

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

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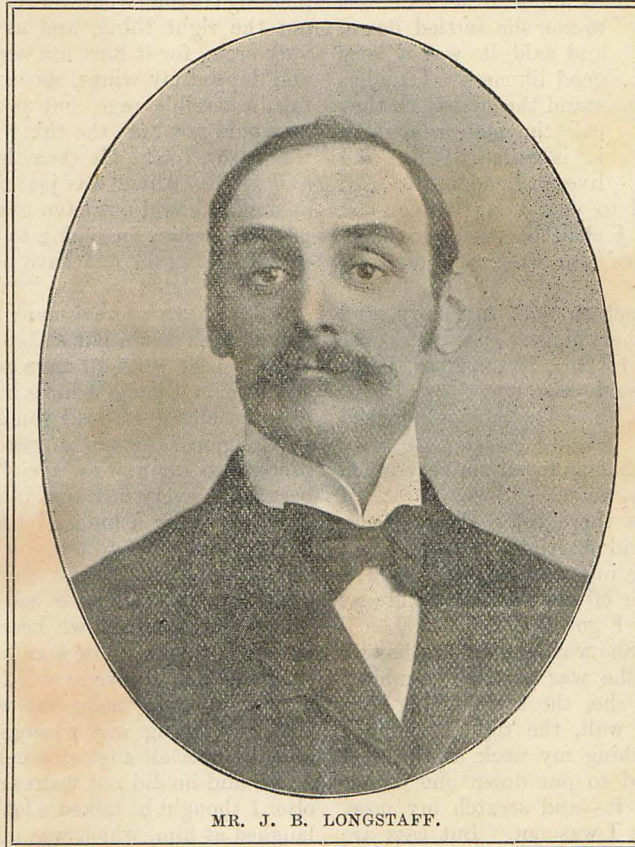
PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR LYCEUM WORKERS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

No. 6.

MR. J. B. LONGSTAFF.

THIS month I have to interview myself, which is easier said than done. But of what is human life from first to last but a long series of interviews? Still, from a journalist point of view, interviewing is partly an acquired art, or rather a matter of habit, and breeds—no, certainly not contempt, but facility. Well, the subject of this sketch was born at Richmond, Yorkshire, April 5th, 1856, therefore will be a Yorkshireman. My early education was gained at the Richmond National Schools, under a venerable master, and the Church of England religion was thoroughly taught us by the master and rector. At the age of 12 I was made a pupil teacher, and received a salary of 3s. per week. On my 14th birthday I was apprenticed to the printing business, and on the death of my master at 18 I went to Leeds to finish my apprenticeship. In 1877 I returned to Richmond, and married Annie, second daughter of Thomas Broadbent, (Pioneer of Spiritualism in Morley). About 3½ years after marriage my wife was taken seriously ill and not expected to recover, two doctors having faint hopes of her living 24 hours. I telegraphed for her father and eldest sister who came as quickly as they could; and it was on the threshold of my home that I had the first experience of Spiritualism, when father and daughter met, and he talked to her in a foreign tongue, which was so strange to me then. He soon explained to me that he had a receipt with him that he thought would cure her, and he gave it to her, and in a



MR. J. B. LONGSTAFF.

few days she took a turn for the better and was soon restored to health. It was a marvellous cure, so all the friends said that saw her, and our best thanks are due to the generous aid of Mr. Walter Farrar, of Pudsey, through whose mediumship this case was successfully treated. This wonderful cure set me thinking, and I used to read all the spiritual papers I could get, and ordered a weekly paper called the *Herald of Progress*, then printed in Newcastle. Some 5 years after I went to live at Morley, where I attended the meetings, and I soon had enough evidence to convince me of the truth of Spiritualism at my own home. I became a member at Morley, and have spent many hours in circles there. About 9 years ago through the influence of the Editor of *The Two Worlds* (Mr. E. W. Wallis) I came to live in Manchester, and joined the Manchester Society of Spiritualists. In 1891, I formed, with Mr. Hesketh, the Moss Side Society, which was carried on for a year or two, and then dissolved by arrangement. We had a nice Lyceum, and we joined the Manchester Lyceum when the Moss Side Lyceum closed. In the Manchester Lyceum I have filled the post of conductor, secretary, captain of the guards, etc., and at the present time am assistant conductor to the Lyceum, and a vice-president of the Manchester Society of Spiritualists. I am proud to say that I am the founder of the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration, and have been elected for the fifth time its secretary, which I appreciate as an indication that my humble efforts in trying to do what to me appeared right to our noble cause has met with their cordial approval.—J. B. LONGSTAFF.

MR. T. Edwards, of Stockport, writes: I send a copy of the LYCEUM BANNER to a local Editor, who publishes extracts from it in his paper every month. I send reports of all special meetings of Society and Lyceum to our local press, and have never yet been refused insertion. I think this form of advertising our claims and objects is much neglected by those amongst us who are able to write a decent paragraph; stir up our officers a bit on this theme.

THE *Scottish Co-operator* contains a sympathetic account of the departure to the higher life of Mrs. Rutherford, of Glasgow; the funeral services being conducted by Mrs. Jas. Robertson, president of the Glasgow Spiritualist's Association.

THE Hulme, Manchester, Spiritualist Society, has re-opened their Lyceum.

THE Walton Street, Bradford, Lyceum is closed. No reason is assigned.

THE ADVENTURES OF SOLOMON,

AS NARRATED BY HIMSELF TO THE EDITOR.

PART III.



WELL, I was amused to see my picture in the BANNER last month! Sarah was a bit jealous at first, but when I explained to her that it was as much an honor to her as it was to me, she settled down, and said it was a very good likeness. I understand the artist, as they call the man who drew it, is called "B.B.," and lives in London, well, Mr.

"B.B." I am very much obliged to you, I am sure, and if ever you come to Huddersfield I shall be proud to make your acquaintance, and introduce you to Sarah, and my friends.

Well, the Editor says I must get on with my story, and not waste too much time about other things. Just as if I ever did waste time! Where was I? Oh! I remember, I was talking about my new home, so I was.

Solomon settled himself down, for a few moments looked meditative, and then said:

There was one thing, though, that annoyed me very much at first, when I went to my new home. It was a cat. I positively hated that cat, she was there before I got there, and I do believe she thought I had no right to come in at all, the jealous thing! I wasn't going to stand any of Mrs. Pussy's airs, so I just chivvied her off the hearthrug and sent her out of the house whenever I got the chance. I still think cats a nuisance, anyway. She was very artful, though. I was not much of a flyer, but she was good at climbing, which I could not do at all. So she, the artful thing that she was, she got on the garden wall, the top of which I could not reach, even by stretching my neck as far as I could. When up there she used to put down one of her nasty paws—it had splinters in it—and scratch my nose. She was greatly amused at it, but I was not. But cats are spiteful, see how they use mice! One day I determined to get even with her, so I just watched, and waited until she got on the wall, and when she was reaching down to scratch my nose I pretended not to see her, and grabbed her foot in my bill and pulled her off the wall. Oh! my, didn't she holler! You would have thought she was being killed half a dozen times over! But I have found that those who are most willing to inflict pain on others are the worst ones to cry out when hurt themselves. But this lesson was not enough for my lady, for though she kept out of my way for some days, and limped about on three paws instead of four, she tried it again as soon as her paw got alright. This time I managed to get hold of her on her back, and pulled her down off the wall that way. It so happened that she was where my water bowl stood, a large and deep one, so I just ducked her into it, and gave her the worst sort of a ducking she ever had before or since. She raised an awful row over it, scratched and kicked, and howled dismally, but she never tried to get at me again. As for me, why I just walked about as proud as could be, as I think it served her quite right. Mr. Laycock scolded me for being so unkind and revengeful, but I heard him say, when he did not know I

was near, that it served that cat right for not minding her own business. I find it is always the way, that we generally do the things that our treatment leads to.

About this time I had a nasty little accident, somehow I sprained my leg, and it hurt very much. It happened one morning, just after I got up, and when Mr. Laycock came home he saw me limping about. I knew how kind he was, and of course I thought he knew more than I did, so I let him take me up and then let him put a lot of hot stuff on my sore leg. He called it a poultice, I thought it was a pudding! But whatever it was my sense told me it was not the right thing, and as he would not take it off, I got very cross, for it hurt me very much, so I screamed at him and flapped my wings, shook the leg at him, and finally got into a terrible rage, but as it was all to no purpose, and as he would not take the thing off, I just eat it off myself. It was nasty, too! He then thought of bathing the leg in salt and water, which was just the thing, and if he had done so at first I should not have got so angry, though I was very grateful to him for trying to do all he could for me. I soon got alright again, and have never had anything of the sort again.

I have heard a great many things said on different matters, and though I am but a Goo—no Gander, I think it is only right to hear what all have got to say. I don't think I am a politician, though I have been to a Polling Booth, as they call it, which I will tell you about later on. And one kind of Religion is about as good as another to me, for I don't pretend to know who is right and who isn't, and I do the best I can every day, and if that is good for a goose, I think it isn't bad for a human? But that's not here nor there, what I was going to tell you about, Mr. Editor, was a little thing that occurred one Sunday morning when I was out with Mr. Laycock; we had finished our work, and were turning home, when we heard a great deal of shouting and presently saw a man standing on something, talking and shouting as if everyone was deaf! We both stopped to listen, and all I could make out was that the chap was a-saying that everything was wrong, that the rich were all rascals and the poor all angels, which showed he did not live where I did, and he did not want any laws to rule him, or anyone else. I thought he talked a lot of stuff that no goose would, so I laughed at him, which was not right I know, but I could not help it. I stood and looked at him for about ten minutes, and then I wanted to put in my say, but he would not let me, so I just talked at him as loudly as ever I could, and finally said to Laycock, lets get home, so off we started I cackling loudly my opinions of him and his blether, and so attracting the crowd that the meeting almost came to an end. But just to show I had no hard feelings, at another time when they met, the Socialists, as it seems these folks are called, they had with them a Concertina band, and as I like music, I just put myself in front of the band and led the march as far as they were going on my way home.

About the nicest place Mr. Laycock ever took me to, said Solomon, was to Beaumont Park. I am sure a park must be as near like heaven as one can imagine, the grass is lovely, the trees look so grand, and the water, ah! the water makes a goose feel glad all over himself. It was in October when I first went to the Park, and the leaves were falling, and the flowers were nearly all gone, but the air was splendid. I am sure living in stuffy houses, and working in dirty workshops, must be awful, after one knows what a park and the fresh air are like. I have been several times since, and to see the childer at play, running and romping about, makes

one feel that there's lots of good in this world, after all. It was a Sunday morning when I went, and at first I did not know Mr. Laycock, he had got some other clothes on! I heard them called his Sunday bests! However, when he asked me to go I was fair wild with delight, so I screamed and gabled in my joy at a great rate. I just cleaned up my feathers in a jiffy, and off we went. It was a long walk, over a mile, but, in spite of the crowds that turned out to see me, we got there at last. Aye lad, it were a foine place! But I had not been there long before I was greatly insulted by some boys calling out, "Sithee, a dog wi' feathers on!" just as though they had never seen a gander before! Mr. Laycock took me into the museum, and what a sight it was too, all sorts of queer creatures in big glass cupboards, beasts, snakes and things, and would you believe it, there were actually geese there, too? One was so much like me that it gave me quite a turn. At first I tried to talk to them, and not knowing about the glass, I tried to get to them, at which the people all laughed, which was unkind, I thought. But, finding I was beaten, I asked Mr. Laycock to explain to me, and he said they were all dead and *stuffed*, which word somehow made me shiver all over, and so they could not speak to me. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, but it's always the way at such times, something happened; I was taken into the back garden to wait for Mr. Laycock, and as I was lonely I just flew over the wall into the next field. When I was called I came back, and was glad to go home. While in the park I tried to behave myself as a respectable gander should while in public, I kept off the grass, followed my friend, and went up and down the steps just as well as he could. Mr. Lockwood lives under the Bath Hotel, and has to go down several steps, which are quite narrow, and I usually fell down the last two. I did not want to be helped down, so once when Mr. Lockwood tried to do so, I got so cross that I taught him a lesson he has never forgotten! I gave him a whack on the nose with my wing, and he said I made him see more stars than there are in the Milky Way, whatever that means.

The Editor says, now Solomon that will do for this time, so I must leave, until next month, how I cast my vote at the General Election, and other things.

(To be continued.)

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BY ALFRED KITSON.

THE Lyceums at Bacup, and the Tabernacle, Accrington, have lapsed owing to their Societies having to close their halls. We hope to hear of their re-opening in the near future.

TRAFFIC St. Lyceum, Derby, has shared a similar fate. But we are informed that a portion of their scholars have joined Normanton-road Lyceum, which is making splendid progress.

PENDLE Street Society, Nelson, has amalgamated with Bradley Fold Society. This also implies the amalgamation of their Lyceums. The object is to try and build up a strong and permanent Society and Lyceum. We sincerely trust their efforts will prove successful.

THE Lyceum opened at Johannesburg, South Africa, Republic, has applied for honorary membership with the B.S.L. Unions. We give them a hearty welcome. We are very pleased to learn they are making good progress. Long may it continue.

It would give the B.S.L.U. Executive much pleasure to

enrol the non-affiliated Lyceums. There are three in London; three in Manchester including Openshaw; Northgate, Blackburn; Bishop Auckland; Cardiff; Rochdale, and Regent Hall, Glasgow. I shall be pleased to answer any question concerning the Union any of the above Lyceums may desire to ask.

Re THE Children's Effort. Mr. J. Venables stated at the Walsall Conference that "the Walsall Lyceum children are determined to raise £5," and further remarked "that if the 80 Lyceums do the same they will raise £400. Will all Lyceums please hurry up in selling out their books of tokens, and send the cards bearing names of collectors, and cash to me as early as possible. The results will be published in the BANNER each month.

THE Lyceum Pledge is catching on, a number of Lyceums have got them. A good number of Officers and Scholars have signed them in full; and a few of the members of the Society have signed against three-fourths. We hope to start a Band of Hope, and shall be pleased to learn of progress other Lyceums are making. Just think of the reformation that is implied by being pledged not to drink intoxicants, not to smoke, not to bet, and not to swear.

I AM pleased to learn of the great success attending the Lyceum Demonstration at Ashton-under-Lyne. Sickness in the family, coupled with important private business caused me to be absent, much to the disappointment of many friends, but most of all to myself.

MR. J. JACKSON has sent a donation of £1 10s. to the Union, on behalf of the Committee of the Amalgamated Lyceums of the May Lyceum Conference at Bradford. They have my best thanks.

ALL changes of Lyceum Secretaries, or their addresses should be sent to me for correction.

ANOTHER INVITATION TO VISIT AMERICA.

The following letter has been received by Mr. J. J. Morse, and we are pleased to insert it in this issue of "our" paper.—EDITORS.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—With a hearty and fraternal greeting I cordially invite you to be present at the International Jubilee of Spiritualism, to be held at Rochester, N.Y., in 1898, under the auspices of the American Spiritualists National Association, and to take an active part in the proceedings. We desire to make this a great event in many ways, and need the co-operation of all Spiritualists.

You could be of great assistance in securing some of the prominent British workers to be with us. Any advice you can give me in regard to them, or in relation to the Celebration, will be thankfully received.

I would like to see a large Delegation from your country and invite you to extend to all Spiritualists an invitation to attend. Hoping to hear from you, and that you may be present.—I am, fraternally yours,

FRANK WALKER,

General Manager of the International Jubilee, or Semi-Centennial Celebration of Modern Spiritualism, Hamburg, N.Y., U.S.A., June 29th, 1897.

Subject to further information, and subsequent circumstances, we understand Mr. Morse has accepted the honour done him in the above invitation.—EDITORS.

THE Preston report is concise and well done. Quite a model.

DR. J. M. PEEBLES.

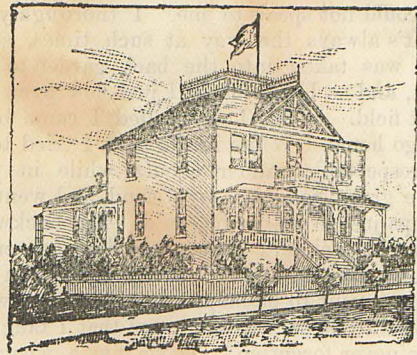


THE Spiritualists of Great Britain have lately had as a visitor the gentlemen whose honoured name is at the head of this article. The writer of these lines first made the acquaintance of Dr. Peebles at the old Spiritual Institution of Mr. James Burns, in London, in August of 1869, when our good friend made his first visit to London, *en route* for Trebizonde, in Asia Minor, to which city he had been Gazetted as Consul by the United States government. It was in accordance with Dr. Peebles' suggestion that the Friday evening seances, which the writer held for nearly four years at the above named place, were inaugurated, which was his first step into public activity. The Doctor was at this time a very active personality in Metropolitan and Provincial Spiritualism, he it was who first used the Cavendish Rooms as one of our lecturers, and in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire and other counties, his voice was raised on behalf of our cause and work, when he returned from Asia in the following year, ultimately sailing for home from Queenstown, in the s.s. "City of London," on Friday, June 10th, 1870.

The good Doctor visited us subsequently, again doing good work, during 1873, when in company with Dr. Dunn, a very fine trance medium, the Doctor made his second trip around the world, and now again he is completing his third trip, in spite of the fact that he is now in his seventy-fifth year, having begun his earthly pilgrimage on March 22nd, 1822. During his late visit he was the guest of Mrs. J. J. Morse's Hotel, and it was a delight to all to renew the old acquaintance in person, for the mutual friendship of eight and twenty years standing remains as firm and true as ever.

Hale, hearty, upright and as vigorous in mind as in body, the Doctor is a personal embodiment of his teaching that there is nothing to prevent a man from living a hundred years, and growing old gracefully! Much to his regret important business called him back to his Californian home, but time was found to enable him to deliver one lecture, at the Cavendish Rooms, which was crowded to listen to him, and for a pleasant reception, which Mr. and Mrs. Morse tendered to him. But, ere departing, the Doctor promised that if nothing prevented him he would return to London next year for the International Congress, that the London Spiritualist Alliance is promoting.

The photo engraving the BANNER presents its readers with this month is an excellent likeness of the worthy Doctor, and we are able to issue it through the kindly courtesy of Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, the editor of our esteemed contemporary, *Light*, of London. The smaller picture the Editor of the BANNER procured when staying at the Doctor's home last November, and it is a very good representation of the Doctor's house and home in San Diego, California.



DR. J. M. PEEBLES' HOME, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

The Doctor is a lecturer, author, traveller and a medical practitioner of excellent standing and high repute. He is an out-and-out Spiritualist, and was one of its earliest advocates in the United States. In recent years he has mainly devoted himself to the study of medicine, and has a large practice extending to all quarters of the United States. We are sure all readers of the LYCEUM BANNER will be pleased to see the face of our worthy friend, and perhaps it may be that some of them may be able to listen to his voice when he is again with us next year.

National Federation of Spiritualists.

PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE FOR 1898: MR. E. W. WALLIS.
 HON. TREASURER: MR. R. FITTON, 44, WALNUT ST., HIGHTOWN.
 HON. SECRETARY: MR. J. SWINDELEBURST, 159, HAMMOND ST., PRESTON.

This organisation consists of affiliated Spiritualist Societies and associate members. Its objects are to unite Spiritualists and strengthen the movement by an annual moveable Conference; by propaganda work in new districts; by co-operation with existing societies to spread the truth; by distribution of literature; by public and semi-public meetings, and by such other methods as may be found necessary.

Societies are earnestly requested to affiliate, terms being a subscription of not less than one penny per member per annum. The Federation year commences in July, and subscriptions are payable in advance. This applies also to associate members who pay *not less* than 2/6 per annum. The support of all sincere Spiritualists will be thankfully received. The Hon. Sec. will gladly supply all information to enquirers who enclose a stamped envelope for reply.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION IN ASHTON.

ON Saturday afternoon the Spiritualists of this part of Lancashire had what may be styled a gala day in Ashton. The weather being superb greatly favoured the display of the different detachments, which took up their stations first on the Market Ground, and then formed in procession and paraded the streets prior to enjoying a cup of tea in the Armoury. The proceedings were quiet novel, but to some extent bore a resemblance to the Whit-Friday processions of the Sunday schools. It was really what was called a "Lyceum" demonstration, and this, we ascertained, was the Spiritualist equivalent for Sunday school. The contingents filed on to the Market Ground about half-past three o'clock. The acting Marshalls were Messrs. Gibson, Longstaff, Cooper and Colbeck.

With respect to the Ashton Lyceum we were informed that they had 100 on the books. They displayed a pictured banner which was shown for the first time in public. The principal men were those mentioned above, along with Messrs. R. Walker, F. Rigby, G. Hall, John S. Brown and Herbert Hutton; also Mrs. Brown, Miss Howard, and Miss Rigby. Along with the adults there were 120 in the procession.

With the Hyde contingent were Mr. Alphonso Whitehead, president; Mr. Wright Ollerenshaw, guardian. There were about 100 children and adults. Their meeting place is Mount-street. They had no banner.

The Stockport Lyceumists had a fine picturesque banner on which one figure with a star on her brow was represented as showing the way upward through the clouds to another. There was the inscription "Stockport Society of Spiritualists," and the other "Lead kindly light." This Lyceum meets at the Wellington-road Spiritualist Hall, and Thomas Edwards is the conductor, and Miss Keynon and Miss Cox are guardians; also Mr. Halsall and Mr. Wych musical directors. There were about 70 present.

Collyhurst sent about 60 children and 22 adults. The president is Mr. Thomas Taylor, Miss Lawrence sub-conductor, Mr. Colin Campbell, guardian, and Mr. Harvey, secretary.

The Pendleton society was the next in order. This society was headed by a pictured banner representing a lad scattering flowers. Among the leaders were Mr. F. Johnson, secretary, Mr. James Moulting, conductor, and Mr. James Jackson president. There were said to be 120 scholars and 130 members in this contingent. Mr. James Jackson, the president of the Pendleton Society, presented twelve dozen gold gilt Jubilee medals to as many children present.

Openshaw Spiritualists were headed by Mr. Walter Booth, secretary and conductor; Mr. James Turner, president; and Messrs. J. Duffy and W. Booth delegates. The banner bore the inscription, "Openshaw Spiritualists' Progressive Lyceum; do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you. Whatsoever a man sow that shall he also reap." The muster in this case was 180, all included. It was explained that the flag in this case was tricolour, and that according to the language of colours, love was represented by red, wisdom by blue, and truth by white.

The Manchester Progressive Lyceum exhibited a banner representing the guardian angel watching over two thoughtless children, one plucking flowers and the other chasing a butterfly on the edge of a precipice. The conductor of the Lyceum in this case is Mr. Braham, the secretary Mr. G. Leigh, the president Mr. Maslin, and they have trustees—Messrs. G.

Hill, T. Brown, and R. Fitton. They were about 120 in all in this contingent.

The Hollinwood Society sent about 40. Messrs. William Burns is the conductor, and A. Porteous, secretary. The old conductor, Mr. Thomas Richardson, was present from Millom, in Cumberland.

Royton sent 100 to the demonstration. The conductor is David Henry Greaves, the secretary Cooper Fitton, and the president William Chisnall.

When these had all gathered and displayed their banners, the bands played music appropriate for the different evolutions performed. When the whole of the smartly-dressed children, stretching in open order almost from the market to Warrington-street, performed their little exercises simultaneously to the "tintinnabulation of the bells" on their hands; the sound was very sweet and the sight very pleasing. A large crowd had been attracted and looked on with delighted interest. The "marching" was a curious feature of the proceedings.

After these evolutions, as we have stated, the whole of the contingents marched to the Armoury and had tea, an entertainment following.—*Ashton Reporter*.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELPER LYCEUM.

ON Sunday, June 27th, the 11th Anniversary of the Belper Progressive Lyceum took place with much success. The weather was very favourable, with the exception of a slight shower in the afternoon. Mr. R. A. Brown, of Manchester, delivered two very good addresses. In the morning a fairly good congregation assembled in the Jubilee Hall, where the children sang hymns and said recitations, suitable for the occasion. The speaker's subject was "Spiritualism and the Bible." In the afternoon a children's open air service was held on Mr. A. Smedley's lawn, Park Mount. Mr. Smedley presided, and Mr. R. A. Brown was there to give a short address. A good string orchestra accompanied the singing of the hymns, and played for marching. The marching and calisthenics were most ably performed by a large number of the scholars; the audience being very attentive.—The collection was taken up. At this point a shower fell; the majority of the people (being dressed in light materials), quickly left the grounds. In five minutes the rain ceased, but, as most of the people had gone, the service closed without the expected address from Mr. Brown. For the evening service the Jubilee Hall was crowded with an attentive audience. In an interesting address, Mr. Brown spoke upon a recent article that had appeared in the *Fornightly Review*, from the pen of the Dean of Ripon, and the speaker used this to enforce his conviction that the Church of England would have to considerably modify the belief held by her so long. The collection during the day was in excess of those of last year, amounting to £8 12s. 6d.

The Belper Lyceum has made considerable progress in the work and movement during the past year. The attendance has also increased; the number of members on the books at the present time being 100.—A MEMBER OF LYCEUM.

STOCKPORT.—August 8th, (weather permitting) an open air Lyceum Session will be held in a meadow off Green Lanes, Heaton Norris. The Lyceum and friends will leave the Hall, Wellington Road, N. at 9-30, with Banner and full Regalia. Lyceum and other friends invited to join in procession and service. Mr. I. Pickthall's inspirers will lecture on Lyceum work and progress.

We cordially invite Secretaries of Lyceums to send us a list of announcements or reports of all Anniversaries, Special Services, Picnics, Trips, Entertainments, Parties, etc., for insertion. The same will be printed free, and must reach us NOT LATER THAN THE 24TH OF EACH MONTH.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890.

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THE LYCEUM BANNER.

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FLORENCE MORSE: Associate Editor.

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SPECIAL NOTICES TO SECRETARIES.

Lyceum orders should be sent on the Last Monday of each Month. Give the label or parcel number of your Lyceum with every order.

If you must send stamps, send half-penny ones. All receipts will be sent in parcels each month, unless Half-penny Stamp be sent to cover per return postage. Stamps not taken for amounts over one shilling; send postal orders.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

** Friends who send us newspapers would considerably enhance the favour by marking the particular passages to which they desire to call our attention.

A. BODELL, (Belper).—Very pleased to have your note, and the report, which you will see is used.

J. CLAXTED.—The Jubilee of the Progressive Lyceum Movement will be in January, 1914.

L.A.D.—On the contrary, all Lyceums are treated alike in this paper. Be sure of facts before criticizing things you evidently know nothing about.

The Lyceum Banner.

AUGUST, 1897.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

The S. N. F. THE Conference of The National Federation Conference, at Blackburn last month, was a very pleasant affair, on the whole. No questions affecting our Lyceums came up for consideration, and the general business done was not very important, with one exception. That was as concerns the Legal Status question. That matter was referred back to the Executive for further consideration. Since then an idea has been suggested for forming a Building Society, but as any society can join a Building Society now, that would not touch the question of a Legal Status for *Spiritualism*. The evening meeting of the Conference was a great success, all the speakers doing splendidly. The Editor of the BANNER was treated most hospitably by the Blackburn society, and was admirably cared for by his host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. A. Holt. Many thanks to all who did so much to make his visit a pleasant one.

To all our Readers THIS month several important things are presented to the readers. First, let it be **of the Banner**, noticed, that we commence the promised column to the Children's Effort in aid of the Spiritualists' National Federation Bazaar, to be held in Manchester, next Easter. The BANNER opens a special subscription list of its own, and will supply penny collecting books post free to all who will send contributions to this office for the

BANNER fund. We ask our readers to assist us in this matter, so that we may all make a good show when the accounts are made up. The BANNER opens the list with a contribution of 252 pennies, as a penny is the lowest amount receivable. The names of all contributors will be published each month. It will be seen that there is another important change in the BANNER Lesson Department. It is found by experience that the Lyceum Lesson, now called "the Lesson for the Day," is the one most generally used, so the other lessons have been omitted, and the space used for important information to Lyceum officers. In future all announcements of forthcoming events will, when published free of charge, be appended to the end of the Work and Progress department, any other and specially displayed announcements will be treated as advertisements. The rates will be reasonable, and good positions will be given to such announcements.

Our THIS month's BANNER contains three illustrations. The first one is the portrait of Mr. J. B. Longstaff, who is well known in Manchester, and throughout Lancashire, as an indefatigable worker in the Lyceum cause. Mr. Longstaff was the originator of the publication of the portraits of "our" workers, in the pages of "our" paper, and many expressions of pleasure have reached the BANNER from those who have seen the portraits of the workers of whom they have heard, but never met. The next is a portrait of that venerable pioneer of our cause, Dr. J. M. Peebles, who has lately visited this land on his third tour round the world; the third illustration being a very good picture of the doctor's home in San Diego, California. The illustrations appearing every month in the BANNER, being printed in the body of the paper, can be bound up with it at the end of the year, thereby giving our readers an album of Lyceum workers without additional cost.

To our Secretaries. WILL all Secretaries please remember what Mr. Kitson says in his Notes this month, regarding alterations for the list of secretaries addresses? All alterations for that list must be sent to him, but all changes of address for parcels must be sent to this office, as well as all reports, news, announcements, etc., some of which were last month sent to our good friend, instead of here!

THE BANNER BOOK BOX REVIEW.

THE BOOK OF YE CARDS, "Zuresta." London: The Roxburghe Press, 15, Victoria Street, S.W. Paper, price 1s. Cloth 1s. 6d.

One of the usual dainty little books of the above firm. In the book will be found the meanings of the cards, while the Italian, the Florence and some twenty other methods of using the cards are also given. The last section is devoted to the Tarot, and to those familiar or curious on such subjects this little work appears to present a large amount of information concisely presented, and well worth the small price asked for it.

RECEIVED.

Rays of Truth, Oakland, California, U.S.A.—Number four of a well printed monthly Spiritualist magazine, contains a number of very excellent half-tone portraits of prominent workers in California, including the Editor of the *Philosophic Journal*, William Emmette Coleman, Fred P. Evans, the well known slate writer, Dr. Babbitt, and the editor of this journal. There are a number of articles of the average standard and merit. *The Journal of the Medical Nonconformists*, *Light*, *The Two Worlds*, *The Mystical World*, *The Banner of Light*, *The Philosophical Journal*, *The Progressive Thinker*.—*The Truth Seeker*, *The School Street Gleaner*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, with In Memoriam notice of Bro. J. B. Mellon, and an intimation that Mrs. Mellon is about leaving the colony, presumably for England.

NOTE.—All books noticed in the "Book Box," or papers referred to, can be procured through the publishers of this journal.]

DISTRICT VISITORS' QUARTERLY REPORTS.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.—The two Lyceums in this district are in a healthy condition, maintain their attendance, and continue to exert an influence for good in consequence of the harmonious relationships existing between them and the societies.—S. S. CHISWELL, D.V.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT, ARDWICK, (Tipping Street), is a well conducted and orderly Lyceum, singing and readings very fair, marching and calisthenics very good. About 50 were present at an enjoyable session which I attended.

WEST GORTON, (Grey Street).—A very late opening was made on the occasion of my visit, twenty-five being present. A struggling Lyceum much in need of help from adults. Proceedings were good, considering circumstances.

COLLYHURST.—A good Lyceum and a progressive one. Opening punctual, the 70 members present kept good order all through. The work was neatly done, and everything well arranged. I look forward with pleasure to my next visit.

OPENSHAW.—Largest Lyceum in the district, 130 being present at a recent session, 100 taking part in the marching and calisthenics. An attendance exceeding 100 is very common, and all are orderly and attentive. Singing, readings and marching are good, calisthenics are a perfect treat, the energy displayed by even the youngest members being remarkable. I should like to see more Lyceums of this class.

PENDLETON.—About 60 were present when a punctual opening was made. Readings fair, singing good, marching very good, but the order maintained was most erratic. Calisthenics moderate. I hope to see a little improvement all round on my next visit. I find in nearly all Lyceums I have yet seen, a great lack of energy in calisthenics. They are taken so slow and listlessly, and are thus robbed of their beauty. A great improvement is needed, and I shall urge all Lyceums to practice the method and speed adopted by the four Lyceums on this list.—WALTER BOOTH, D.V.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.—Whitworth was the place of my visit, and I was pleased to find them in so fair a condition, and good feeling seemed to possess every one present. Reading, marching, and exercises well done; this Lyceum bids fair for a good future, may they still go on to better things which are before.

BURY.—Well attended and well behaved; every attention given to those in authority, a good spirit seemed to prevail amongst them. Marching exercises and reading well rendered. After a few remarks classes were formed, and great interest taken in the lessons. Thus ended a pleasant session.

ROCHDALE, (BAILLY STREET).—I met the officers, who informed me they had not met in session since October, but had a desire to re-commence. Afterwards I spoke to them on the necessity of a Lyceum in connection with every Spiritualist society, after which a friendly conversation was engaged in, and from which I feel will result the formation of another Lyceum.

BACUP.—Sorry to find them in the condition they were, unpleasantness and discord in the society, room had to be closed, and children sent away. I understand it is closed still, but I may say we are (the District Council) trying to re-organise it again. Being disappointed at Bacup, I proceeded on to

RAWTENSTALL, and there found a well attended and orderly Lyceum.

ROYTON.—This Lyceum has had many changes, but I am pleased to say now that prospects seem brighter than they have done for some time. Several of the older Lyceumists have left us, for which we feel thankful, (this may seem strange, but we found they had not that interest which ought to characterise adults, and it was with difficulty that we could control the Lyceum,) now that we have the children we can train them, and receive that attention which is desired. We feel confident that many who have left us on account of the conduct of others will return again shortly. The District Council has paid my expenses this quarter.—WILLIAM CHISNALL, D.V.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.—The Lyceum work in this district grows very slowly. I visited Hollis Hall Lyceum, which I found still lacked an efficient staff of workers. It is time the Spiritualists in this district began to grasp the importance the Lyceums are to the growth and advancement of our cause.

PARKGATE has been reduced somewhat in numbers by removals from the district, but it still retains a healthy condition, sessions always bright and cheerful. I oft-times think if parents of the children would pay an occasional visit to the Lyceum they would be amply repaid.—SAMUEL FEATHERSTONE, D.V.

THE MIDLAND DISTRICT.—I have not done much visiting during the quarter owing to illness in my family circle, but I hope to be more active between now and the end of September.

NOTTINGHAM.—Visited above Lyceum Sunday May 2nd, and found Lyceum in full session, quite a goodly company of officers and Lyceumists, also friends being present. I am sure great praise is due to the conductors and leaders for the very marked improvement which was manifest through the session. My sympathy is with the Lyceum at Morley Hall, for on my visit it was my privilege to witness an exhibition of Christian bigotry on the part of the representative of the Y.M.C.A., who came to express his Holy Horror at the blasphemous behaviour of the Spiritualists in teaching marching on Sunday. Had you seen the gentleman, whose ignorance was patent to all, inasmuch as he did not remove his hat when he came inside the door, but stood with eyes upturned and mouth agape, you would have exclaimed "God, save this people and send them light and wisdom." However, after this I can truly say that Nottingham Lyceum on my last visit was most excellent.

DERBY, NORMANTON ROAD.—As conductor of this Lyceum, and D.V., I reviewed this Lyceum in May. Mr. Bolton, assistant conductor, conducted, and when we come to consider the short time this Lyceum has been in existence, I believe it to be one of the best in the movement. Commenced December 22nd, 1895, with about 12 members and 3 officers, and now at this time we have a regular attendance of 85, and we have on the register over 100. So you see we are making rapid strides towards a full Lyceum.—W. H. TATE, D.V.

LEEDS DISTRICT, ROTHWELL, I found making steady progress. At their request I conducted the session, to their evident satisfaction. On May 23rd, I visited,

ARMLEY, and was sorry to learn the Lyceum had been suspended for lack of workers. I found them re-organised and working with increased energy. I spoke to them on the Lyceum work and its objects, and how to make it successful, which elicited a vote of thanks to your District Visitor.

NORMANTON.—I was pleased to find still more pronounced

signs of progress. One pleasing feature was an increase in the number of elders taking prominent parts in the work. I was asked to address the Lyceum, and also lead them through the exercises.

CLECKHEATON.—I was very pleased to find their numbers doubled. This is very cheering, as I was afraid when I visited them in September last that they would soon be closed. Energy and determination to succeed now characterises their efforts.—JAMES KITSON, D. V.

[NOTE.—The foregoing reports are very useful and instructive reading. They afford, as far as they go, a capital insight into the work, methods, and conduct of our Lyceums, in the districts covered by the reports. Do our District Visitors ever say a word on behalf of their paper, the LYCEUM BANNER, if so, we are grateful to them for reciprocating our efforts to assist our Lyceums everywhere. Remember, Lyceumists everywhere, the BANNER is *your* paper. It helps you, so help it. EDITORS, L. B.]

FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

In the course of a recent letter from our president, Mrs. Greenwood, there occurred certain observations that the BANNER feels should be read by all. Her kindly and thoughtful remarks are an inspiration, and serve to emphasise more fully the wisdom of the choice our Conference made in the selection of our Union's President for ensuing year. Mrs. Greenwood says, in the course of her favour: "You are like the rest of my co-workers, extraordinarily kind. One of your sayings when at our Anniversary some years ago, has lingered with me ever since, and I have used it now and then. I did on Saturday evening last, at Mr. Sutcliffe's presentation, *i.e.*, 'Don't wait until a man's dead before you say all the good things you can of him.' I know you mean what you say, and it is encouraging to have such kind words without a smack of flattery; therefore I thank you for your sweet generosity of thought, as mentioned in your leader in June BANNER, towards me, and I appreciate your endeavours for the children's cause. I had no chance to have a chat with you at the Conference, in fact, the thought of having to speak in the evening, marred what was otherwise an enjoyable day, and I felt remiss in many ways, both to yourself and friend Wallis. I have a year to look forward to, I do not know how I shall manage, I'm sure, but I shall leave it in wiser hands than mine, as I did the appointment. You gave an excellent reason why a woman should occupy the presidential chair. I had not thought of it in that way. I was the recipient of a beautiful present on Sunday morning of the photo of Sunderland Lyceum, with their leaders, banners, badges, etc., nicely framed. I feel proud of it. I want my own Lyceum now. I love Lyceum work, and feel I can not do too much, but why I am selected from among so many who have worked longer and harder, and are more capable because of their experience, is to me a puzzle. I know nothing of the persecution and bigotry our 'pioneer' friends speak of. I know it is due to the grit and backbone of such workers as yourself and others that we enjoy many privileges which were denied you in earlier days. I wish the BANNER all success, and if I can help you in any way, will be pleased to do so."

FRATERNAL TESTIMONIES.

Mr. Frank N. Law, of Hollinwood, writes of Mr. Longstaff, as follows: "I wish to add my humble testimony to the valuable services rendered by Bro. J. B. Longstaff to the Lyceum Movement and to the Lancashire Lyceum

Demonstration Committee, of which he is the honorary secretary. Having served upon this committee for some considerable time I have had many opportunities of noting the business-like qualities, unflinching courtesy and unwearied zeal which has characterised the actions and work of our brother during my acquaintance with him. The manner in which the work of the L.L.D.C. has been carried out from time to time, reflects the highest credit upon himself. Though assisted by a body of earnest and conscientious men on the committee, yet the duties of our co-worker are such that entail much anxious thought. The position is also an honorary one, therefore we should be all the more proud to have in our midst, so conscientious and upright a worker that he has proved himself to be. I may say, without fear of contradiction, that he is esteemed by all who are, and have been, workers with him. Whilst no one will deny that the Lyceum Movement and Spiritualism in general will receive a great impetus by the annual demonstrations, organised and conducted by his valuable aid. His love for the children and the cause furnishes the explanation of his devotion to the duties of his office. May he have health and strength to continue."

Mr. Edwards, Stockport, Lyceum conductor, writes: "I should like to pay a well deserved tribute of praise to my good friend Mr. Longstaff, for his zeal and untiring devotion to the children's cause. I have known him for some years, and taken part with him in every Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration. He has acted as secretary for, and had a deal of correspondence in connection with the splendid Lyceum gathering at Stockport last year, and always found him courteous, prompt, reliable, and filling his important office with its complicated and often unpleasant duties, regardless of his personal interest or comfort. He is a Spiritual worker of a good type, and his influence is of great service in the cause, which the Editor and the readers of the LYCEUM BANNER love so well."

THE BANNER'S LETTER BOX.

INTERNATIONAL JUBILEE OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM.

SIR,—Herewith I beg to forward for insertion in the LYCEUM BANNER copy of letter received from our esteemed co-worker, Mr. F. Walker, *re* the International Jubilee of Modern Spiritualism.

J. ALLEN, hon. sec.,
Spiritualists' International Cor. Sec.

The International Jubilee or Semi-Centennial Celebration of Modern Spiritualism, to be held in Rochester, N.Y., 1898.

Mr. J. Allen, hon. sec., S.I.C.S., 115, White Post Lane,
Manor Park, Essex, England.

SIR AND BROTHER,—As you may be aware there is to be held an International Jubilee next year to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Modern Spiritualism, to be held under the auspices of the National Spiritualists' Association.

Having been elected to arrange for the same, and desiring to reach all the friends in England as well as elsewhere, I ask your co-operation in furnishing names of prominent Spiritualists and their addresses in Gt. Britain, also the secretaries of Spiritualist societies in your country.

I extend to you a hearty and cordial invitation to be present on the occasion of our celebration, which will be for eight days. You are authorised to extend this invitation to your countrymen.—Yours fraternally,
FRANK WALKER, General Manager.

Hamburgh, N.Y., June 26th, 1897.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MANCHESTER, (Tipping Street).—On Sunday, August 1st. Grand Floral Service, speaker, Mr. Crutchley. Clairvoyants: Miss Kay and Mr. Savage.

WHAT OUR LYCEUMS ARE DOING.

IMPORTANT TO SECRETARIES.—Reports arriving at the BANNER office after the 24th of the month cannot be guaranteed insertion in the next issue.

NOTTINGHAM.—On May 29th and 31st, a grand entertainment in aid of the funds of the Lyceum was given in the Cobden Hall, Peachey Street, Nottingham. The first part was taken up with a cantata entitled "The Musical Village," in which some 30 Lyceumists took part. The pretty and effective dresses of the females, as also the character make-up of the principal parts, made a scene long to be remembered. The whole of the 26 items of which the operetta is made up, occupying one hour and a quarter, were listened to with attention, and elicited numerous rounds of applause. Girls with Tambourines, and boys with whips of varied colours, which they manipulated to the time of the music of the opening choruses, made an addition pleasing to both eye and ear. Following this, and proceeded by her page boy, (Master Walter Saunderson, aged 9,) came the May Queen, (Miss Mabel Brearley, aged 12,) attended by the Maids of honour, (Misses A. Dexter, and Florrie Jeans,) the page boy carrying the crown on a cushion. The May Queen having reached the foot of her throne, was crowned in quite a dignified manner by her maids, (who also wore coronets,) and then ascended the steps of the throne. Having duly greeted the villagers, she proceeded with her song, "I am a poor little maiden," which was well rendered. It is only just to remark here, that, with her flaxen hair and bright rosy face, together with a dress befitting her rank, (for the time,) made our young friend an ideal May Queen. A procession of blacksmiths, tailors, milkmaids, and farmers, followed, each section of which, in turn, sang music appropriate to the characters represented. Masters Regie and Fred Reeves, Percy Bakewell and Herbert Willey, were the "Four Jolly Blacksmiths," who beat time on two real anvils as they sang their song. Four tailors were personated by Archie Brearley, Herbert Clark, Tommy Dexter, and Fred Reeves. These performed their part with great realism, seated in proper form on the floor. Eight merry milkmaids in Dolly Varden hats were represented by Misses Priscilla Flint, Mary Willey, Lucy and Ivy Jeans, Nellie and Annie Brown, Lizzie Bakewell and Hilda Thompson. These were each provided with milking cans and stools, and as they came skipping on to the stage in their bright coloured dresses made a very pretty sight. In the garb of a farmer, Master Archie Brearley gained an encore for his able rendering of the song allotted to him. Six of the elder Lyceumists followed with some choice movements in a waltz minuet. Dresses in striking colours lent a grand effect to the graceful movements of these young ladies, viz., Misses Francis Brearley, Sarah Willey, Dora Coppock, Annie Summers, Katie Reeves, and Lizzie Bakewell. Mr. L. Shipley as captain Kindheart, had charge of the troops, (8 boys) who sang whilst they marked time, "We are brave gallant retainers," and followed up with military drill. Mr. Shipley's song, "I'm in search of a sweet little maiden," was well given, and received due recognition. As foster father, Mr. Holland was well "got up," and presented the tottering old man splendidly, singing also with marked effect. Two tramps found excellent exponents in Masters Herbert Clarke and Willie Saunderson. Their make up was really amusing, as also their duet, and the "patter" introduced. Mr. Percy Edge, as the "Duke," was in his place, and bore the part efficiently. Miss Emily

Dexter was a good foster mother, being made up to suit the character. In company with the foster father, a duet was given with a pleasing result. The decision of the "Duke," to take home the foster parents with his newly recovered daughter, made a grand tableau at the close of the operetta, which fairly "brought down the house." Part two was of a miscellaneous character, including songs, sentimental and humorous, by Mr. Holland, and Mr. P. Edge, violin solo by Miss Brearley, and recitation by Miss Emily Dexter. Altogether, pleasant evenings were spent, and the funds of the Lyceum benefitted. It should be mentioned that the training of the Lyceumists has been carried out by Mr., Mrs. and Miss Clarke, the latter of whom acted as accompanist during the concert in a most efficient manner.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD Lyceum District Council held a very successful meeting at Slaithwaite on Sunday last. Brook Street Lyceum, Huddersfield, and Elland, being the only friends not represented. It was the anniversary at Elland which prevented them from coming. Mr. Wilson, President, spoke of the last conference and the work done. Reports were read from the District Visitors, which some thought were lacking in not reporting the class work, which was considered of more importance than the marching and calisthenics. It was shown that subjects such as botany, geology, physiology, phrenology, etc., were taken by some Lyceums, but the great want felt by all, was the lack of capable teachers. The suggestion of a teachers' class once a week was ventilated, but no proposition. Instead of dry book matter, another advanced oral teaching as the pleasantest method for Sunday teaching, being a relaxation from ordinary school life. An important proposition was unanimously passed:—"That a meeting be called of all Lyceums in Lancashire and Yorkshire District Councils as early as possible, to formulate a system of marching and calisthenics, which shall be sent to the executive of the B.S. L. U. for their adoption or otherwise, the co-operation of its secretary to be invited." A pleasant meeting in the evening.

BRADFORD (St. James').—On July 4th, we had our usual morning session. Mr. Foulds read from the LYCEUM BANNER the story of "Gracie Carter," doing so with good effect. Then we had recitations by the Misses Foulds and Annie Lewis, and Master Arthur Garth. Solos by Misses A. and Ellen Garth, Mr. Lewis gave a short address on the Lyceum movement, and Mr. Wooller said a few words of encouragement. On July 18th, we had an open session, when there was a good attendance of scholars and friends. The responses to the silver and golden chain recitations were well given, marching and calisthenics very good. Recitations by Misses Annie Harrison, Ethel Bowes, Annie Lewis, and Jane Haley, solos by Misses E. Garth, and Newton. In the evening we had a service of song, "For ever true," reader Miss A. Garth, singing conducted by Mr. Hodgson.—A. HALEY. [Thank you for stamps. Every little helps.—EDITORS.]

MANCHESTER (Tipping Street).—Having arrived at our hall on Whit Friday, we were photographed by our conductor, after which we left for Strines, arriving there about 11 a.m. When we reached our destination we did ample justice to the buns, milk and oranges provided. Games, racing, etc., was next indulged in until 4 o'clock, when the whistle sounded and upwards of 80 sat down to a beautiful sandwich tea, given free. After tea we all rambled into the woods, and were photographed on an old roman bridge by the conductor, Mr. Braham. The next feature, the singing of the Lyceumists in the woods, quickly drew strangers

around us who seemed to enjoy our efforts, and after a little rest we climbed the beautiful hill and made our way back to the farm to bid adieu to our worthy hostess, Mrs. Radcliffe. We had a grand day, and all arrived home safe. The committee heartily thank all mediums and friends for their kind support in helping to make the children's trip so successful. Saturday, July 10th, the children met at the hall and then proceeded to Ashton, for demonstration. The children behaved very well, their marching and calisthenics was excellent. For the winter sessions we intend to have classes, a variety of concerts and dances, magic lanterns, etc., for the benefit of the Lyceum.—G. LIGHT, sec.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The Lyceum Anniversary Services were held on Sunday and Monday, July 18th and 19th. An excellent company attended both the evening services, and I am sure they all fully appreciated the efforts of the members to make it a success. We are greatly indebted to the following members who filled their several parts in a most capable manner. The Misses Sewell, Lamb, Thompson, Ellison, Cairns and Brownlow; Mary Sedgley, Lizzie Nicholson, Nellie Thompson, Lottie Cairns, Lottie James, May and Florrie Gilhesby, Ethel Sparks, Emily Turner, Violet Cairns, Florrie Watson and Elsie Short; also the Masters Robson, Thompson, Gilhesby and Young. Miss Edith Hunter presided most efficiently at the piano, as did Mr. Chapman at the organ. Mr. Hetherington again rendered us most valuable assistance as musical conductor. It was the first anniversary under our present conductor, Mr. W. Moore, and it is pleasing to relate he passed through his duties with great credit to himself and satisfaction to us all. We have decided to hold our annual picnic on Bank Holiday, at that favourite pleasure resort, Shotley Spa Grounds.—G. M. MARTIN, Hon. Sec.

DERBY.—On Whit-Tuesday, the Lyceum and Friends, numbering about 130, sat down to a most substantial tea. After tea, the rain having abated, we formed a procession, the banner leading the way. It is unique, and was painted by Mr. Pearson, a lyceumist, and is a most excellent work of art. After the banner came the various groups with the bannerettes, which were the gifts of lyceumists and friends. I can assure you it caused quite a sensation in Derby. After we had marched through some of the principal streets we returned to the room, where we had games and a social, and kept the pot boiling till early next morn. On Jubilee Day the Lyceum again took tea in the room. After tea they formed a procession and marched to a field kindly lent by a friend, where all kinds of games were indulged in, and I am sure the Derby Lyceumists will always remember Jubilee Day. I must now draw my remarks to a close with these words, upward and onward for truth, justice and harmony.—W. H. TATE, D.V.

BOLTON.—On Saturday, June 26th, a meeting of delegates of the South-east Lancashire Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum was held at Bolton. Business—Election of Officers: President, Mr. Knight, of Bolton; Secretary, Mr. G. Nield, 33, Bell Lane, Bury; Treasurer, Mr. Entwistle, of Heywood; District Visitor, Mr. W. Chisnall, of Royton. After which a tea was provided, and an enjoyable evening was spent.—G. NIELD.

PRESTON (Weaver's Hall).—On June 22nd we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee, taking part in the demonstration and procession of the various Sunday Schools in this district; every scholar present on this occasion being the recipients of a medal and a substantial treat in commemoration of the event. July 4th, open session.—In consequence of the Conference taking place on this date, the attendance was

not up to the usual standard, 40 being present. The responses to the Silver and Golden Chain Recitations were given very well. Recitations were given by Ada Walton, Repentance Porter and Benjamin Porter. July 11th.—Conductor, Mr. Thos. Woods. Attendance 54. The responses were not taken up with the usual alacrity. Marching fair. Recitations by Mr. F. Ribchester and Ada Walton. July 18th.—Attendance 52. Silver and Golden Chain Recitations fair. Marching and calisthenics fair.—C. PARKINSON, Sec.

BLACKBURN.—The Freckleton Street Lyceum held its Annual Flower Service on Sunday, June 27th. There was a very beautiful display of flowers. The usual morning Lyceum Session was held, at which the children went through their various exercises under the conductorship of Mr. Arthur Holt, who has been elected conductor in place of Mr. Brindle, removed to Blackpool. We must admit that Mr. Holt has proved a very able substitute. After the Morning Session a monstre circle was held, when a number of our local mediums put in an appearance, and helped to make it a success. In the afternoon and evening, Mrs. Griffin, of Burnley, gave addresses, after which she gave some excellent clairvoyant descriptions. There was a fairly good attendance during the whole day.—J. W. MOSS, Sec.

BRIGHOUSE.—The Lyceum held a Service of Song on Sunday, July 4th, entitled: "A Terrible Lesson: or the story of a strike." The connective readings were given by Miss Mary Wood. There was a solo by Miss Sarah Ann Crowther, and a quartett by Misses S. A. and Annie Crowther, S. Barraclough and M. E. Oade. We had a good audience which was highly satisfied. The collection was £2.—GEORGE CROWTHER, Hon. Sec. [Please write on one side of the paper only, next time.—EDITORS.]

STOCKPORT.—June 27th. We took charge of the day's services. An excellent programme of music, recitations, marching and exercises, only possible with a trained and disciplined Lyceum, was performed before the public at 6-30. A large collection of choice plants and cut flowers were arranged about the platform by Messrs. Halsall and Wych, the beautiful music of the flower service, "Mollie's Roses," was well rendered. Our conductor presided. Miss Rowbotham nicely read the story, and a string band took part. The cut flowers were thankfully received by the inmates of the Stockport Infirmary the same evening. [An excellent thing to do.—EDITORS.]

BEDWORTH.—We celebrated our third anniversary on Sunday, June 20th. Service conducted by Mr. W. H. Grant, of Folehill, afternoon subject, "Happiness;" evening subject, "Jubilee." After the evening service each scholar received a beautiful book for good attendance, and on Saturday, July 10th, we had our annual tea. After tea the children went into a field. I had racing and other sports for prizes; each child had a prize.

OPENSHAW.—Sunday July 4th saw our new Banner unfurled in the midst of an unusually good muster of Lyceumists. Votes of thanks were enthusiastically passed to the subscribers, Mrs. Green, who made the Banner gratis, and the collectors, Mrs. Snape and Mr. J. Shaw. Though not as pretty, and it must not be forgotten, not as expensive as its companions at Ashton on the 10th, still it looked well, and served its purpose admirably. Many thanks are due to those who steered it on that memorable day.—W. B.

THE District Councils' Secretaries are as follows:—North West Lancashire; Mr. Thomas Wilkinson, North Cross Cottages, Clitheroe. South East Lancashire:—Mr. J. W. Riley, 38, King St. Royton, Nr., Rochdale. Halifax and Huddersfield:—Mrs. J. Greenwood, Fuel Lane, Sowerby Bridge.

Officers' Department.

SYLLABUS OF LYCEUM LESSONS FOR AUGUST.

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR.

FIRST SUNDAY.

Invocation.

With hearts uplifted to the highest and holiest, with souls desirous of the truest and purest, let us unite in the duties of this gathering. Thus may we be enabled to receive the inspirations of the Spirit realms, and feel that we are coming into closer union with the All-Wise Power, whom we call God and Father. Bless and guide us dear spirit friends, and help us to draw nearer to each other in the bonds of love, sympathy and charity for ever more.

LESSON FOR THE DAY. Subject—"JUDGMENT."

Outline.—Judge not, lest ye be judged. As you judge others so may you expect to be judged in return. Let mercy season justice. Conscience is a power to be reckoned with. For all we do wrongfully we must each suffer the penalty. Nature judges us for disobeying her laws. Illnesses are her condemnations. Pain of body is the price of disobedience to natural laws. Pain of mind is equally the penalty of evil doing. There is no special day of judgment. That day comes to any soul when it realizes that it has misused or abused its opportunities. The angels of the Higher Life do not judge or condemn the evil doer, it is the sin, rather than the sinner.

SECOND SUNDAY.

Invocation.

Almighty soul of life we approach our duties this day with the consciousness that thy laws encompass us about with a wise and loving guardianship. May we learn better how to come into harmony with Thee through a truer obedience to the laws thou has ordained. In all we think, say, or do, may we be as if in all things nearer the life the angels are living, and ever present to them those conditions of mind and body that will enable them to come close to us.

LESSON FOR THE DAY. Subject—"PROGRESSION."

Outline.—Progression is a fact in this world. The Scientist calls it Evolution and Development. The Reformer calls it Education. The Religionist calls it Religious Culture, the Spiritualist calls it Personal Unfoldment in all departments of man's nature and life. Progression depends on two things: self-effort, for one; and God's universal compelling laws, for the other. Humanly, man commences his life of eternal progression here. His circumstances may not permit much, or even any, perceptible advance on earth, but a beginning has been made. In the Spirit World the progress may be rapid or slow, according to the character and personal unfoldment that we may take with us. To live healthy, honest, sober, temperate and virtuous lives on earth is to begin your personal progress on earth.

THIRD SUNDAY.

Invocation.

May we again ask the presence and assistance of the beloved ones in the higher life in the labours of this day. May they aid us, inspire us, and show us that 'more excellent way' in which we desire to walk. May we rise from our present duties feeling that we have attained something for the welfare of others, as well as for our ourselves. Let us try to live more unselfishly day by day, so that we may honour in our lives the teachings and truths we receive in this Lyceum, then shall it be well with us now, and in the future.

LESSON FOR THE DAY. Subject—"SPIRITUAL GIFTS."

Outline.—What are 'Spiritual Gifts'? Spiritualists describe them all under one word,—Mediumship. What is mediumship, the possession of certain faculties pertaining to our subjective, or psychical natures. Such faculties manifest their operations under various forms:—Trance, Visions, Clairvoyance, Impressions, Inspiration, etc. By the aid of these faculties the Spirit friends are able to make their presences known to us. There are other faculties, that may represent 'spiritual gifts,' such as Healing, Prophecy, Psychometry, while the 'gift' of the 'force,' or 'power,' which the spirits use for the production of raps, levitation of articles, lights, materializations, etc., must also be included. These 'gifts' are not something given to one, or withheld from another, they are faculties possessed by all. Some have them naturally developed, such making the best mediums, in others they can be developed, and in some they are not capable of cultivation to any particular extent.

FOURTH SUNDAY.

Invocation.

Great Spirit, whose power prevails over all things, and whose Wisdom has planned the mighty universe and the laws that govern it, once again we meet to study thy works, to gain knowledge that we may rule our lives in harmony with the requirements of our existence. May we come into right relations with Thee, the Invisible powers, and

each other, so that we may realize more and more each day the divinity within us, and grow more like unto thee thou divine parent of us all.

LESSON FOR THE DAY. Subject—"SPIRITUALISM, ITS BEAUTIES."

Outline.—It is a beautiful faith that we do not die, that the 'gone before' are not indifferent to those left behind, that they are not far, far, removed from us. It is beautiful to have proven to us that immortality is for all, that spirit return is true, that there is eternal progress for us after death. It is beautiful to feel that God is good, wise and noble. These things make up some of the facts and teachings of Spiritualism, and serve to show our philosophy as a means of comfort, education, and blessing to the world at large. A divine humanity, before and after death, a rational life in the world to come, the reunion with those gone before, the finding of the loved again, all mark out our philosophy as the sweetest, grandest, and most helpful for the world and the individual.

FIFTH SUNDAY.

Invocation.

Let us now put aside all unkind thoughts, evil desires, and aught that would debar the loving Angels from mingling with us in our exercises this day. Let us turn our aspirations towards their life, asking them to attend our Lyceum this day, that it may be made the more blessed for their coming. Let us each strive to do our best, that our session may be one of the sweetest and most harmonious and useful that we have ever had.

LESSON FOR THE DAY. Subject—"THE AIM OF SPIRITUALISM."

Outline.—Not to establish a new creed, to make any one place in the world more sacred than any other, nor to make any man or woman more specially acceptable to God than any other one. Its Temple is all space, its shrine in every heart and home, its faith calls for good deeds, pure motives, personal purity, to do good for goodness sake. It asks no pardon for sin, but only that all sinners may have the opportunity of atoning for their sins, and it aims to bring all Mankind into an Atonement with the Divine in the Universe and man. Its aims commend it to the earnest and the true, the reformer and the teacher everywhere.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS.

It is intended to record here the appointment and resignations of Conductors and Secretaries each month.

WORK AND PRACTICE.

Questions will be answered here regarding work and practice in our Lyceums so that information may be obtained on such points as may puzzle officers. All queries will be answered in order of their receipt, and any of our readers may send replies to any query that is asked.

QUERIES.

- 1.—When will the new Calisthenics, and the Officers edition of the "Manual" be ready.—H.D.
- 2.—Is it desirable to have Invocations to open with?—W.M.L.
- 3.—Will it be more promotive of success if our officers were, in all cases, elected to serve for not less than six months, or a year when possible, instead of three months and less, as in some Lyceums?—WILBUR.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Items of special importance, as to work etc., will be made here, as required.

LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.—The next Meeting of Delegates will take place in Travis Street, Mount Street, Hyde, on Saturday, August 14th, 1897. Tea at 4-30, 6d. each, meeting afterwards. A concert will be given by the Hyde Lyceum, admission, adults, 2d., children 1d. This being our first meeting at Hyde, a good attendance is requested.—J. B. LONGSTAFF, 28, Caton-street, Manchester.

N.E. LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The next Quarterly Council Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 21st, 1897, at North Street Lyceum, Burnley, according to article 6. Business:—Notices of Motions should be at once forwarded to the Secretary. Lyceums and Visitors Reports to be made up to and include August 8th, and at once sent on. Business to commence at 3-30 prompt; at 5-30, a public tea will be held, tickets, 6d. each, to be followed by an entertainment and social evening. A full and prompt attendance of delegates is earnestly desired, as business of importance will be submitted to the Council.

The National Jubilee Bazaar.

THE LYCEUM SCHOLARS' PENNY CONTRIBUTIONS.

IN accordance with the announcement made in the BANNER for July, the Editors now open the promised column for the promotion of the efforts of the Lyceum Children towards the great National Jubilee Bazaar, to be held in Manchester in the Easter week of 1898.

Our good friend, Mr. J. Venables, of Walsall, who is the Chairman of the Bazaar committee, has sent us a specimen of the Collecting Book issued to the Lyceum scholars, the front page of which we here reproduce.

LYCEUM SCHOLARS' EFFORT.

SPIRITUALIST'S GRAND NATIONAL



IN AID OF PROPAGANDA WORK.

To be held in Manchester, Easter Week of 1898.

Name of Collector

The Collector is authorised to collect donations on behalf of the above. 2/-
Subscribers are requested to tear off Tickets to the value given.

Mr. J. VENABLES, Chairman of Bazaar Committee.

Mr. R. SUDALL, Treasurer. Mr. J. E. MACDONALD, Secretary.

The book contains twenty-four tickets, each representing One Penny, and each book sold thus brings two shillings to the funds. Mr. Venables promises to send us the list of names of the Collectors, and the amounts they have obtained, so that all Lyceumists may see what is being done, and be encouraged in a noble emulation to do more and more each month. If the list reaches us in time for this month's issue it shall appear, in the meantime the BANNER subscribes £1. ls., as its contribution to the general fund, and invites its readers to send any further sums they may desire to contribute as a LYCEUM BANNER FUND, particulars of which will appear each month.

That those of our readers who may not quite understand about the Bazaar may be informed thereon, it may be said that the purpose of the Bazaar is to raise not less than £1000 for propaganda work, to spread our heaven-born truths throughout the land. The decision to hold such a Bazaar was formed at the Liverpool Conference of the Spiritualists' National Federation, in 1896, and therefore the matter is under National sanction.

BAZAARITIES.

An error was made in Mr. Venables' interesting letter in last month's BANNER, in that paragraph saying, "even the youngest of our Scholars, only 15 years old, has got 4/3 already!" It should have been 15 weeks old, not years! Do not let yourselves be beaten by this energetic little one.

Who will organise a representative Lyceum entertainment during the Bazaar? What says Mrs. Chiswell, of Liverpool? The British Lyceum Union should have its Stall, as

representing our official work for, and sympathy in the effort, presided over by our esteemed President, Mrs. Greenwood.

LISTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED.

LYCEUM SCHOLARS' EFFORT.

THE LYCEUM BANNER LIST.

	PENCE.
The Editors of the BANNER	252
WALSALL LYCEUM, PER MR. J. VENABLES.	
Arthur Ernest Brown, (20 weeks old)	90
Elizabeth Ralph	80
Tettie Venables	54
Sissie Tompkins	24
Edith Tebbitts	24
Emma Bromwich	24
Bert Lawton	24
Arthur Lawton	22
Miss Ware	12
Arthur Aldridge	12
Thomas Aldridge	12
George Peakman	12
Harry Peakman	12
Mabel Holyland	7
Sarah Smith	4
Ebenezer Smith	12
Total for July	425

THE CHILDREN'S EFFORT.

PENNY CONTRIBUTIONS.

SENT TO MR. A. KITSON.

	Pennies
WHITWORTH LYCEUM.	
Ada Clegg	14
Annie White	1
J. Rudman	12
J. Bartram	5
Albert White	12
T. Hughes	13

GLEANINGS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

A RECENT issue of the *The Crescent*, a Weekly record of Islam in England, contains numerous interesting articles, among which is a lecture on "Islam and Christian Prejudice," by Professor Wilde, and the Report of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Liverpool Moslem Institute.

THE Melbourne Progressive Spiritualistic Lyceum holds its Sessions at the Lyceum, Victoria Parade. Sunday Morning at 11. Object: "The Harmonious Development of the Young." Visitors invited. Secretary, A. C. Fletcher.

MR. JOS. M. WADE continues his Short Sententious Apothegms in the *Mystical World*, which are called "Thought Awakeners," one of which is worth remembering: The wisest of men are not wise all the time. Our good friend Dr. Wm. Sharpe contributes some excellent poetry, and Moses Hull gives a readable and instructive article on "Death: and its to-morrow."

MARRIED.—On June 25th, Miss J. R. Brinkley, and Mr. C. H. Willsher were united in marriage, at Unity Church, (Unitarian), Upper Street, Islington, London. The ceremony was performed by Mr. J. J. Morse. The happy pair are members of the Denton Social Club, and the groom a member of the committee of the Marylebone Spiritualists. A few friends witnessed the event, which, at the special desire of the principals, was kept as a quiet wedding, or otherwise no doubt a large company would have assembled. It may be noted in passing that this is the first occasion Mr. Morse has conducted the marriage ceremony. [Crowded out last month.]

THE PAGAN ORIGIN OF CHRISTIANITY.—In his valuable pamphlet on the "Rise and Development of Religious Beliefs and Systems" (price 6d.), Mr. Wm. Oxley presents a number of facts and arguments to show the astronomical origin of all religious systems from the Ancient Egyptian faith downwards. He contends that outside of monkish writings there is no proof that Christianity had any existence until the time of the Crusades, and scouts the idea that the Jews had any historical existence prior to the Mahommedan upheaval, and affirms that "there is little geographical information in the Bible, for the names of cities and lands are really symbolical of institutions, societies, and powers." This suggestive book can now be supplied from this office for 3d. post free, to cleat. out. See advt. on p. 2 of cover.—*Adv.*