind, respect all, aid rather than oppress, there is no single mortal unworthy of our aid.

Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice,' Shylock, lashed by the scorn of the Venetian Christians, cried, "Am I not a Jew, hath not a Jew eyes, hands, organs, etc., if you prick us, do we not bleed, if we tickle, do we not laugh, if you poison us, do we not die, AND IF YOU WRONG US, SHALL WE NOT REVENGE."

That was the attitude of the Middle Ages.

Countless wars have been the result of that attitude, and in the end, all have been losers. Let us return again to the attitude of Portia, who said, "The quality of mercy is not strained, it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed, it blesseth him that gives and him that takes." This should be the attitude of the twentieth century.

Give to others and receive yourself. This boomerang effect is the highest type of self-benefaction.

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The above was written for Daulby (Liverpool) Lyceum Anniversary service by Mr. Tom Pimintil, Assistant Conductor, aged 21.

We would welcome contributions of equal merit from Lyceumists between the ages of 16-22, with the view of establishing a *Young People's Page*.—J.S., Editor.

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(Continued from page 190)

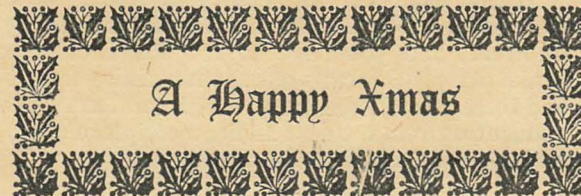
When reading this perhaps someone will say: "What about me, I am not a medium or likely to become one?" Well, we cannot all be doing the same job. This world of ours needs all kinds of labourers, and all labour is equal in value though not in money payment. The dustman is as necessary for the health of the people as the doctor, and the peasant is of more value than the politician, while the craftsman is as necessary as the financier. So to you I would say, find your job, make yourself master of it and give your labour honestly, whatever it may be. Meantime, let your mind be in friendly concord with life and those among whom you live, ever ready with a smile of cheerful encouragement to help another along—that, after all, is the greatest gift you can give to life. It is the religion of Spiritualism.

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(Continued from page 198)

that inward voice which calls you to greater service.

Auntie Ruth, Cousin Doris and I wish you



A Happy Xmas

Ruberrondo,  
126, Woodlands Rd.,  
Isleworth, Middx.

UNCLE BERT.

## Children's Page.

### A Merry Xmas to All

#### FOR THE YOUNG CONJURER.

Here is a wrinkle for the young conjurer. He is sure to be delighted in learning how to make a cork disappear and then reappear right under the noses of the members of the party.

Arrange a small cardboard box so that it has two lids, the top and bottom thus being indistinguishable. Provide a number of small corks, four, five, six, or seven, as may be convenient, and gum one fast inside the centre of one of the lids. If you are playing with seven loose corks you will thus be able to show the spectators that the box contains eight—if you casually take off the proper lid. But replace the lid, give the box a gentle shake, and, unobserved, turn over the box. You take off the opposite lid—and ask one of the party to count the corks. Lo! one has gone. Most mysterious!

Instantly the members of the party will look on the floor, and in the most casual manner you take up the box to look underneath, and then return it to the table—the other way up! Again you ask the young members to count. Yes, it has returned sure enough!

#### ARE YOU GOOD AT FIGURES?

Ask your friend to write down, quite unknown to you, any number containing several figures—five, six, seven, or eight; to add them up; then to subtract their sum from the original number; then from the difference to strike out one figure, and to tell you the figures remaining—and you will tell him the figure he has struck out.

Oh, yes! It is a rather surprising feat, but one that can be accomplished quite easily if the right method of working be followed.

Try an example. Suppose your friend writes the figures 26735. The total you find is 23. Subtract, and you have 26712. He decides to strike out 7. He calls out the remaining figures, and these you add mentally, which total 11. You deduct this from the next higher multiple of 9 (18), and the result is the figure struck out.

#### GIFTS FOR XMAS.

##### Walnut Shells as Gifts.

Take a large walnut and scrape out the shell very cleanly, then cover it inside and outside with soft shiny, silver paper. To use this shell, buy

some simple little thing as a gift—a thimble would do nicely—and put it into one half of the shell. In the other half put a little note. Now put the two halves together and tie them with a narrow ribbon, to make a bow.

##### Rattles for Baby.

Take an empty match-box and put a thin penholder (an old one, of course) right through it from one small end to the other, first putting into the box a few peas or beads. Now take some pretty paper, and paste all over the match-box and a capital rattle will be the result.

#### FOR THE SWEET-TOOTHS.

##### Nut Toffee.

If you're fond of making sweets try this recipe for Nut Toffee.

##### Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. shelled hazel nuts;
- $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. golden syrup;
- 1 dessertspoonful of water;
- 1 lb. demerara sugar;
- 4 oz. butter;
- Pinch of salt.

*Method:* Put all the ingredients, except the nuts, in a saucepan. Boil slowly and steadily, stirring frequently, until the mixture is a clear golden colour. Try the mixture by dropping a little in a basin of cold water: if crisp and brittle the toffee has boiled sufficiently well. Pour the mixture into a flat tin which has been well grased with butter, sprinkle in the nuts, and leave to set when cold.

#### SMILES.

Doctor: You should take a bath before you retire  
Patient: But, doctor, I don't expect to retire for another twenty years yet.

Actor: "I must insist upon having real food in the banquet scene."

Manager (fed-up): "Just as you like, but then you will have to have real poison in the death scene."

## NATIONAL "PEACE" PETITION.

The Editor, LYCEUM BANNER.

Dear Sir,

The writer of the Peace Day Programme in last month's issue of the BANNER would have completed his attempt to suggest ways in which the individual could help towards the establishment of a universal peace if the present National Petition for New World Conference had been mentioned.

The British people are asked once again to express their whole-hearted desire for peace by the signing of the National Petition, organised by the National Peace Council (with which the Lyceum Union is associated.)

Forms can be obtained from the Peace Pledge Union, 96, Regent Street, London, W.1, or the National Peace Council, 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Alternatively, if Lyceumists care to send me a stamped addressed envelope, I will supply them with forms upon receipt of request.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES LE NOURY,

62, Kirby Road, Darnall, Sheffield, 9.

## KEEP YOUNG.

Every man or woman should believe in keeping young. They should be glad to meet and mingle with people who also believe in keeping young and who do not allow themselves to grow stale in any way; for when they meet with such people, they will notice that the number of years they have been upon this earth cuts very little figure in their attractiveness, nor as to the help they are in keeping those with whom they associate young and interested in life. We should all heartily accord with the sentiment uttered by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, who said that, "to be seventy years young was far more cheerful than to be forty years old."

Youth is an expression. It dances in your eyes—the mirrors of your mind. It shows itself in the smile that plays around the corners of your mouth. It speaks in your laughter. It is evident in your conversation; in your love and understanding of others. So, if you think that you are getting old, warns a writer in *Pearsons' Weekly*, if you speak regretfully of "the good old days" that have gone just stop and realize that those "good old days" have not gone. Today is one of them. Tomorrow and all the other tomorrows can bring you the same thrills and the same beautiful moments. Find out what is lacking in your life, why you have allowed your mind to get lazy. That is all it is, for you are as old as you think you are.

## BOOK REVIEW.

In "RED CLOUD SPEAKS" the Psychic Press, Ltd., have placed in the hands of all who are interested in "Spiritual" as differentiated from mere "Psychic" phenomena, a book well worthy of their deep study and earnest consideration.

Seldom, now-a-days, do we encounter instances of the identity of the controlling 'guide' being given prominence of place, yet, in the volume before us, the message given is so real and practical, and yet so eloquent and spiritual in character that we lose trace of the medium and almost, at times, of the message giver.

Nevertheless, when the book has been read we are impelled to pay our tribute to and express our thankfulness for the mediumship of Estelle Roberts which has brought into being so enthralling and instructive an addition to our stock of psychic literature. We confidently recommend to our readers "Red Cloud Speaks." Psychic Press, Limited. 3s. 6d.

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(Continued from page 191)

before to reinforce our ranks with the addition of youth to our movement. The Junior League fills a great place in attracting the younger Spiritualists to our movement, but we must begin earlier than the ages it includes to teach and inculcate the truths of our thought upon the minds of our youngsters.

We cannot hope to hold them by letting our Lyceums be lukewarm imitations of other Sunday Schools. Our hope is in making a firm stand for the truth we teach and making our Lyceum truly Spiritualistic in its lessons. So many are neglecting the field excursions and out-of-door Lyceum sessions where different types of trees are studied, bird-life, rock formations, all of which our camp Lyceumists so enjoyed. These out-of-door sessions were an important part of our original Lyceum plan. The drills and calisthenics can well be revived with benefit to our Lyceums."

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From these extracts, though necessarily brief and disjointed, we gather that the spirit of the Lyceum is alive and growing in the Land of its birth.

We of the Mother Country, the present home of Lyceumism, send to our U.S.A. co-workers our heartiest greetings and good wishes for their future prosperity and progress.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.

### Southern District.

The quarterly meeting of the Southern District Lyceum Council was held at Reading Church, Crown Street, Reading, on November 6th. The meeting being opened by prayer.

Minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and adopted.

The Financial Statement was given by Mrs. Tindall (treasurer) and showed a balance of £3 9s. 8½d. in hand.

D.V. Mrs. Moule gave her report on her visits to Reading, Southampton, Portsmouth, Ryde, Shoreham, Bath, and Swindon Lyceums, the last three named were not quite in a position to affiliate with the B.S.L.U.

Secretary Mrs. Hart stated that the majority of items had been discussed in the correspondence that had been raised. President Mr. Jackson, also Secretary of Reading Church, spoke on Lyceum work and urged the Council to keep on with the splendid work they were doing, as these young Lyceumists were the workers of the future.

Vote of thanks given to the Committee and friends of Reading Church for their kind hospitality.

The Council after the meeting attended the Lyceum Session, and also took the Church Service in the evening, which brought a very happy, harmonious day to an end.

(Mrs.) D. G. HART, Sec.

### Bradford District.

The Monthly Meeting of the Bradford Lyceum District Council was held at the Laisterdyke Lyceum on Sunday Nov. 13th, 1938. Mr. Wilman the President in the Chair. The following Lyceums were represented: Morley, Queen St., Laisterdyke, Otley Road, Saltaire, and Yeadon, six Associates and one Junior Associate and four Officers, eight Delegates, making a total of nineteen being present. The meeting opened with the singing of "Again We've Met." Miss Clayton giving the invocation. Mr. F. Bubbs gave the local welcome.

The Business of the Council was gone through in a very able manner and great interest was taken in the items on the Agenda.

The Financial Statement showed a Balance in hand of £3 1s. 8½d.

The occasion at this meeting was the Presentation of the Shield to the winning Lyceum, which was Laisterdyke.

In the afternoon an open Session was held when the following Lyceums closed their Lyceums and came in good numbers: Morley, Queen St., Keighley, and Otley Road, along with representatives from Saltaire and Yeadon, also a representative from the Bradford District Committee (Mrs. Harrison).

The Session was ably conducted by Mrs. Clayton the Conductor of the Laisterdyke Lyceum. We had a wonderful Session, after which Mr. H. Barnes, Honorary Life Member of the Council, presented the Shield and in doing so urged all to do their best in furthering the Lyceum Cause.

In the evening another Session was held and at the close it was felt that we had brought the Lyceum closer into touch with many who had never seen a Lyceum before.

The Laisterdyke Friends are to be congratulated for the very able manner in which they catered for so many, and the smooth working of everything they did and the thanks of the Council are due to them for this. We feel it closed a remarkable day on behalf of the Lyceum Movement in this District.

H. HARGREAVES, Hon. Sec.

### Nottingham District.

Under the auspices of the Nottingham Lyceum District Council another enjoyable "Reunion Massed Session" took place on Sunday, Nov. 13th, with a good response of items by children and adults. The Chairman was Councillor W. R. Sharp, who gave a very intellectual and encouraging address and sound advice to the younger ones to let the phases of physical thoughts be put on one side, and rather dwell on the spiritual which would lead to more essential values. Councillor Sharp then presented Badges for Ambulance work to Messrs. Birch and Charton of the Sherwood St. Knight Crusaders.

Afterwards a vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman by Mr. T. W. Masters, seconded by Mr. Morley, thus bringing a pleasing session to a close.

L. M. SHARP, Sec.

### Coventry and District Lyceum Council.

The November Council Meeting held at Cox Street, Coventry, on Nov. 19th, 1938.

Following acceptance of Minutes and Correspondence, a report was given of a concert held at Nuneaton. This effort raised £1. 9s. 3d. for the Council funds. Nuneaton Lyceum regrets the removal of their President and Lyceum Conductor, Mr. and Mrs. Waters, to London. A farewell presentation has been given.

Result of "Bell" Competition. Nuneaton—90 marks; Cox Street, Coventry—89 marks.

The Adjudicator, Mr. Oakley, of Birmingham, commented favourably on the work of both Lyceums.

The Council thanked Mr. Oakley for his services. A welcome was accorded to four Lyceumists from Northampton Lyceum. This Lyceum has intimated their intention to join the Council at the next Annual Meeting.

Next meeting to be held at Cox Street Church on Feb. 11th, 1939, at 3-30 p.m.

MRS. E. COE, Sec.

## The Knight Crusaders.

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

### UNDER THE CRUSADING BANNERS.

#### Staff Appointment.

'B' Cohort. It is with great pleasure, that the Administration Board have gazetted Squadron Leader Pinder to the rank of Knight Adjutant. He is posted to the command of 'B' Cohort as from 20th September. Kt. Adjutant Pinder is a zealous and enthusiastic officer, whose abilities have well-merited his rapid promotion. We look with confidence to hearing great things from his cohort. He succeeds Kt. Adjutant L. Johnson, who, owing to business reasons, unfortunately had to leave the district some twelve months ago.

#### Annual Christmas Thanksgivng Celebrations.

We wish to thank Mr. Payne and the Brixton Church Committee, for the hospitality of their hall, which they have extended to us again for the purpose of holding our rally. Their church radiates that friendly atmosphere that seems to make all who enter its portals at once feel at home and welcome.

As previously stated on this page, the rally will be held on the 17th December, a Saturday, at 3 o'clock, opening with our Thanksgiving Service at which the Crusader in Spirit again makes contact with the Knights and Squires of the earthly Crusade, and officers of the Board are enabled to address the young Crusaders. Follows tea, and a demonstration of various Crusading activities by members of different Squadrons. The day is finished off with a show—"K.C. Tonic"—real tonic in every sense, and like all things to do with the Crusaders, really new, really good and vastly entertaining.

#### Pilgrims.

Crusaders from the Northern Squadrons will be entertained to a breakfast provided by the London Squadrons, who are also providing guides for those of our provincial visitors who wish to "see the sights," and hospitality will be arranged for those who wish to stay the night. It will certainly be a red letter day for those who are able to visit us at Headquarters, if the London Squadron's idea of a welcome is any criterion. So come along in your hundreds, but don't forget to let me know how many in good time to complete your arrangements.

#### Physical Culture.

So much importance to this section of Crusading activities is placed by headquarters, that

Squadron Leaders are urged to make every endeavour to stimulate a genuine keenness for the attainment of physical perfection and prowess in their Squadrons. A very high standard of efficiency in this branch should be attained, and Crusaders should, to achieve this, rise early, and get out of bed as soon as they are awakened—not drowsing on for a few more minutes. This only makes them heavy for the rest of the day. Always sleep with the windows wide open. On arising they should drink about half a pint of *hot* water, to cleanse their alimentary tracts and digestive organs, and proceed with the K.C. physical training series. These, thoroughly done, regularly, will result in improved conditions physically, a more contented outlook, with less tendency for irritation, and generally imbue all Crusaders with a feeling of "*joie de vivre.*"

I am very pleased to have a further contribution from Pat Parry to include in our monthly page. She very kindly lent me a small book which she has compiled of poems written since she was seven years old, and even those she wrote at that age are really good. I am hoping from time to time to include them, as so many of you have written to me to tell me how much you liked her last poem.

F. C. PETZ,  
Knight-Commander.

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#### HUMANITY.

Humanity is a curious thing,  
Obeying what seems natural to obey,  
The less and the insignificant habits  
While e'en greater memories will fade away.

Humanity at best tries ever,  
To follow in the steps gone long before.  
To worship with unfailing humble love  
God, and his great awe-inspiring law.

Humanity in normal state,  
Twists and defaces truth in every line,  
But with these vices still shines through  
The unfailing light of the divine.

Humanity at worst is vile,  
Bloodthirsty, aggressive, tyrannous beyond  
degree.  
Nation 'gainst nation waged in war—  
Regarding shameful things with shameless glee.

Humanity is all three made in one,  
Good, fair and bad—it laughs and spurns  
The troubles that weigh down its soul,  
And thus Humanity its human lesson learns.

PAT PARRY (age 13 years).

## S. P. L. LOG.

BY THE RECORDER.

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW was one of the finest demonstrations of youth I have ever seen, it pointed out the present attractions for young people in the world of sport.

I could not help thinking how much we lack in comparison with outside organisations.

If we are to capture youth of the present age, we have to consider ways and means beyond those now in force.

1939 will be our Jubilee year. BARROW-IN-FURNESS have invited the Union for their Annual Conference. Those who were at the Conference of 1931 are able to remember the happy time the Barrow workers gave the delegates, and all can be assured of a repetition of these good times.

OUR PRESIDENT is finding himself well occupied in the Manchester district since he took over Acting Secretary's duties, Opening Lyceums, attending Sales of Work, assisting with Propaganda Meetings, attending discussion classes, is certainly keeping him well employed.

SPEAKING OF MANCHESTER, once one of the strongholds of the Lyceum Movement, but who in recent years have shown signs of falling away, are now showing signs of revival.

The opening of Manchester Central followed with the re-opening of Newton Heath Lyceum speaks well for the future of this district.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES were held at Portsmouth on October 20th. Mrs. Moule conducted the Morning and Evening Services, Mrs. Hart conducting the Afternoon Session including the naming of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Baker. "Ian Nigel" spirit name "Glory."

Over sixty Lyceumists and friends were entertained to tea and crowded congregations. A happy day was spent.

NAMING SERVICES in the Lyceum have always been an outstanding feature, the service being so beautifully natural.

Carshalton Lyceum evidently would agree as Uncle Bert had the pleasure of naming six children at a recent session, while I hear they are awaiting his further services in this direction.

XMAS PARTIES are now being contemplated, and we note with interest the efforts being made by the Liverpool Lyceumists to make others happy.

EAST LONDON LYCEUMS held a Massed Session at Stratford Lyceum on Nov. 6th. Mr. Fruin, President of the London Lyceum District Council conducted the Session which was attended by members from Manor Park, Plaistow, Dagenham and several other Lyceums.

PROGRESS is reported from the Rayleigh Lyceum which I reported as being opened in last month's log. It is pleasing to note that The Southend Lyceums are assisting them in this new undertaking.

ESSEX is showing signs of progress. In addition to Southend and Rayleigh two Lyceums are now held at Dagenham, both of which are applying for membership with the Union.

A CHILD'S IDEA on "What I would do if I were Conductor" was given as follows by a Northampton Lyceumist age seven:

"I would try to talk to the children to make them understand what I mean, and I would always try to be good."

I congratulate my young friend for his ideals, at the same time Conductors will be wise to take notice of what children think.

MASSED SESSION at Horwich Lyceum Nov. 6th was well supported by visiting Lyceums, also members of the Council.

A very interesting and enjoyable day being the result.

INTERCHANGE OF VISITS by Lyceums always add interest and encouragement, and is an idea worth putting into action.

Daulby Hall recently paid a visit to Birkenhead Lyceum spending a happy time together.

I hear Birkenhead are contemplating a return visit shortly.

A further report shows the Dagenham Lyceum paying a surprise visit to Manor Park.

LONDON CHURCHES AND LYCEUMS certainly believe in working hand in hand, each supporting the other in their special events. About 350 members and friends attended a United Dance at Holborn on Nov. 12th, which proved a happy event.

LEEDS (Brunswick Place). On November 13th, Mrs. Heaton conducted the naming ceremony for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Turner, of Leeds. The name given is Edna and the spiritual name "Peace." Best wishes to Edna and her parents.

THE RECORDER again requests Lyceum Secretaries to send reports of all events immediately they have taken place. Address to the Union Office, 41, John Dalton St., Manchester.