

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

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[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]

LORD OF HIMSELF.

BY ANNIE E. FITTON.

CHAPTER V.—Continued.

As Ralph entered the house upon his return he was met by Doris in the hall.

"Uncle James is here Ralph."

"What brings him I wonder, nothing good I'll vouch," he exclaimed, with a look of disgust.

Doris laughed. "He has come to see you no doubt. He is anxious for your best welfare."

"He might spare his anxiety as far as I am concerned I shall not come into the room Doris. Tell the mother the missing birds will wing their way here in the morning."

"But don't you want some supper?"

"Yes, I do, but I prefer to go without to eat it in some person's company."

"I'll bring you a sandwich and a glass of milk to your room Ralph, that will keep you from starving."

"Doris, you are a darling. I will do as much for you some day," and bounding up the stair Ralph was passing to his room when an imploring cry of "Ralph" drew him aside, and entering Guy's room he found him in bed, but awake and restless with the drawn look in his face which told its own tale.

"Ralph, what a time you have been!"

"Not so very long old fellow; did you want me?" and bending tenderly over the bed Ralph raised the boy in his arms and re-adjusted the pillows with a deftness of movement and a gentleness of touch many a woman might envy. "Has the pain come again Guy?"

"Yes, it is always coming," said Guy wearily, "but I don't seem to feel it so much when you are with me; you rest me somehow. Ralph, what *should* I do without you?"

"Oh, you would manage, but I am not going just yet."

"I should think not. It was mean of mother to send you off again to-night, just as you got in. Did you feel wild Ralph?"

"Rather," said the other drily, and then to change the subject went on, "Do you know who is down stairs, Guy?"

"Yes, the old ogre! He came soon after you went out, and I got so sick of his talk that I came to bed. Ralph, don't you hate him?"

"I am afraid I do, he seems to rub us all the wrong way, we young ones, that is; we seem pretty unanimous in our opinion of our worthy relative."

"And the pater must needs make him a partner in the bank! a nice partner he is, he'll bring us all to grief some day," concluded the boy shrewdly.

"Mind who you say that to youngster, or you'll find yourself in hot water. Do you know the meaning of a libel?"

"O bother! how can the truth be a libel!"

Ralph laughed. "You are getting sophisticated my dear boy, to say nothing of being grossly disrespectful to your revered uncle. Is it not time you went to sleep?" and placing his hand on the boy's forehead he slowly passed it over the tired eyes, repeating the movement until the lids closed and the slow and regular breathing betokened sleep.

"Poor little chap!" murmured Ralph as he bent over the

sleeper, a world of love shining in his eyes, "if I could but cure you!"

Lowering the light he left the room, and when in his own room turned to his violin, for he invariably closed the day with his beloved fiddle. Doris declared he said his prayers to it, and to a soul attuned to harmony, what greater uplifter can there be than music? It raised the youth out of his depressing thoughts and irritating worries, and lifting them to a higher level, brought him, who dare doubt it, nearer to the Supreme Good who can enter the inner sanctuary of man's higher nature by many avenues and approach him by diverse methods. All are not open to the same influences, but so that the right chords are struck it matters not what agency is employed, and as Ralph's thoughts soared up on the wings of the melody his own fingers evoked, every strain was a prayer and the peace which dawned on his face was truly a benediction.

Mr. James Edge, whose visit had called forth so many unflattering comments from the two brothers, was Mrs. Cardwell's only brother, a few years her senior and treated by her with considerable deference. They were curiously alike, the brother and sister, the one a feminine duplicate of the other. But in the man, nature had accentuated certain points and turned out a stronger character, more tenacious and inscrutable, not so shallow and therefore less easy to read. A man of strong prejudices, a good hater, and cursed with a boundless self-esteem which made forgiveness of an affront almost an impossibility. Introduced into the bank and finally taken into partnership to gratify the pressing solicitation of his wife, Mr. Cardwell had never succeeded in convincing himself that the step was a wise one. but the two men despite many differences in character and temperament had rubbed along with less friction than might have been expected. The new partner was sufficiently shrewd to know on which side his bread was buttered and to act accordingly, and as his business qualities were indisputable; his admission into the firm was so far justified.

In the course of time his eldest son Frederick was installed in the bank, and as he and Ralph were of a similar age they were naturally thrown much together, to Ralph's irritation and disgust. The two youths were antagonistic at every point and there was little love lost between them. From their first acquaintance the boys had eyed each other with a mutual distrust and a veiled dislike which a closer intimacy had but served to deepen and intensify.

Ralph took no pains to disguise his feelings, and treated the other with a lordly indifference which it must be admitted was extremely irritating. Nor was Fred a youth to be slighted with impunity, but as he had something of his father's secretive nature, he let his anger smoulder and registered every slight in the hope of one day being able to discharge the debt with interest. His father was wrapt up in him and so blind to the weak points in his son's character that even his imperfections seemed virtues, and Fred adroitly contrived to pose as a model son when in point of fact he was actually engaging in practises which, had his father known, would have made his few scanty hairs stand up in horror and amazement. Of more than one low billiard saloon was Mr. Fred an habitual patroniser, and the betting

book, which only saw the light in private, or amongst a select circle of intimates, could tell a tale that the young gentleman had no intention of making public. His tastes and amusements were alike questionable, and without being taken into his confidence Ralph somehow divined this and shrank from association with one whom he felt instinctively was untrustworthy. But to avoid intercourse with him was impossible, and the two were either at open war or enjoying a temporary truce of which the advantages were more than doubtful.

Frederick's amusements, as all such must sooner or later, were gradually drawing him into difficulties and involving him in liabilities he had not foreseen, and which he saw no clear way of evading. He was not prepared to give up his questionable companions and resorts; he was a youth of few resources, his intellectual calibre being commonplace in the extreme and his highest ambition to pass through life with little effort of either brain or muscle. Betting, in any of its seductive forms naturally recommended itself to him as an easy mode of obtaining money without the trouble of learning it, at the same time affording him the excitement which to some minds is so dangerously attractive. An occasional run of good luck had still further excited his cupidity,—but for some time now the fates had been against him, and his losses far exceeded his gains, and as he sits at his desk on a certain August afternoon, biting savagely at his pen-holder, he comes to the unspoken conclusion that he is in a hole and how to scramble out is a problem he fails to solve.

Though only Ralph's senior by a year he looks considerably older, and the frown which is just now lowering his brow has not an improving effect upon his appearance. A pale unhealthy looking youth is Mr. Frederick Edge; late hours and the excitements of gambling are beginning already to tell their own tale, and there is a surliness in the dull grey eyes and round the thin set lips that is decidedly repelling. Ralph is not the only one in the bank who owns to an aversion to the junior partner's son and heir. It is evident Fred is no favourite, and whatever friends he may have are found elsewhere.

Casting a sidelong glance at Ralph, whose desk is next to his own, and who is too engrossed with his writing to notice his companion, and too indifferent to him likewise, he envies him his apparent freedom from pecuniary difficulties and mentally curses his own ill-luck, not caring to admit that his troubles are of his own making, and conscious of no desire to profit by past mistakes by avoiding the cause of his embarrassments. How he hates Ralph Cardwell, sitting there with grave face and unruffled brow, so serenely indifferent to his own vicinity, and with an air of superiority which Fred himself is not blind to, galling though the admission is.

And as he passes in mental review as he had done many times before, the slights, real and fancied by which young Cardwell has shown his dislike, and as at each review they become distorted and enlarged until to his embittered imagination they appear so many gross insults demanding repayment, the longing for revenge almost banishes his other anxieties, until there flashes into his mind the daring possibility of escaping from his embarrassments and by the same means involving Ralph in a disgrace that should effectually wipe off old scores and bring down the fellow's pride.

Fred's pale face becomes a shade more sallow as the thought presents itself, and receiving no rebuff, lodges as a permanent tenant in one of the many unfurnished chambers of his mind. Having given it house room he must needs entertain his guest, and busily his brain works as he revolves ways and means, and foreseeing many and almost insuperable difficulties, proves himself not wanting in the cunning that can compass

another's ruin and benefit himself by means so despicable.

To benefit by a deed for which the other must bear the odium would be a very neat little business, and night and day, with wits sharpened by his necessities which ever became more urgent, he reviewed every possible opening by which his two-fold scheme might be effected. But as plan after plan suggested themselves, only to be discarded as futile, or utterly impossible, he began to despair of success, until at length fortune chanced to favour him, if that may be called a favour which makes wrong doing easy and leads ultimately to shame and humiliation.

CHAPTER VI.

The hot sunshine of an August noontide was blazing through the uncurtained window of the bank and inciting in its occupants longings for a cooler atmosphere and a breath of country air instead of the stifling closeness which made work a drudgery and confinement a penance. There was a general air of lassitude and sleepiness about the place, which just now was at its quietest. Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Edge were each in the seclusion of their private room, and the senior clerk was looking forward to luncheon time when his modest chop and glass of bitter ale would be unusually acceptable. John Martin had entered the firm as a small boy and gradually risen to his present position. He was staid and elderly now, and without him the bank would scarcely have looked complete, so much a part of it had he become. A shrewd, kindly man was Martin, devoted to his master and having the interests of the firm as much at heart as his own.

The scratching of pens was the only sound heard save the flapping of a blind as an occasional breath of air stirred through an open window, and the incessant buzzing of a big blue-bottle seemingly bent on trying whether its own head or the dusty window pane was the hardest.

At last Ralph laid down his pen, and with a yawn and a stretch looked longingly at the unclouded sky and thought of the country and its attractions. The blue-bottle buzzed around him, and taking out his handkerchief he made some ineffectual efforts to silence its irritating humming. Declining to be thus ignominiously extinguished the persevering insect transferred its attentions to Fred, who exclaimed viciously,

"Confound the thing, who wants your infernal din," and getting out his handkerchief he too did battle with the diminutive foe with no better result, and wiping his heated brow he turned to his desk with a muttered malediction upon the noisy intruder.

At last the quietude of the bank was broken by the arrival of an open landau and a pair of bays which drew up at the portico. A lady of middle age descended from the carriage and entered the building with an air of proprietorship which seemed natural to her. She was richly dressed and was a handsome woman in spite of her fifty-six years. She carried in her hand a small casket, and as she swept up the room with a slight bow to young Cardwell, who returned the salute, John Martin rose as she approached.

"Is Mr. Cardwell disengaged?"

"I believe so; will your ladyship step this way," and preceding her, he opened a door to the left and announced, "Lady Coventry sir."

"There goes my lady with her precious casket," exclaimed Fred, as the door closed upon her. "I wonder how many times a year those jewels of hers are carted here. Why can't she take care of them herself, surely the Hall is as safe as the Bank."

"That's all you know about it," returned Ralph, "those diamonds of hers are worth ten thousand at least."

(To be continued.)



Our Daisies' Page.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

MY DEAR DAISIES,—It was such a surprise to find the pretty picture at the top of the Daisy page last month; and I expect many of you have been asking if the little girl amongst the daisies is Daisy Dimple. I cannot say whether it is a good portrait or not, Bob says the daisies are splendid, but that the portrait is a frost. I don't know what he means by a frost, except a very cold frost, and if the portrait is a frost the daisies would not be there, for they cannot stay where there is any frost. But you will get to know whether it is like me or not the first time I come to your Lyceum, for then you can see both Daisy and the picture. A lady has sent me a very nice story, which I am going to give you this month, it is called "THE TRUANTS."

THE TRUANTS.

Yes? my brother and I played truant but twice in our lives as I told you before, the first was to visit the menagerie, the second was quite a different matter. We had been poorly Bob and I, and very much taken up with reading the tales of adventure that were lent to us by friends. We fancied to shoot Wild Indians in the backwoods must be the best fun there could be for boys. There are no Wild Indians in this country of course, but we made believe that there were some in Bircham Woods, near the town where we lived. Now, we said, when we are well and strong again we will go and play there and shoot wild Indians.

In course of time we recovered and were back to school, but never for one day did we forget the Wild Indian scheme, and one afternoon the weather was so temptingly fine that we found it impossible to put off our errand of slaughter any longer. So slipping past the school-house, crouching down low that we might not be seen by the Schoolmaster should he be astir, we were soon nearing the woods. We had taken father's gun down from the rack, and were quite prepared for all foes, or so we fancied. When we reached the woods we found facing us in a very disagreeable manner, a notice, to the effect that trespassers would be prosecuted. This caused us to pause, but only for a moment. Were *we* to be frightened by such bogies as this? nay, we were bold and brave. None but cowards fear sign-boards, things with neither ears nor eyes, so we walked erectly through the gateway, Bob shouldering the gun. The wood was a fairly extensive one, and game was plentiful, but the wild Indians? Where were they? "Down here," said Bob, "I am sure there will be some," and as he spoke he parted some branches and peeped in to where the undergrowth was very thick. Up to this time we had met with no adventure, but hark! there was someone approaching, and now, most dreadful to relate, the gun my brother was carrying became entangled in the bush, snap went the trigger, bang went the cartridge, down fell the gun, up came a keeper, and alas! poor we. What should we do! nay, what could we do, and whatever should

we say? "May I know your names youngsters," said the man very quietly. "Who are you," we rudely said, "tell us yours first." "You will know mine soon enough. I am the gamekeeper and you are trespassers. Who's gun is this?" We began to shake now, this was not the sort of thing we had played truants for. We came to frighten, not to be frightened; we had felt very big and events turned to making us look very small. We told him it was father's gun and that we had come to shoot wild Indians. "Wild Indians? you young rascals, wild rabbits you mean; whoever heard of Indians in Bircham Woods? but if you like to call them Indians its all one to me. Now your names?" Here he took a book from his pocket and when he had written down our names and address he lifted the gun, examined it, put it under his arm, seached our pockets for cartridges, walked on in grim silence to the road, and then by way of comfort as he opened the gate for us to pass out he said "Good afternoon for the present; I'll perhaps see you this evening when I bring your father's gun along." To add to our mortification we imagined that notice we had called a "bogie" grinned at us, perhaps it didn't, but we both thought it did. "What shall we do now Bob," I said, "we daren't go home till school's out." "Don't know" said Bob "its just a nasty horrid shame of that man, spoiling our afternoons sport in that mean way." I thought so too, but that didn't alter facts, every man's hand was turned against us; what were we to do? it was no use standing there all day digging away at the gravel with our toes. Suddenly Bob looked up, he'd got an idea. "Let's run away" he said; that was a startler, but it sounded like our only chance. Where should we go and how? for we neither of us had a penny.

There was a lane close at hand where the brambles were ripe and plentiful, so we went there to feed and talk over this miserable business; never yet had boys been in such a hole as were, and somehow I didn't feel we were going to improve matters.

"What's wrong now," said Bob, "you look blue."

"Suppose we should be lost, Bob, and not able to get home again: wouldn't that be worse than now? And where are we going to sleep, or get food, or,—or,——" and here I began to sob, and then Bob began to sob. This put a stop to any more plans for running away; and now it was getting well on towards evening, and school would be out and tea would be past.

Brave boys, were we not?

I looked at Bob, and Bob looked at me, and then both together we whispered, "Shall we go home?" So we pushed our hands down into our trousers pockets, and turned our toes homewards, whistling now and again to gain courage as we went along.

Would you believe it? The first sight we saw as we came in view of home was father and the gamekeeper standing together at the front door, the the gamekeeper evidently just leaving. But what was this? Father and he were enjoying a joke, for they were laughing—could father laugh when he had heard of our mad doings? Seemingly he could. The gamekeeper walked off, and as he did so, father, with a smile still upon his face looked up the street and caught sight of Bob and me. We smiled, too, thinking it was all right for us; but father's smile vanished at the sight of ours, and its place came a look so forbidding we fairly crawled along.

"Boys, boys," he cried, "be a bit sharper in your actions, wild Indian shooters don't walk like that—where's your game?"

We didn't answer, but we crawled along still till we reached the doorway, and when we entered therein we experienced another kind of hunting—not of our own choosing this time, however—we were sent on a wailing (whaling) expedition to bed, and what we caught we leave to your imagination; but this much I will tell: we found the catching warmer than whalers usually do.

The Bob mentioned in the above tale is not my brother Bob. If it were would we not have a nice loud laugh? He does not like to be laughed at, but we had something worth laughing about a few days ago. He says if I put it in the Daisy page he will never kiss me again; but I don't mind; if my own brother won't kiss me, perhaps somebody else's brother will, which is just as good.

Good-bye until next month.

Your loving friend,

Daisy Dimple.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE MYSTIC DEAD.

BY LADY BOWYER.

SEE how there gleams a torch in each right hand,
The feet swift-winged, and nearer to the gods,
The eye so bright with heaven's own light
The walker's sleep; foreshadowers of the dead,
Wrought with a charm the earthly nature never wins,
Grasping a power the mortal sinews never know.
Below they sought the perfect and the true,
Their dream of life was—Mystic Death,
Die, if thou would'st live, is the music of their song,
Die, ere thou hast claim to know the World Beyond.
Our Brothers, they are loath to die,
They more of earth absorb, to earth
Their wills are more enchained,
Yet they will die through us, and vanish from the power of
flesh.

They murmur each to each—Thy mortal breath
Is cold, strange Sisters of the Night,
Thy hand doth never clasp our own
With warmth of earthly love;
Thy shadowy voice comes stealing
From out the darkness and the shade;
In pleasure's bloom thy lips are white,
Thy smile as holy dream afar;
Still in that upward gaze the spell is o'er us,
Thy pulses speed us to celestial air.

O Brothers dear! we live in double worlds
While others live in one;
We see as if we saw not earth,
We touch as if we felt not life;
This world a type to us of realities unseen,
A veil transparent through which
We look upon the Brighter Land of Light.

The silent frontier passed, we meet another clime,
We commune with the souls above
In language mystic, deep; in bond
Of Love, and Truth, and Power Divine,
Come, Brothers, Come! Softly, gently, die with us.

The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

DEAR RIDDLERS.—The interest in our "Corner" still increases, for yet another new contributor has joined our ranks, in the person of Mr. Ernest Howarth, of Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire. The solvers are still as expert as ever, the winners of last month's prizes being—Charles Roads, E. A. Field, and Jane Blake. The correct answers to the May riddles are as follows:—

Mr. Deakin's contributions:

Enigma: *Bed*. Palindrome: *Eye*. Conundrum: *Because it is the first to pity and the last to help.*

Mr. Cooke's contributions:

Palindrome: *Madam*. Logogriph: *Spain* (pain, pin).
Syllabic Charade: *Humility* (hue, mill, eye, tea).
My Manchester correspondent is back from her holidays, and favours us with the following

VERBAL CHARADE.

My first is in smart but not in ache;
My second's in pie but not in bake;
My third is in ink but not in pen;
My fourth is in where but not in when;
My fifth is in ice but not in snow;
My sixth is in fast but not in slow;
My seventh is in rust but not in bright;
My eighth is in face but not in flight;
My ninth is in love but not in hate;
My tenth is in knife but not in plate;
My eleventh is in song but not in play;
My twelfth is in morn but not in day;
My whole, I'm certain, all should know
If in truth and wisdom they would grow.

EDNOR TURTON.

Our Yorkshire friend sends us yet another

VERBAL CHARADE.

My first you sing, my second you ring,
My whole you affix to distinguish a thing.

ERNEST HOWARTH.

Smethwick is again represented by Mr. George A. Deakin, who has constructed for our edification the following clever riddles:—

ENIGMA.

I lived before the flood, yet still am young;
I speak all languages, yet have no tongue;
In desert I was born, ne'er went to school;
Nor e'er understood a grammar rule;
I sympathise with all in joy and pain;
Laugh with the merry, with the sad complain;
By Nature taught such an obliging way,
I ne'er shall contradict what'er you say.

PALINDROME.

Forwards, backwards, read my name,
In sound and meaning I'm the same;
Infants on their mothers' knee
Smile with joy at sight of me;
Add a letter, strange but true,
A man I then appear in view.

Three small prizes are again offered to the three solvers of all the riddles. So send on your answers, but don't forget your contributions.

J. HARRY BUNN.

83, Blenheim Road, Reading-on-Thames.

THE PRESIDENT'S SUNDAY EVENING ADDRESS AT THE NOTTINGHAM CONFERENCE.

[Mr. John Venables, the president of the Conference, in opening the evening meeting at the Mechanics' Hall, delivered the following excellent address, which he permits the BANNER to re-produce in full.]

DEAR FRIENDS,—To-night we meet here to speak upon one of the most important subjects: The future of the children who are entrusted to our care. Have you ever considered that our life's thoughts, words, and deeds, are the materials by which our condition and state on the other side of life are built? The importance of the work we are engaged in in training the children in the beautiful philosophy of Spiritualism.

Fifty years ago the door of the two worlds was opened by a little child, and we must open the door to the children to-day, and open it more fully and wide in the future; for the work of Spiritual freedom depends on our children. If mankind is to be free in the future it can only be by giving the children of to-day free and untrammelled spiritual education. Then that which has become a living and vital truth to us will be the same to them.

We have found it noble to seek truth; and beautiful it is, indeed, to find it.

If the coming generation is to be one of nobility, intellect, and beauty of life, it will only be so in proportion to the endeavours which we put forth to make their young lives an index of future possibilities. The small band of noble men and women who in this city thirty-two years ago commenced the Lyceum work, never dreamt that in these few years it would be possible to meet the vast audience assembled here, and to speak of the progress that has been made throughout the length and breadth of the land. In every nation the glorious gospel of immortality is within the reach of all. So we thank God, and the angel world, that the small army of our inspired brethren received from the other side of life the truth of spirit communion.

The importance of spiritualists doing their duty to the children, in the proper training of the young mind, is a great responsibility. We have found spiritualism to be but the alphabet of our existence, and the means by which the whole universe of intelligence was made an open door to us. And just as we try to teach and lead others, so shall we be led and taught by higher spiritual influences.

Therefore, friends, to-night I ask you to go on in the good work you are engaged in, giving that spiritual education so essential to the young under your care. The future of our movement will soon pass into other hands, as, one by one, our earnest, noble, faithful workers are passing on to the other side of life. But their influence is felt to-day, and their work and labour of love still lives after them; so let us make our lives full and beautiful, and then we shall be the more prepared to meet the loved ones gone before; and when our work here is finished, may we hear the "well done, good and faithful one, come up higher," to continue to labour in the spiritual spheres.

Spiritualism, with its loving Father in heaven, its brotherhood of man, its present and perpetual ministry of spirits, its fatherly chastisement for wrong doing, its open heart towards all reforms, its sweet charity for human misfortunes, its encouraging, inspiring words to the sick, its comforting voice to the mourner, and its musical whisperings of love and precious memories from those who have crossed the crystal river, putting on immortality, and summering in the eternal verdure and bloom of these elysian fields of the blest, where souls never lapse, nor suns never set—is of God—it has come to stay and it will stand for ever.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.—No. LXIII.

By ALFRED KITSON, SECY., B.S.L.U.

THE Ninth Annual Conference was a splendid success. The local friends worked hard to make the occasion a red-letter day in the old city of Nottingham. The accommodation was ample. Several friends who had sent on their names failed to put in appearance, to the evident disappointment of many friends. Great praise is due to Messrs. Jonah Clarke & Albert Wilkinson for their efforts to make the journey such a pleasure.

The weather was too wet on the Saturday to venture on the procession which had been arranged for; but it being more favourable on the Sunday, the delegates, local friends and Lyceum children, the procession, headed by the band, made quite a respectable show, with banner unfurled, and Jubilee Medals glittering on the breasts of old and young alike.

The Conference was harmonious and good humoured in its deliberations, as will be seen by the Official Report. Our esteemed and genial Editor appeared in a new role that of Delegate, for the first time. His keen interest in the business of the day will be seen by the number of times his name appears in the report of the proceedings, and as a fitting mark of appreciation of his services to our work, the Conference unanimously elected him President for the ensuing year. It was a great oversight that Mr. H. A. Kersey was not nominated a member of the Executive, but that must be corrected next year.

Much disappointment was felt at Mr. T. O. Todd's absence, through ill health. We hope to hear of his speedy recovery.

Several of the reports would have gained in importance had they been presented in writing, so that they could have been filed for future reference.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the revision of the Constitution will be thorough, and not mere tinkering. It needs re-drafting, and the various duties of the officers and Executive Board clearly defining. Lyceums who fall behind in their contributions two years should not be kept on as members, after an unavailing intimation of arrears has been sent them. Some action should be taken with the returns. These are lax features of the present Constitution which call for remedying, along with some others.

In our efforts to try and obtain full returns I wrote several times to some Lyceums who had made no returns, and to all of them I wrote twice. No heed was taken of these appeals, which caused me to keep three Lyceums on our roll that had lapsed, namely: The Temple, Accrington; Small Heath, Birmingham; and Phoenix Hall, Liverpool. In each case a post card would have prevented the error.

I learn with pleasure that a Lyceum, though small, exists at Barnoldswick; one has been formed at Stoke Newington, another at the Masonic Hall, Birmingham; Plymouth has also opened one, which is doing splendidly. I take the following from a letter: "The Sunday before Easter we opened the Lyceum with one boy and two girls. At Easter we had an attendance of 70; of the 70, 5 are from avowed Spiritualists' families, 8 from sympathisers' families, and the remainder are children these 13 have brought in, and who, in turn, are taking the news home and bringing their parents." Tramere and Rock Ferry have opened a Lyceum. Barry Dock Lyceum has joined the Union. I shall be pleased to learn of others wishing to do likewise.

MR. G. H. BIBBINGS commences the weekly issue of his *Torch* on the 8th inst. He promises a vigorous journalism.

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 23RD OF EACH MONTH.

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1890.

The Lyceum Banner.

JUNE, 1899.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

The Conference. NOTTINGHAM is to be congratulated upon witnessing one of the most harmonious and successful Conferences the B.S.L.U. has ever held. The business was well done. The entertainment on Saturday was excellent. The Demonstration on Sunday evening all that could be desired. The official report, and our reporter's summary, both printed in this issue of the BANNER, say all there is to say. To the ability, courtesy, and tact that Mr. John Venables, the president, manifested in conducting the business, a large share of the success of the Conference was undoubtedly due.

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Our New President. THE election of Mr. J. J. Morse as President for the ensuing twelve months was, evidently, highly popular. No doubt he will do his utmost to fulfil his duties to the best of his abilities, and still further assist the progress of our work by all means in his power. In view of the fact that he has been so long identified with Lyceum work, Lyceumists at large will congratulate him on his elevation to the highest honour in the bestowal of the Children's Parliament.

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The Next Executive Meeting. THE next Executive meeting of the B.S.L.U. will be held at Stockport, on Saturday, June 17th. The Executive will hold demonstration meetings on the following day, Sunday. Particulars will be found elsewhere.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

SPECIAL Services, under the auspices of the above, will be held in the Spiritualists' Hall, Wellington-road, Stockport, on Sunday, June 18th, 1899. Services at 2-30 and 6-30. The following members of the Executive will deliver brief and bright addresses:—Mr. J. J. Morse, president, London; Mr. John Venables, past-president, Walsall; Mrs. M. H. Naylor, Middlesboro'; Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool; Mr. T. O. Todd, Sunderland; Mr. Albert Wilkinson, Nelson; Mr. Alfred Kitson, secretary, Dewsbury. The Executive will also attend the open session in the morning at 9-30, and briefly address the same. Collections at each Service in aid of the funds.—ALFRED KITSON, Sec., B.S.L.U.

IN MEMORIAM.

SAMUEL DYSON.

MR. SAMUEL DYSON, of the Brighthouse Lyceum, passed to the higher life on May 19th, 1899, aged 17 years, after long but patient suffering. He was highly respected and dearly loved by all who knew him. He was interred at Brighthouse Cemetery. The choir attended the funeral and sung special hymns.—GEO. CROWTHER.

ITEMETTES.

NOTTINGHAM scored a success.

MR. S. S. CHISWELL'S address on the Sunday evening was the gem of the occasion.

MR. H. CLARKE, Leicester, spoke forcibly and well at the evening meeting; his remarks were cordially received.

MR. KITSON did admirably in his brief address at the Demonstration on Sunday evening.

OUR Editor's speech was warmly received, and reported at length in the *Nottingham Guardian* of the following day.

LAST month was the 101st issue of the BANNER, and the statistical returns printed therein showed that 101 Lyceums are members of our Union!

THE BANNER extends its cordial congratulations and good wishes to Mr. Will. Phillips upon his entering on the Editorship of the *Two Worlds*, and wishes him every success.

MR. W. STUBBS catered for the creature comfort of the friends at the Conference admirably, bounteously and most reasonably.

MR. JNO. VENABLES made an able and excellent presiding officer at the Conference.

THE *Two Worlds* reported the Conference at length. The work was well done by Mr. E. W. Wallis.

A succinct and excellent report of the Conference appeared in *Light* of the following week.

A NEW Lyceum connected with the Birmingham Spiritualist Union was opened on May 14th.

NEXT month a splendid poem, "The White Dove," which is eminently suitable for recitation.

SOWERBY BRIDGE holds its anniversary to-day. The addresses are to be delivered by Mr. S. S. Chiswell, of Liverpool, and at the afternoon meeting it is expected that Mrs. Chiswell will speak to the members.

THE anniversary at Smethwick was a great success. The report in this month's BANNER will be an encouragement to all.

AN unknown friend, signing the name, "Faithist," has our sincere thanks for a contribution of £1 1s., towards our Sustentation Fund. The note accompanying the generous contribution reads as follows: "Lyceum work being very important in individualizing young children, and freeing their minds and making them see the ever present Creator—kindly accept the enclosed guinea as a donation."

THE new "official series of physical exercises" is now ready. It is a neat little booklet, and, in addition to the printed instructions, five neat little pictures, illustrating various movements, are included. The Union recommends these exercises officially, for use in all Lyceums, so that a universal system may be brought into use.

NO one remembered to say a word of thanks to the two Nottingham societies for suspending their regular Sunday meetings on Conference day. Nor were either of the presidents invited to express the pleasure they undoubtedly felt at the presence of the Conference.

HAND PHYSIOGNOMY.—The indefatigable Ellis family, Blackpool, are out with an excellent sixpenny booklet, entitled 'Hand Physiognomy,' by Ida Ellis, an experienced palmist, says: It is good, contains a lot of useful things in a small space. In these days when the hand is exciting so much attention this excellent fifty odd pages will prove of service to students and practitioners alike.

I VISITED the Morley Lyceum on Sunday last, and found the Lyceum in good condition. The order in the Lyceum was very good. There is room for improvement in the tunes for the marching and calisthenics.—A. PINDER.

"O.P.S. FUND.—Dear Mr. Morse, at a Council meeting held at this address, on Wednesday, May 17th, a resolution was approved unanimously, 'That the best thanks of the Council of the O.P.S., Sick, Benefit, and Pension Funds be tendered to Mr. J. J. Morse, for his able and efficient services as Honorary Secretary, *pro. tem.*, from July, 1898, to March, 1899, and that he be assured of their cordial appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the funds that he has so kindly made.' I have much pleasure in acquainting you of this, and with all good wishes remain, yours sincerely. (Mrs.) M. H. Wallis, Hon. Sec., 322, Waterloo Road, Hightown, Manchester, May 22nd, 1899.

ON his recent retirement from the Editorship of the *Two Worlds*, Mr. E. W. Wallis was the recipient of a very handsome presentation from his late Directors. It took the form of a Tea and Coffee Service, and an Oak Tray, with a Silver Plate affixed, setting from the circumstances of the presentation. Mr. Wallis has now entered upon his duties as Secretary to the London Spiritualists' Alliance, and assistant to the Editor of *Light*, having been jointly engaged by the Council of the former, and the proprietors of the latter, with, it is confidently anticipated, prospective benefit to each.

OUR NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

THE Ninth Annual Conference of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union was held in the ancient city of Nottingham on the second Sunday of last month, and the gatherings associated therewith were in all ways thoroughly successful. The proceedings embraced a tea party, a concert, two business sessions of the Conference, and a monstre Public Demonstration on the Sunday evening.

As the official report published in this issue will give you an authentic record of the business done, nothing need be said here on those matters as dealt with in the report itself.

The BANNER, accompanied by "Mrs. BANNER," journeyed down to Nottingham on the Saturday afternoon, and after a pleasant ride across the fields and pasture lands, of Bedford and Leicestershire, duly arrived at Laceopolis, with that proverbial punctuality for which the excellently appointed Midland Railway Company is so well-known. The largely attended tea was nearly finished on arriving at Cobden Hall, but to judge by the appetising articles still upon the tables the catering of Mr. Thos. Stubbs must have afforded the visitors every and ample satisfaction. The same just tribute of praise must be given the above-named gentleman for his catering on the Sunday, for dinner and tea. Each meal was well served, admirably cooked, comprised an excellent variety, and most moderate in price. Higher praise could not be given.

The concert on Saturday evening was exceedingly interesting and amusing. The programme was a trifle too long, so much so that several items had to be omitted for want of time. The opening item was an Address of Welcome, read in a thoroughly excellent manner by Master Herbert Clarke. Mr. Venables, as President of the Union, was called to the chair, and he gracefully responded to the Welcome, after which the programme proceeded. Among the items, the musical contributions of the Misses Charlotte and Bertha Brearley, on the violin and piano, and a unique item in the form of a band of mouth organs, used by the boys of the Lyceum, were greatly enjoyed. The humorous ventriloquial sketch, with mock figures, by Mr. L. Coppock, caused unlimited merriment. The clever skirt dancing of Miss Mabel Brearley called forth loud plaudits, as it well deserved, while the recitation of Miss E. Dexter was of the usual finished and able nature of that young lady's efforts. Miss Lily Clarke sang her song very sweetly, and the Misses Carson, Ross, Love, Attenborrow, and Sammon, each contributed most acceptably to the interest of the evening. Our friends provided a surfeit of good things, but really a little less would have made even then an excellent programme. The joke of the evening was not on the programme, though. It arose when the names of delegates was being called over, when in answer to one name the response came, 'Here, but gone out!' Owing to the state of the weather the procession arranged for this evening had to be abandoned.

The Conference assembled with commendable promptitude on the Sunday morning and soon settled down to business. Indeed it was, all in all, the most business-like and good humoured Conference of the Union that the writer has yet attended. He also enjoyed the unique honour of actually being a delegate, representing the Battersea, London, Lyceum! It is to be hoped the friends who honoured him with their confidence will feel he did his duty, on perusing Mr. Kitson's Report elsewhere. This year Battersea can claim the honour of providing the President of the Union for the ensuing year.

The great Public Demonstration in the large Mechanics' Hall on the Sunday evening was an emphatic success. The

attendance was some eight hundred persons, and the vocal selections by the Misses Gates, and Messrs. Cooper & Raynor, with recitals on the grand organ, by Mr. Geo. Astill, with the services of the Midland Railway Brass Band, constituted a musical treat that will be long remembered by all fortunate enough to have heard it. The speeches were all conceived in just the right key, and the various gentlemen acquitted themselves in a fashion that left nothing to be desired. The opening Invocation, by Mr. E. W. Wallis, touched sympathetic chords in the large audience, and the closing benediction by Mr. Clark, of Leicester, appropriately terminated the proceedings. Prior to the meeting there was a procession through the streets, which excited some amount of attention.

The Conference was an unqualified success, and all present enjoyed its various incidents. Not the least charm in this annual meeting of the Children's Parliament is the opportunity it affords to meet old friends, to renew the friendships of former years, and in the gathering of strength and encouragement to go forward to even greater things in the future.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Official Report.

[The following is the Official Report of the proceedings at the Ninth Annual Conference, held at the Cobden Hall, Peachy Street, on Sunday, May 14th, 1899. It is furnished the BANNER, as the Union's official organ, by the Secretary, Mr. Alfred Kitson.]

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE PRESENT.

PRESIDENT: Mr. J. Venables, Walsall; VICE-PRESIDENT: Mrs. Jessy Greenwood, Sowerby Bridge; TREASURER: Mr. Joseph Sutcliffe, represented by his son, Mr. Albert Sutcliffe, Sowerby Bridge; SECRETARY: Mr. A. Kitson, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Messrs. S. S. Chiswell, J. Clarke, and H. A. Kersey. PUBLISHING COMMITTEE: Messrs. W. Johnson, W. Mason and W. Harrison. AUDITORS: Messrs. T. G. Dexter and E. A. Keeling. DISTRICT VISITORS: Mrs. H. M. Naylor, (Teeside District); Mr. Jas. Kitson, (Leeds District); Mr. S. S. Chiswell, (Liverpool District); Mr. Percy Bewick, (Manchester District); Mr. A. Wilkinson, (N.E. Lancashire District); and Mr. W. H. Lote, (Midland District).

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

Accrington (Argyle Street), Mr. W. Kirby; Batley Carr, Mrs. S. E. Hornes; Belper, Messrs. H. White and T. F. Smedley; Birmingham (Bloomsbury), Messrs. B. Hodgson and Allender; Birmingham (Smethwick), Mr. Richard George; Blackpool, Mrs. Butterworth; Bolton No. 1; Messrs. A. P. Nield and D. Clarke; Bootle, Mr. J. J. Parr; Bradford (Milton Hall), Mr. F. Bishop; Bradford (St. Paul's), Mr. J. H. Smith; Darwen, Messrs. H. Holgate and W. Pearce; Derby (Midland Road), Mr. Bolton; Exeter, Mrs. Raine; Halifax, Messrs. J. Willey and J. B. Moorhouse; Hyde, Mr. W. Johnson; Keighley, Mr. Wm. Hudson; Leicester, Miss Earl and Mr. W. Wright; Liverpool (Daulby Hall), Messrs. F. Chilton and F. Chiswell; London (Battersea), Mr. J. J. Morse; Manchester (Collyhurst Street), Mr. Thomas Taylor; Nelson, Messrs. A. Wilkinson and W. Walmsley; Nottingham (Gladstone Hall), Messrs. J. J. Ashworth and J. Sanderson; Nottingham (Cobden Hall), Miss Carrie Amos and Mr. H. Battersley; Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mrs. J. Hammarbom and Mrs. Arthur; Sowerby Bridge, Miss M. Thorpe and Mr. Wright; Stockport, Mr. Thomas Edwards; Walsall, Messrs.

J. J. Bennett and J. Venables, Junr. ; Wisbech, Mr. Wm. Hill, Junr. and Mr. James Swindlehurst represented the Spiritualists National Federation.

BUSINESS:

VOTES OF SYMPATHY.

After the opening exercises.

THE PRESIDENT moved, and Mr. S. S. Chiswell seconded a vote of condolence with Mrs. Charles Place, of Leicester, at the loss of her beloved husband, Mr. Place, who was an ardent worker in the Leicester Lyceum, *carried* by the delegates and friends rising to their feet.

MR. J. J. MORSE moved, and Mr. W. Johnson seconded, a vote of sympathy with Mr. T. O. Todd, Sunderland, at his inability to be with us owing to ill health, expressing a sincere hope that he may soon be restored to his normal health and strength. *Carried.*

MINUTES OF LAST CONFERENCE.

After reading the minutes of the last conference, Mr. E. A. Keeling moved, and Mr. T. G. Dexter seconded 'that the minutes of the last Conference be past as read.' *Carried.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr. W. Johnson moved and Mr. F. Chilton seconded, 'that the secretary's report be accepted as printed.' *Carried.*

On the motion of Mr. H. A. KERSEY seconded by Mr. J. CLARKE, the report was passed as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

On the motion of Mr. S. S. CHISWELL, seconded by Mr. HARRISON, the treasurer's report was accepted as printed. After a few remarks on the accounts, Mr. J. J. Parr moved and Mr. E. A. Keeling seconded "That it be an instruction to the executive committee to inquire into the system of keeping the accounts of the B. S. L. U." *Carried.*

THE PRESIDENTS REPORT.

MR. J. J. ASHWORTH (the only surviving member of the original Nottingham and first British Lyceum) moved, and Mr. J. J. Morse seconded "That the president's report be accepted as presented." *Carried.*

PRESENTATIONS TO ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS.

MR. J. J. MORSE gave an oral report of his visit to the American Convention, and his visit to Mr. A. J. Davis to present the silver jubilee medal and the illuminated address, voted that gentleman at the previous convention and commented on the non-arrival of the same.

MR. S. S. CHISWELL begged to supplement Mr. Morse's report, by describing his and Mrs. Chiswell's visit to the home of Mr. A. J. Davis, the beloved founder of the C.P.L. which proved highly interesting. Mr. E. Allender moved and Mr. Walmsley seconded, "That the reports be accepted." *Carried.*

PHOTOS OF THE A. J. DAVIS PRESENTATIONS.

On the motion of Mr. S. S. CHISWELL, seconded by Mr. J. Clarke, the secretary was instructed to write Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, and ascertain if the photos of the presentation medal and address to Mr. A. J. Davis are the property of the union, and present the information before the next executive meeting.

THE N.S.L.U. AT THE S.N.F.

MR. WM. MASON and MR. T. G. DEXTER, the Unions representatives to the conference of the Spiritualists National Federation, gave an oral report of their work, stating that in the draft of the Deed Poll they found no reference to the Lyceum work, and that they got a new clause inserted recognising the claims of the children. On the motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. T. Taylor, the report was accepted.

DISTRICT VISITOR'S REPORT.

MR. J. J. PARR moved and MR. J. J. MORSE seconded, that Mr. A. Wilkinson's District Visitor's Report be accepted as read. *Carried.*

THE NEW CALISTHENICS.

MR. J. J. ASHWORTH moved and Mrs. BUTERWORTH seconded, that the illustrated Calisthenics, as published by the Union, be adopted by all Federated Lyceums, so that there shall be one uniform system. *Carried.*

Moved by MR. J. J. MORSE, and seconded by MR. WM. HUDSON, that the President and Secretary certify on the cover of the Calisthenics that the same are adopted by the Union. *Carried.*

MR. H. A. Kersey moved, and MR. W. WALMSLEY seconded, that the District Visitors be requested to see that the authorised series of calisthenics are adopted by all Lyceums in their districts. Mr. J. J. Parr moved and Mr. T. G. Dexter seconded the following amendment, that the Secretary issue a circular to every Lyceum announcing that the calisthenics are now ready, stating prices of the same. And that all district visitors be requested to recommend that they be used, the amendment was *carried.*

PAST PRESIDENTS.

MR. J. H. SMITH moved, and MR. JOHNSON seconded that past presidents in future be the vice-president during the following year of their office. Mr. Dexter moved as an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Jas. Shillitoe, that this conference appoint two vice-presidents. Mr. J. J. Morse moved the following rider, which was seconded by Mr. F. Chilton, that in future the president be the past-president for the ensuing year, and an *ex-officio* member of the E.C. On being put to the vote the rider was declared *carried.*

THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

MR. J. J. MORSE moved and MR. E. A. KEELING seconded that Mr. T. O. Todd's motion for the dissolution of the publishing committee be left over, seeing that he has not appointed any one to move it in his absence. *Carried.* This motion was subsequently rescinded on the motion of Mr. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Wright; after which Mr. Parr moved, and Mr. D. Clarke seconded that Mr. Todd's motion be adopted. *Carried.* The said motion is as follows: "That committee at present known as the Publishing Committee, be and is hereby dissolved, and that the duties hitherto undertaken by such committee be transferred to general executive."

THE DIES OF THE JUBILEE MEDAL.

On the motion of MR. DEXTER, seconded by MR. H. A. KERSEY, it was decided that the "dies" of the Jubilee Medal be destroyed at the next executive meeting, in the presence of the President, Secretary, and one other person, who shall certify in writing to the next conference, that such instructions have been duly carried out. (The Conference subsequently elected Mr. Dexter to act in conjunction with the President and Secretary.)

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

On the motion of MR. H. A. KERSEY, seconded by MR. E. A. KEELING, a vote of thanks was accorded to the members of the Publishing Committee for their past services.

THE UNION'S BUSINESS.

Moved by MRS. JESSY GREENWOOD, and seconded by MR. J. H. SMITH and supported by Mr. Brian Hodgson, that all business of the Union pass through the Secretary's hands and not be entrusted to individual members. *Carried unanimously.*

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS.

MR. J. J. MORSE moved and MR. W. JOHNSON seconded, that the executive be instructed to revise the constitution of the B. S. L. U., and that the points raised by Mrs. Greenwood's motion be incorporated in it; the revised constitution to be submitted to the next Conference. *Carried.*

THE DAISY DIMPLE HOME.

On the motion of MR. MORSE, seconded by MR. THOMAS TAYLOR, it was decided to refer the 'Daisy Dimple' scheme to the executive, to see if it could be dealt with in the constitution.

LYCEUM REGALIA.

On the motion of MR. MORSE, seconded by MR. KEELING, it was similarly decided to refer the question of Lyceum regalia to be dealt with in the same manner.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE S.N.F. CONFERENCE.

Messrs. Albert Wilkinson and J. Clarke were elected to represent the B.S.L.U. at the Conference of the S.N.F., to be held at Blackpool in July.

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE.

Mrs. H. M. Naylor, and Mr. A. Wilkinson were elected members of the Executive Committee.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

MR. J. J. MORSE, London, was elected President of the Union for the ensuing year.

ELECTION OF TREASURER AND SECRETARY.

The Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EXECUTIVE S.N.F.

Mr. A. Kitson was nominated by the conference as a member of the Executive of the S.N.F.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

Messrs. Frank Chiswell and J. J. Bennett were elected auditors for the ensuing year

MEETING PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The following is the list of voting on the place where the next year's Conference is to be held: Keighley, 1; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 32; Liverpool, 13; and Brighouse, 7. Newcastle was declared to be the city where next conference should be held, on the 13th of May, 1900.

The customary votes of thanks were given to the retiring officers and local Lyceums and societies.

ALFRED KITSON, Sec., B.S.L.U.

April 17th, 1899.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENTATION.

All proverbs are not quite correct, as for instance, 'a prophet is not without honour save in his own country,' nor do all of us wait to honour our friends until after they are dead! A pleasing instance of the fallibility of the above quoted proverb, and the practical generosity of friends was lately afforded in the person of our late Lyceum President, Mr. John Venables, who, desiring to testify the high appreciation in which he and his good wife held the Editor of the BANNER, and that gentleman's wife, presented them with a large and magnificent silver Tea Urn. The gift was entirely unexpected, which greatly added to the pleasure of the recipients, and we are asked to express to their kind friends their deep sense of appreciation of the honour thus done them. It is a valuable heirloom, and will ever be treasured as one of their most valuable possessions, not only for its intrinsic value, but, especially for the testimony of friendship and fraternal appreciation of the warm hearted bestowers. The inscription upon the Urn reads as follows: "Presented to Mr. and Mr. J. J. Morse, as a small token of respect and esteem by Mr. and Mrs. John Venables, Walsall, 1899."

The "Banner" Letter Box.

"AN EXPLANATION."

DEAR EDITORS,—I notice Mr. J. B. Longstaff's letter in your last issue under the above heading, and am not quite sure whether Bro. Longstaff has correctly located the "fog," for it certainly is not a word of mine. And if he will kindly re-peruse my letter he will find it was an explanation to editorial comments, and, therefore, it would have been out of place to have written him. I am surprised at his assertion that all the Lyceums are in the Union with the exception of one, as several of the Lyceums which appear in the non-federated portion of the LYCEUM BANNER List are members of the Demonstration. And I repeat, 'Why this should be so is a problem I am unable to solve. Perhaps they will remedy this in the good time coming.' Yours fraternally, A. KITSON, Secretary, B. S. L. Union.

FROM MR. THOMAS OLMAN TODD.

DEAR EDITORS.—Will you kindly permit me, through the columns of the "LYCEUM BANNER," to thank my co-workers who were present at the Nottingham Conference, for the kindly sympathy and good will expressed on my behalf. It was a disappointment to me that I was prevented from being present; up to a few days prior to the Conference, I felt assured that I would be well enough to attend, and it was only at the last day that I gave up the hope of being present, and that was through a returning weakness.

My disappointment was keenest because I felt that Daisy Dimple would also be disappointed, through my not being present to advocate her claims for the consideration of Conference, but that sweet young lady has already assured me that I did well in staying at home and not running any risks, and jokingly suggests that if I don't take care I may be the first patient in her new home. Well! I think I could enjoy that, especially with Daisy as a companion; but I am pleased to say I don't think it will be necessary, for I have improved wonderfully during the past three weeks, though three month's illness has left its mark.

I congratulate you, Mr. Editor, on your election to the highest seat in the gift of our Union, which, worthily bestowed, I am sure will be worthily filled.—Yours fraternally,

THOMAS OLMAN TODD.

Sunderland, May, 1899.

LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.

THE seventh annual Demonstration will be held at Bury, on Saturday, July 8th. The Lyceums will assemble in Union Square, at 4 p.m., and march with bands along a route to be chosen at the next meeting to the Fair Ground, in the following order, with colours to be worn by each Lyceumist, Marshals and Conductors sashes, and Delegates broad band on right arm. 1, Bury (Violet); 2, Manchester (Blue); 3, Royton (White); 4, Collyhurst (Primrose); 5, Broughton (Stuart Tartan); 6, Harpurhey (Pink & Amber); 6, Rochdale (Lavender). After being marshalled in order, marching and calisthenics will be executed, during which a collection will be taken towards expenses, half the proceeds of which will be given to the Bury Infirmary. The Order of Procession will be reversed on marching to tea. A plain tea will be provided at 6d. for friends, and 4d. children.—J. B. LONGSTAFF, Hon. Sec.

OUR GOLDEN GROUP.

AUNTIE is very glad to learn that her customary contribution has been very much missed the past two months. But, at the same time, she is also very sorry to find that our Editor has been severely blamed for not printing her article. This is scarcely fair to him, poor man, for he has had so much to put into the BANNER that Auntie purposely refrained from sending him anything! So, if my well-beloved Groupites wish to blame anyone they must scold me. You see, my dears, that this year the announcements for the Conference began in April, and took up an whole page of that issue, which seriously cut down the room in that months paper. Our Editor told me he would leave out the 'Daisy Page,' or 'Riddlers' Corner,' but Auntie said no, for she is so much interested in Daisy's work that she would not have it interfered with; while Mr. Bunn interests us all so much, and is so good to do it all free, that Auntie preferred to wait until the pressure of the Conference was over before sending again. So, forgive me this time, dears, and I will try and not miss again for the rest of the year.

Now then let me give you a report of our March assembly, so that you may know what we did thereat.

At the usual opening ceremonies, and the reading of the minutes of the February assembly, which, on the motion of Alfred Playford, seconded by Ted Thompson, were duly passed as correct, the Grand Secretary reported that a letter from Mr. William Mason, Burnley, had been received, and therein he sent nine more names for membership in the Golden Group Grand Assembly. The grand conductor requested G. S. to read the letter to the assembly, which was accordingly done as follows:

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—I am sorry to be a day late this month, but as this month is a little longer than the last I hope it won't make any difference? Well now, I enclose you nine names for the ROLL this month, and I have been looking over my back volumes of the BANNER and I find this list makes 154 names I have sent for the Golden Group from Burnley Lyceum! Now this will be the last letter to you as our Assembly has got into working order and I must give way to our Assembly's Secretary, who will in future furnish you with accounts of our doings. But I shall write you from time to time on other little matters. I am looking forward to some future time when we shall have a great GOLDEN GROUP Meeting of the assemblies from all over the country! It will be grand when we get Bob's scheme in working order, and Master Johnny comes home from school and takes up the general secretaryship. Then will be the time when Bob will be sending little 'Daisy Dimples' away to the country for their health, and Johnny will be sending them nice letters and all will go jolly. With kind regards and good wishes for your future progress.
—Fraternally yours,
Wm. Mason.

The reading of the above evoked hearty applause, and on motion, it was resolved that it be spread upon our minutes and sent to the BANNER for publication. In a postscript Mr. Mason stated that at the time he wrote he had just completed his twenty-one years as a teetotaler, at which statement there was a great clapping of hands.

The next item that G. S. brought forward was a communication in the form a letter from the

THE BURNLEY ASSEMBLY, G. G., No. 1.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—This is the first time I have written to you, so you must excuse me. We are having our meeting on Monday nights. We are getting up an Entertainment and we hope to have a grand time of it. We have elected Miss Lily Ashworth as the chairwoman, and Master Joseph Crossley for ticket collector. The price we are charging is 1d. under 12, and 2d. over that age. All the money we shall get goes to our society for the benefit of the room we are using. The entertainment will consist of songs, solos, recitations, dialogues and games.—Your loving Neice,
LIZZIE WILKINSON.

My good neice has sent us a programme of the entertainment referred to above, which is as follows:

Chairwoman's address, Miss L. Ashworth; song, "Dreaming of

home and mother," S. Crossley; recitation, "Timothy Fasker," Miss A. Longswor; mandolin solo, "Mary of Argyle," J. Edmondson; song, "Old Folks at Home," C. Forrest; recitation, "Jack's valentine," E. Parkinson; games; dialogue, "The blue bell," by two females; recitation, "Are the children home," Miss S. E. Edmondson; duet, selected, Miss and Master Crossley; recitation, selected, Miss Lily Wilkinson; comic song, "Father come home," C. Forrest; dialogue, "How Tom Brown signed the pledge."

And also from Hammerton Street, Auntie has received the following nice little letter from a new member. Sorry we misnamed you Lily, but it is alright now.

A LETTER FROM LILY ASHWORTH.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—I am a new member, as you already know, and I wish to remind you that you have made a mistake in my name, you have put Mary instead of Lily. I am pleased to say that we have formed a group at Hammerton Street, and I am glad to say that I am one of them. We have about thirty members, we are progressing very well so far and we have for our leader that grand and noble worker, Mr. Wm. Mason. I do not know what we should do without him, he is ever ready and willing to do what his hands find to do. I thought I should like to write you a short letter. I will write again before long and let you know how we are progressing. I think that is all at present. From your loving neice,
LILY ASHWORTH.

Auntie thanks you dear for your letter, and will always be pleased to hear from you.

The G. S. next reported a letter from Mr. A. Mewiss, Blackpool, enclosing a little poem written by his youngest son, who is a member of the Lyceum at the Blackpool Spiritual Church, and as Master Johnny has made quite a reputation as a reader he was requested to read the verses to the Assembly, which he did very nicely. The poem was entitled—

WORDS OF COMFORT.

Why chase away that look of gladness,
From the threshold of your door?
Why give way to all that sadness,
Why not smile like days of yore?
Why do you weep so, oh, my sister,
He's only gone from mortal strife;
For there's no death to part him from you
And he'll come back from that higher life.
But it will grieve him if he sees you
Crying because you think him dead;
So dry your tears and let him see you,
With clear eyes and lifted head.
And now my sister don't keep weeping,
But try to look up through your tears;
And show him when he comes back to you,
That you have no doubts and fears.
And when you are thinking of him,
Rest assured that he is nigh;
For he will bring you peace and comfort,
From that home of rest on high.

A hearty vote of thanks was ordered to Master Mewis for his contribution. At this point Walker Greenfield gave notice that at the next assembly he should raise the question of an Annual Pic Nic, and propose a motion upon it.

The final business was raised by Ernest Attwood, suggesting that we should ask Mr. J. Harry Bunn to offer a special prize for special riddles to be solved by members of the GOLDEN GROUP only, and that the G. S. be instructed to write to Mr. Bunn as to whether he would do so? It to be a condition that the solvers give the name of their Lyceum, and their number on the Grand Roll of the Group. The idea was warmly received, and on being put to the vote was unanimously agreed to. This closed the business of the meeting.
AUNT EDITHA.

MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE MARCH ASSEMBLY. Burnley, Hammerton Street.

1315	Charles Forrest,	1320	Robert Maxfield,
1316	Harry Forrest,	1321	Sarah Whitehead,
1317	Florence Ashworth,	1322	Frederick Parkinson,
1318	Ann Blacklock,	1323	Sarah Edmondson.
1319	Jane Blacklock,		

Leaders' Department.

LYCEUM TOPIC FOR JUNE.

[Hereafter, each month, we shall publish a selected Topic for our Lyceums to consider and discuss. For a time the Outline Lessons will be discontinued.—Eds. L.B.]

MOTTOES AND MEMORY GEMS.

BY HUDSON TUTTLE.

ONE of the features of the Lyceum is committing to memory and recitation of brief passages, and when all the members do their duty this part of the exercises becomes very interesting. It is like committing verses of the Bible by Sunday school scholars, with this difference, that the literature and wisdom of the world is before the Lyceum scholar. Committing to memory these choice gems, the crystallization of thought by the world's great thinkers, strengthens the mind and improves the character. Frances Willard advised that one thought-gem be fully committed each day. What a splendid volume of thoughts that would make in a year. The great German poet Goethe said that every day a civilized person ought to learn a few words from some reasonable mind.

MEMORY GEMS.

Do the duty which lies nearest thee.—*Goethe.*

Health and cheerfulness make beauty.—*Cervantes.*

Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.—*Rosseau.*

To err is human; to forgive divine.—*Alexander Pope.*

They never fail who die in a great cause.—*Lord Byron.*

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.—*Shakespeare.*

Good deeds ring clear through heaven like a bell.—*Richter.*

Without earnestness there is nothing to be done in life.

—*Goethe.*

They fail, and they alone, who have not striven.—*T. B. Aldrich.*

A handful of good life is worth a bushel of learning.—*George Herbert.*

Eat at your own table as you would eat at the table of a king.—*Confucius.*

There is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent, sincere earnestness.—*Charles Dickens.*

The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.—*Socrates.*

Shallow men believe in luck: strong men believe in cause and effect.—*Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

Economy is half the battle of life; it is not so hard to earn money as to spend it well.—*Spurgeon.*

Politeness promotes beauty in him who possesses it and happiness in those about him.—*H. W. Beecher.*

Be fearful only of thyself, and stand in awe of none more than of thine own conscience.—*Thomas Fuller.*

Honor and shame from no condition rise;

Act well your part, there all the honor lies.

—*Alexander Pope.*

Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it each day, and it becomes so strong we cannot break it.—*Horace Mann.*

Unfaithfulness in the keeping of an appointment is an act of clear dishonesty. You may as well borrow a person's money as his time.—*Horace Mann.*

Never to put my hand to anything on which I could not throw my whole self, and never to affect depreciation of my work, have been my golden rules.—*Charles Dickens.*—*The Lyceum.*

LYCEUM LESSONS ON OLD RELIGIONS.

BY BRIAN HODGSON.

BRAHMANISM III.

THIS is the last of the three lessons I promised you on this Religion and I trust you have done your best to follow me in the two previously given. The religion is in itself very simple indeed, as all great things are; but like rich simple things it becomes intensely difficult to understand when you look at it in its latest state of manifold combination. Thus, water is a simple thing, is it not? It penetrates everything in nature, taking hundreds of different beautiful forms—at first as rain, then as river, lake, torrent, sea and ocean: but as it sinks into deeper intimacy with the earth it becomes so transformed that no one but an expert analytical chemist could detect that the hard rock we see was made of water and by water. Yet it is so, and even you should know it, for you must have often seen builders mixing mortar, have you not? You have seen them put bucket after bucket of water into that white ring of lime and then mix it with sand. Now, all that water enters into a deep intimacy, called chemical affinity, with the lime and sand, and what was before the fluid crystal water of the stream now becomes the hard cement that our houses are built of!

It is the same with Brahmanism. For just as rain is condensed cloud, so is religion condensed spirit. Spirit condenses in the form of "ideas," which when they come first are as pure as crystal. They then collect in every vessel that is ready to receive them, and the vessels that receive them are "human minds." And they accumulate and become like great lakes, and overflow and become like rivers and flow on and on through many peoples just like simple water. But just like the water, they are never so pure again as when they came from heaven. Even the first human mind that receives a great idea from heaven cannot allow it to pass from him as pure as when he received it. And as it passes through many minds and many countries it becomes more and more impure and sullied by the conditions it comes in contact with, just as our great rivers do. If you trace rivers back to their hills you will find them pure in crystal loveliness there, but as they pass through the country they dissolve all the impurities and become cloudy; and when they have passed out of our great human cities—like London—they are filthy and dark and ugly, being as different from their source as the heavens are from the earth.

So it is with Brahmanism. Its great pure lakes may be called creation, nature, death, the elements, illness and heroics. These great spiritual ideas overflow and permeate all the country round, and their manifold streams cross each other, some passing through bog land, some through jungle, some through gold fields, some through diamond mines, some through mud, and everywhere they become less and less like what they were at first. Yet they have done the great work of spirit. It is great and grand that these ideas have brought down the heavens to the earth even though they have been sullied in the process. And they are only soiled by the very intensity of their work—by the depth to which they have penetrated. In themselves they are as pure as ever and as worthy to excite our love and admiration of their divine source in the spheres. You may find them deeply compounded with the most modern of our own institutions. Just as I told you, you will find water

to be the most important material of which your houses are built, so do I find that our seven-day system of the week, the derivation of our Sunday, the very basis of our religious observances, is a Brahmanic idea. Thus I find while reading books from which to write these lessons for you that the Newari or natives of Nepal in Northern India,—the Wales of India—the very oldest of Hindoo civilised countries, have seven days called Adhwine, Swomwa, Ongwa Budhwa, Bussowa, Subrawa, Sonchowa representing Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This shows how deeply the first and purest ideas of spirit get compounded with our own lives. I could give you the names of the *seven* days of the week according to the Tibetan language, the very oldest of all at present known, but that they would not interest you further than impressing you with your indebtedness to the past.

We who are Spiritualists are trying now to become pure enough in our lives to receive *all* our religious ideas direct from heaven, rather than through turbid creeds and muddy religions. We in a later generation, have seen that the purest spirit of all is love, and all these Brahmanic denominations are saturated with it in various forms and combinations. If ever you have time to study the Hindoo religions I will advise you to set about the task in this way. (1) Ask yourself—how has the spiritual idea of *Creation* brought more love to them? (2) How has the idea of *Nature* done the same? (3) How *Death*? (4) How the *Elements*? (5) How *Disease*? (6) How the *Heroic*? If you find the love that is in them and how it got there you will best realise the grandeur of the Fatherhood of God, and the simplicity of the Brotherhood of Man.

A UNIQUE PICTURE.

THE name of David Duguid is a household word wherever Spiritualism is known. His mediumship is unique in the annals of our cause the world over. Who has not read "Hafed Prince of Persia," and marvelled at the illustrations made from direct spirit drawings contained therein? How many illustrious investigators from all parts of Britain and foreign lands have not sat in his circles and marvelled to see a man in a deep trance, with bandaged eyes, and in the dimmest of dim light, sit hour after hour painting on the canvas as readily as any artist to the manner born would in full light with his eyes wide open? Yet a more modest and retiring man than this Glasgow marvel it would be difficult to find! A generation of Scottish Spiritualists, now rapidly passing away, has borne testimony to this wonder in our midst, and the writer of these lines has many times sat watching with breathless interest this medium painter at his work. Countless numbers of 'direct' paintings have been done by the spirits through this medium, many priceless little gems of art. They are scattered over the world and treasured by hundreds, occupying honoured places in many a home. Their value will grow as years pass, and in the future the world will yet realize what a wonder this quite sedate Scotsman was when in our midst.

One of the largest, and most unique, of the productions through Mr. Duguid's mediumship is a canvas, called "The Pool," for many years in the possession of the writers dearly esteemed friend Mr. James Bowman, of Glasgow. The work was commenced early in 1869, and completed about the middle of the same year, as the appended description,

from the pen of the late Mr. Hay Nisbet testifies. Those who have seen the picture, and are acquainted with the earthly works of the spirit artist, quite recognise Ruysdael's style and technique in the work, and this through a man who had no study of art or artists! At the death of Mr. Bowman the picture remained in possession of Mrs. Bowman, whose friendship the writer has been proud to possess for nearly thirty years, and, when recently in Glasgow, this good lady and earnest spiritualist greatly gratified him by presenting him as a token of her esteem, with the picture in question, so that it might be seen by the rising generation of our people, as a sample of mediumship that stands alone in our experiences. The writer cannot sufficiently express his high appreciation of this act of kindness, for needless to say he is thus made the possessor of a work that has not its equal in the art of to-day. Mrs. Bowman furnishes the annexed particulars in the original manuscript of the signatory, and the account will be read with interest. The picture now adorns the dining room of Mrs. Morse's hotel, and needless to say, it excites boundless astonishment from the many visitors to that popular establishment. Mrs. Bowman added further to her kindly act by including the three celebrated steel engravings made from the remarkable oil paintings through a medium in Boston, named Johns, the plates representing respectively, "The house at Hydesville," "Life's Morning and Evening," and "Guardian Angels." These are the only pictures Mr. Johns produced, and as the engravings have been out of print for many years they are of course invaluable. They are hung with the larger pictures as above.

The following is Mr. Nisbet's account of the production of:

"THE POOL."

This picture was painted by Mr. David Duguid, in a state of trance, first in the house of the subscriber, and afterwards in his own house, in Glasgow. Mr. Duguid professed to be under the direction of Jacob Ruysdael, a Dutch painter of the 17th century, who has also directed him, in the same condition, to paint various other pictures, some of them reproductions of his original works. In this, and in all other paintings, the medium, Mr. Duguid, paints in trance—that is, with his eyes firmly closed, and apparently unconscious of those who are witnessing, or of things taking place around him while in that condition. The abnormal state of Mr. Duguid has been repeatedly tested by putting out the light while he was engaged in painting, to the entire satisfaction of the visitors. The picture was begun in the house of the subscriber on February 5th, 1869, in the presence of Mr. A. Kennedy, and Messrs. Ninian and John Stewart (of Stewart & McDonald), and was continued from that date to be worked on for about three or four months, at intervals of a week, and finished in the medium's own house in three or four additional sittings. At these sittings there were present as witnesses, amongst many others, the following:—Mr. H. M'Bean, Tradeston Colour Works; Mr. A. Glendinning, Port Glasgow; Mr. Robt. Greig, Hillhead; Dr. Angus Smith, Manchester; Mr. T. Adanson, 165, Cowcaddens, Glasgow, etc.

HAY NISBET,

Dec. 19th, 1872.

Printer, 164, Trongate, Glasgow.

DERBY.—The Lyceum in connection with the United Spiritualists' Society at Midland Road, held their first children's treat on Whit-Tuesday. A field had been procured and adults and children had a most enjoyable time. Games and races were indulged in after which a substantial tea was provided, about 80 sitting down. Later on a move was made towards the meeting room where the prizes were distributed, each Lyceumist receiving something, as also a bag with nuts, sweets and a bun. Though the weather had been somewhat stormy everyone expressed themselves as having thoroughly enjoyed the outing. We thank all friends who have helped us in this matter.

"Pa, who is Shylock?" "Great goodness, boy, you attend church and Sunday school every week, and don't know who Shylock was!" said the father, with a look of surprise and horror. "Go and read your Bible, sir."

Lyceum Festivals.

ANNIVERSARY AT SMETHWICK.

THE fourth Anniversary of the Smethwick Lyceum was held on Sunday, the 7th May. At the morning service there was a good audience, the Lyceum children opening with "Hail, all hail," which was well rendered, after which Lisetta Wedekind, a Lyceumist, gave a solo on the zither, and then Arthur Pruden sang a solo. Mr. George occupied the chair, and, in introducing Mrs. Green, the speaker for the day, gave a short history of the Lyceum. Mrs. Green's guides spoke upon "God within us," the subject being introduced by a beautiful inspirational poem. The address showed that in every human being there was the Divine life, and that God was only a name to the man or woman who did not recognise his Divine love. After the address, Elsie Findlay sang "Cathedral Voices," and Mrs. Green gave clairvoyance.

Speaking to the children after the clairvoyance, Mrs. Green stated that Lyceums were heaven sent, as they were conducted the same as in Spirit-land, as seen by A. J. Davis, and that the chain march was a march of love.

In the afternoon there was the usual Lyceum Session, at which there was a large attendance of children, and the platform was filled with visitors, including several friends from Bloomsbury Lyceum. The children went through their exercises in a very creditable manner, which reflected great praise upon Mr. Morris. Mrs. Green spoke very encouragingly to the children, and stated that Smethwick Lyceum would compare favourably with others she had visited in the country, and kindly presented the Lyceum Library with four volumes. After a few words from Mr. J. Hands, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Bird, the session was brought to a close.

At the evening service the hall was crowded to overflowing, many having to stand, and several being unable to gain admission. The children opened with "Welcome, tried friends and true," after which the invocation was given, and then "Swiftly time is bearing us away" was sung. Lisetta Wedekind played a Zither selection, and Elsie Findlay and Arthur Pruden sang a duet "Charity." Mr. Findlay took the chair, and spoke of the responsibility of the teachers in Lyceums. Mrs. Green's guides spoke of "The gifts of the Spirit," and enumerated what they were, stating that the Gift of Charity was the greatest of all. After the address, Elsie Findlay sang: "From beyond earth's shadowland," by request, and Mrs. Green gave clairvoyance. A word of praise is due to Miss George and Mr. Lynch for the manner in which the children were trained in their singing, and the children acquitted themselves well at each service during the day. Altogether the fourth Anniversary of the Smethwick Lyceum was a red-letter day in its history, and we sincerely hope that it may long flourish and be a power for good in the movement.—H.E.K.

DEMONSTRATION AT BRIGHOUSE.

THE Halifax and Huddersfield District Council held their first Demonstration at Brighouse, on Whit-Monday, May 22nd, when the following Lyceums took part: Brighouse, Elland, Halifax No. 1 & 2, Sowerby Bridge, Slaithwaite, West Vale, and Peter Street, Huddersfield. Headed by the Sowerby Bridge Brass Band. The principal streets in the borough were paraded. We could not go through our marching and calisthenics owing to the unfavourable weather, as rain was falling nearly all the time throughout our route.

The Lyceumists marched to the Church in Martin Street, where buns and coffee was served; a tea was provided in the Central Hall for friends. After tea various amusements were enjoyed by the Lyceum Scholars, the Brass Band also playing for the children for dancing. In the Central Hall a Public Meeting was held, when prominent workers in our cause took part. About 1,500 took part in the procession. I think that we shall be much benefited in Brighouse by the Demonstration being held there, as we got praised from all sides for our splendid turn-out. It was the largest gathering of Lyceums and Spiritualists in Brighouse, if not in Yorkshire.—GEORGE CROWTHER, Hon. Sec.

BURNLEY, HAMMERTON STREET.

ON Sunday, April 30th, 1899, we held our annual Lyceum Anniversary, Mr. S. S. Chiswell being the speaker. The Conductors were Mr. Wm. Mason and Mr. Wm. Dean. The morning session consisted of silver and golden chain recitations and musical readings, singing, marching and calisthenics, led by Mr. Dean, the general discipline being all that could be desired. After which recitations and songs were given by Tom Richmond, Abraham Hoole, Edith Ann Wilson, Polly May Wilson, Jane Whitaker, Florence Ashworth, Edith Newell, Clara Wrathall, Maude Dyson, and Lucy Crossley. A very appropriate address was delivered by Mr. S. S. Chiswell, encouraging the children to persevere in reciting and singing, for by so doing they not only developed their memory, but it was a stepping stone to a higher knowledge and nobler actions in the future.

Afternoon service, Mr. S. S. Chiswell lectured on "Reverence, the virtue of children," which was very good, illustrating to the parents that they ought to find the good qualities in their children and cultivate them, by so doing evil qualities will disappear, and to attain this to a great extent depended upon the parents themselves, in showing them practical examples in their every-day lives, by being just, truthful, and cultivating good habits, unselfishness, and leading a good moral life.

Mr. Chiswell took for his evening subject, "The religion of humanity," which was highly appreciated by all present. Anthems were sung by the choir, afternoon and evening, conducted by Mr. Geo. Pratt, choirmaster. Accompanist, Mr. Alf. Singleton. Crowded audiences morning and evening. The collections for the day amounted to £17.

On behalf of the conductors, leaders, and scholars of our Lyceum, I beg leave to publicly thank Mr. S. S. Chiswell for his kindness, and the able manner in which he conducted the services in aid of the general well-being of our Lyceum.—JAS. CROSSLEY, Sec.

UNFURLING OF BANNER.

HIGHER BROUGHTON LYCEUM

HILTON STREET, SALFORD.

The new Banner of the above Lyceum will be unfurled on

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH,

By MRS. FITTON (of Hightown).

Tea will be provided at 4-30, and at 7-0 the chair will be taken by Mr. STAFFORD, who will be supported by Mrs. Fitton, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Cruise, and Messrs. Rotheram, Jackson, Smith, Tinker, Cruise, Brummitt, Shedlock, Morris, and Searle. Mrs. Fitton will unfurl the banner and songs and operetta will be given during the evening. Tickets, 1s., entertainment, 4d. On June 11th, at 2-30, an open session will be held, and the evening meeting will be conducted by Mrs. Peters, who has kindly given her services.

The Monthly Record.

REPORTS.

BIRMINGHAM. A NEW LYCEUM.—On Sunday, May 14th, we formally opened our Lyceum, holding the session at the Masonic Hall, New Street, instead of our usual room. We had a good audience, friends from local societies helping us by their presence; the Smethwick Lyceumists, accompanied by their Conductor and Secretary, were about 20 strong and took part with our members. Mr. Joseph Hands was chairman, and Mrs. Wallis, whom we had the pleasure of welcoming on her return from America, gave an address; in which she spoke of the American Lyceums, and the fraternal greeting she was commissioned to convey from them, to the British Lyceums which she attended. Recitations were given by Frank Evans and Louisa Hands (Birmingham) and a duet sung by Elsie Findlay and Arthur Pruden, accompanied by Miss George (Smethwick). Miss Davis officiated as pianist. The marching and calisthenics taught by Miss A. Harrison were highly appreciated, and drew forth rounds of applause, the exercises especially as they were new to many persons present, being the Swedish Drill as taught at the Athletic Institute. The whole session was so enjoyable that we have been asked to repeat it, and the executive of the B.S.U. have decided to give us the use of their room once a quarter for that purpose. The following officers have been elected:—Conductor, Mrs. C. Deakin; guardian of groups, Miss A. Harrison; captain of guards, Mr. A. Buckley; guards, Louisa Hands and Frank Evans; pianist, Miss Lily Davis; leaders, Messrs. J. Hands, W. Davis, W. Thompson and Miss Barrett.—C.D.

DARWEN.—Sunday, May 7th, being the anniversary, an open session was held, when a goodly number of friends assembled. Lyceum scholars numbering 114. The programme consisted of recitations, songs, readings, marching, and calisthenics. The collection realized £8 8s. 7½d. The best session we have ever had in connection with the Lyceum. The Lyceum is much indebted to the conductor, Mr. H. Holgate, for the interest he is taking in the Lyceum.—W. PEARCE, SEC.

MANCHESTER—Bradford.—We have had very good sessions during May. The exercises creditably done each Sunday, conducted by Mr. Davis. Mrs. Horn and other friends visited and instructed us. Masters Tonge and Selway gave readings and recitations. Our highest attendance for the month from fifty to sixty.

MANCHESTER—Higher Broughton.—An enjoyable entertainment was given by the Lyceum scholars to a large audience in the Hilton Street rooms on May 9th, on behalf of the Whit-week festivities. The programme was opened by a pianoforte solo by Miss E. Smith, who, with Miss Pollitt also commenced the second half with a duet, creditably performed. Master Joe Smith sang very sweetly "Sweet chiming bells," and Miss Lucy Cruise responded to a well-deserved encore for her singing of "Kind words can never die." Percy Sheddock also was encored for reciting "Just at four o'clock," and a brief dialogue in costume, "Deein' bi inches," by Percy and Bessie Tinker met with hearty applause. Another encore was demanded from Annie Stafford for her Jap song "Tootsie Wee." Choruses entitled "Hope will banish sorrow," and "Laughter" were admirably sung by the Lyceum girls, who performed attractive tambourine and fan drills in first rate style, under the direction of Miss Rotheram, R.A.M. This lady also sang with much archness "This and that," and "Nothing in it." The cantata "The white garland" concluded the concert. Mr. Tetlow proposed thanks to the promoters of the concert, Mrs. Brown seconded, and it was carried. Mr. Smith presided, and Miss Rotheram and Mr. Brummitt played the piano accompaniments. On Sunday, May 21st, special services were held for the Whit-week treat to scholars. At 10-30 the annual Lyceum session was held, and at 2-30 an open session was excellently attended by both scholars and friends. A dozen recitations were given by the children, including two from Collyhurst Lyceumists, and prizes for reciting during the previous six months were presented to deserving scholars by Mr. Jackson, treasurer. At 6-30, the service of song "In heaven's name," by Mr. Booth, was admirably sung by Lyceumists, accompanied on the organ by Mr. Brummitt, the story being expressively read by Mr. Tinker. There was a large audience. Satisfactory collections were taken for the treat.

STOCKPORT.—May 7th, Lyceum services good and spiritually inspiring. A service of song "The warning," bearing out the facts and teachings of Spiritualism, and written by Miss E. Medcalf, a local Lyceum leader, was expressively read by Mrs. Richardson, the president of the society, the Lyceum conductor Mr. Edwards presiding. A capital story and the melodies from the Spiritual Songsters

well rendered by the Lyceum. Finding one session inadequate for the proper working out of a full Lyceum programme, we have commenced an afternoon session of one hour's duration for group lessons and classes for development of spiritual gifts. Glad to report good relationship with the society. We are looking forward with pleasing anticipations to the visit of the Executive to Stockport in June.

LONDON, Battersea.—Our annual Meeting was held on May 14th, 1899. Mr. Pavis occupied the post of chairman. The Treasurer's, Secretary's, and Band of Hope Reports were adopted. A new office was then created, and the Editor of the BANNER was unanimously elected as Hon. President. The following officers were also elected: Conductor, Mr. H. Boddington; Secretary and Drill Instructor, Miss Sussons; Treasurer, Mr. Turner; Musical Conductor, Miss Gould; Action Leader, Miss Wyndoe; Group Guardians, Misses Ward and Dent; Group Leaders, Mrs. Boddington, Mrs. Sussons, Miss Morris and the above officers; Band of Hope Superintendent, Mrs. H. Boddington; Secretary, Mr. H. Boddington. At the Band of Hope Meeting on the Tuesday following additional guards selected were Misses Hammond and Bolster. A unanimous vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Boddington was given to the retiring officers.—GERTRUDE SUSSONS, Sec.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE LEEDS LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on June 10th, at Bond Street Rooms, Dewsbury. At this meeting the officers to serve next twelve months will be elected. Business to commence at 3-30 p.m., to be followed with a tea and entertainment. Chairman, Mr. James Kitson. Tea on tables at 4-30, entertainment and social at 7 o'clock; prices, 6d. and 4d., entertainment, 3d. The proceeds in aid of District Council's Funds.—J. E. ARCHER, Hon. Sec., L.D.C.

DISTRICT VISITORS' REPORTS.

N. E. LANCASHIRE.—The following Report was presented to the Conference, and has been handed to the BANNER for publication.—"To Mr. Alfred Kitson, Secretary British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union,—Now that the time of our Conference is at hand, I herewith beg to submit a brief report of my duties as District Visitor to N.E.L. I have visited each Lyceum and found them generally to be in a healthy condition, conduct and attention to readings, etc., being fairly good. The need of a universal system of calisthenics is very clearly seen when visiting Blackpool, where, during the holiday season, Lyceumists from various Lyceums meet together, and when the time of calisthenics arrive, many seem to be lost. With the adoption of the illustrated set of calisthenics by all Lyceums, this difficulty ought to be removed, and also be the means of giving new life and confidence to Conductors and Lyceumists in general. I should also like to see a better state of feeling between Lyceums and Societies, in regard to financial matters, perhaps the Conference will be able to give some consideration and advice on the matter. Yours sincerely—A. WILKINSON.

S. E. LANC. DISTRICT, BACUP.—I found this Lyceum in a poor condition; the weather being wet, no doubt, had a great effect upon the attendance; It was the election of officers. I feel confident, with the staff of officers working together, I shall find a marked improvement on my next visit.

OLDHAM, Bartlam Place.—I found here a good gathering. Marching and calisthenics well done, reading good. Sorry to find them lacking in the first law of progress, hope to find an improvement on my next visit. This Lyceum had a procession on Whit-Friday, when Shaw, Heywood, Royton and Hollingwood took part.

HEYWOOD.—Nice gathering here, physical exercises being the principal feature. I should be pleased to see Groups formed, we want food for the mind as well as the body.

BURY.—This Lyceum is doing well, but a little more order would improve it. Open Sessions first Sunday in each month. A Band of Hope has been formed.—HAROLD TOWLER, D.V.

LANCASHIRE LYCEUM DEMONSTRATION.—Next meeting of Delegates will be held at the Spiritual Hall, Georgiana Street, Bury, on Saturday, June 24th. Tea at 4-30 (6d. each), meeting afterwards. It is essential that marshalls of those Lyceums that are taking part in the demonstration should be present at this final meeting. A concert will be given by the Bury Lyceumists. A hearty invitation is given to Rawtenstall, Heywood, Bacup and Bolton, to take part, which can be arranged at this meeting.—J. B. LONGSTAFF, Hon. Sec., 28, Caton Street, Moss Side, Manchester.