

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

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SOMETHING SWEET TO SING.

JAMES C. UNDERHILL.

SOMETHING sweet to sing in gladness,
Sweet to sing, sweet to sing;
Something to dispel our sadness—
Something sweet to sing;
Thoughts that breathe of pure delight—
Sunny morn dispels the night,
Turning darkness into light—
Something sweet to sing.
Something sweet to sing in sadness,
Sweet to sing, sweet to sing;
Thoughts that tune the heart to gladness—
Something sweet to sing;
Thoughts to help us day by day,
Thoughts to cheer us on our way,
Thoughts of good, in work or play—
Something sweet to sing.
Something sweet to sing in union,
Sweet to sing, sweet to sing;
Earth with angels in communion—
Something sweet to sing;
Thoughts that lift our hearts above,
Thoughts that angels' presence prove,
Ever near us in their love—
Something sweet to sing.
Thoughts to make life's burdens lighter,
Sweet to sing, sweet to sing;
Thoughts to make life's pathway brighter—
Something sweet to sing;
Something full of sweetest cheer,
Making heaven on earth appear,
Thoughts of angels ever near—
Something sweet to sing.

—The Lyceum.

Literary Department.

IN DUTCHLAND.

By Mrs. M. E. CADWALLADER.

How many readers of the LYCEUM BANNER ever thought of spending their holidays in Dutchland? I am sure if you could realize all the strange things you would see there, you would be glad to make the acquaintance of your Dutch cousins, who live about seven hours journey from the shores of England. Your Editor asked me to write about the visit I made to that quaint country, thinking the Lyceum scholars would enjoy reading the account.

We had been attending the Conference of the S.N.F. at Blackpool, but had to leave July 3rd, so as to reach Holland in time to celebrate the "Glorious Fourth," as we say in America. Great preparations had been made for the occasion by the American Delegates to the International Peace Conference at The Hague, and we had received an invitation to attend. You can read a full account of this celebration in other papers, so I will tell you about Dutchland itself. We left Liverpool-st. station at 8-30 p.m., arrived at Harwich about 10 p.m. We heard the guard call "All out for Hook of Holland." Such a rush there was. Soon we found ourselves in the midst of the crowd

making for the steamship, which was only waiting for our special boat train. We found a well fitted steamship with every convenience for the comfort of the passengers. Many of the tourists ate supper on board, before retiring to the berths assigned them. The vessel steamed out and we were on our way to Dutchland.

So far everything was English. What a change in the morning. In other words we went to sleep in English and awoke in Dutch. The first thing we heard in the morning was the stewardess calling out "Hoek van Holland" and we found that £ s. d. were not negotiable, so we were obliged to trade them for Dutch money, and learn its value. A gulden or florin is the same value as one shilling and eightpence. A hundred cents equal one gulden. Instead of a penny we used a stuyver. For twopence we used a piece called a duppeltje, and so on, until we were almost frantic in our endeavors to understand the intricacies of the money of Dutchland.

As soon as the luggage was examined and passed by the Dutch custom officers we were allowed to go on the train. Holland is a small country. Yorkshire is almost as large. The inhabitants are very thrifty and industrious. They are obliged to be so, if for no other reason than to keep their land from slipping away into the North Sea. The land is for the most part below the level of the sea, and if it were not for the artificial defences in the way of dykes and dams, the ocean would soon overflow it.

We enjoyed the journey to The Hague very much. Everything was so novel. The people, the scenery, the quaint houses and above all the numerous windmills we passed en route. From the car window as far as the eye could see there was a stretch of level country, intersected in every direction by the canals which are a characteristic feature of Dutchland.

In forty minutes we were at The Hague, (s'Gravenage) which means the "Forest of the Counts." Alighting from the train we looked for the usual sign, "This way out." Nothing of the kind was to be seen. However, as we saw the other passengers making for a stairway, over which was a sign "Outgang" we followed on. This was our first lesson in Dutch. Soon we were seated at breakfast in the ancient Hotel Vieux Doelen, the headquarters of nine legations from different countries to the Peace Conference. This hotel is said to have been the assembling place of the St. George's fraternity of archers nearly 350 years ago.

The Fourth of July celebration was a great success. The Hon. A. D. White, Ambassador to Germany, and Pres. of the American Delegation, in the name of the U.S. Government, placed a magnificent wreath of gold and silver upon the tomb of Grotius, the celebrated historian, in the Nieuwe Kerk, (new church) Delft, with appropriate ceremonies in honour of the day, and in the presence of representatives of nearly every nation. It was a gala day for all present.

When we visited the Blackpool Conference I carried with me a Union Jack and an American flag as symbols of the fraternal relations existing between England and the United States. They were highly prized as souvenirs of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Chiswell's visit to America last year. They were used on special occasions and at this celebration, the America flag was banked with flowers upon our table at luncheon, in the Stadhuis (Town Hall) Delft, and attracted much attention from the many guests of the American Delegation. The Hon. J. M. de Keyser, eldest member of the Town Council, suggested that the flag ought to be presented by me as a souvenir of the occasion. This I did, and now the pretty silk "Stars and Stripes" which crossed the ocean with me, occupies an honored place before a statue of Grotius in the Delft Museum, where it will always be treasured among the mementos connected with Holland's great statesman, Grotius, of whom they are justly proud. The members of the town council sent me the following day, a letter of acknowledgment expressing their high appreciation of the gift.

It has been well said that to be happy on a trip through Holland, two things are absolutely necessary. Set your watch by Dutch time and carry your own soap. As to the soap, in one instance we found it moulded on an iron rod which was chained to the wash stand. From that we inferred that soap must be a high priced commodity in Dutchland. But the Dutchland time! There was the rub. We were always getting into difficulties with it. Our watches were set to English time. The trains were run by Amsterdam time, a difference of about twenty minutes. So between English time, Dutch time, sun

time, and other times, we were often at our wits end to make trains or keep engagements. We often tipped the driver of our cab to insure our getting to the station on time. We would secure our tickets, rush breathless to the platform to find to our disgust we had twenty minutes to wait. After several such experiences we set our watches by Dutch time; the next day we strolled leisurely to the station and found our train had left twenty minutes before. Then we resigned ourselves to our fate.

s'Gravenhage is the most attractive city in Holland. Its beautiful woods, water walks and splendid promenades entitle it to be called a "Queen of Cities." Flowers are in abundance everywhere down to the water's edge. The canals which intersect it are bordered with trees whose foliage is a sight to behold. Arches are formed from their spreading branches, which make the place a veritable fairyland. The porter of the hotel, who by the way is an encyclopedia of information, told us to be sure and visit the Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen. I gasped, "What is it?" With a supercilious smile he explained that it was the sight of The Hague, viz: The Picture Gallery. I felt relieved and found some very fine pictures there.

We visited the Huis ten Bosch, (House in the Woods) where the sessions of the Peace Conference were held. This charming palace of the Queen contains many treasures of art, in the way of choice paintings and tapestries.

Space will permit no detailed description. We were much interested in the monument erected by the Dutch people in commemoration of their Independence, upon which is inscribed the two following mottoes: "Zoo God vor ons is, wie zal tegen ons zijn?"—"If God be with us, who shall be against us?" and "Wat God tezamen gevoeg heeft, scheide de mensch niet!"—"What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

From The Hague we journeyed to Scheveningen, along the Oude Ueg (old way) through a beautiful green wood. Scheveningen is a fashionable resort upon the North Sea. You can also reach there by steam tram. The village people are mostly engaged in the fishing industry. The costumes worn by them are worthy of comment. The women wear a metal head dress, sometimes of gold or silver. This is covered with a cap, from which protrudes on each side of the forehead an ornament with the pendants attached, which evidently serves to keep this novel headgear in place. This helmet is prized in many instances as an heirloom, and no money would purchase one. The skirts worn by the women are very wide, they evidently have the desire to look as bulky as possible. Over the shoulders a small shawl is pinned. They proudly stroll along the beach on Sunday afternoons seemingly unmindful of the curious glances cast at their odd costumes. Every year about 20,000 visitors go to Scheveningen to enjoy the bathing. The Kursaal is one of the remarkable places of Dutchland.

From The Hague we went to Amsterdam. This city is built upon ninety islands connected by about 300 bridges. As in The Hague, "Grachten" or canals are used as avenues of commerce. Thackeray said that Amsterdam: "was as good as Venice," but the Gondolas and ancient palaces are missing. In their stead are rows of handsome houses of a style peculiar to Dutchland, many of them distinctly modern in character, others unique in appearance.

Having visited the principal places of interest, we made an excursion to Broek, the Island of Marken, and the dead cities of the Zuyder Zee.

On the way to Marken, the steamer stopped at Brock long enough to enable us to go through the village, which has the reputation of being the cleanest place in the world. It reminded me of the toy villages the children play with. We could scarcely realize that it was the home of grown up folks. The houses seem scarcely larger than children's playhouses, and the people are so afraid that their houses will get dirty, that they take off their shoes before entering. It was amusing to see the baker and butcher doff their shoes and go into the houses in their stocking feet. In fact, cleanliness is carried to such an excess, that until 1858, a vehicle was not permitted in the place for fear the horses should soil the streets.

Monnickendam is called a dead city. It used to be a flourishing town, but is now almost deserted.

Next we went to the island of Marken. Of all places in Dutchland, this proved the most interesting. There are only 1700 people on the island, and 900 have never left the place. The natives are very proud of their peculiar costume and will allow no one but those born there to wear it. This Markenite costume is wonderful to behold. The men wear blouses and very baggy bloomers reaching to their knees with dark stockings. The unmarried men wear two silver buttons to fasten their collar while those who are married wear gold buttons. The women and children dress alike. Red is the predominant color. We visited the houses and the people who seemed greatly pleased with the interest we manifested in their queer costume, which they took great pains to show to us. At first-sight they look like a lot of rag dolls so queer is the combination of materials used in the construction of their dresses. A little girl showed us her bodice which

was embroidered elaborately in gay colors. She pointed to her sleeves so we could notice the bright material which was used for the short upper one, which is a distinctive feature of the costume. Both her skirt and apron had strips of different materials sewed in at the top, the apron was made of three colors of print. A cap fitted tightly over her forehead and ears, while a long curl stuck out each side of her face, and she wore wooden shoes. Her dress was a sample of all the others, even the tiniest tot in the cradle wearing a cap. The boys dress like the girls until they are six years old, then they have a brown patch sewed in their caps, and at seven they are allowed to dress like the men.

We did not see a bedstead in any of the houses, so I asked a little girl where she slept. The child took me to a closet, crept inside, and laid down on a shelf to illustrate that it was her bed. How would the readers of the LYCEUM BANNER enjoy sleeping in a cupboard? On a closer examination of this novel sleeping apartment we found that the entire family slept in this manner upon shelves, one above another. In this instance three children slept on one shelf. The beds seemed comfortable enough, and were decorated with fancy articles of needlework. The pillow-cases and bed spreads were marvels of native embroidery. In the winter, the lower portion of the houses are flooded with water, so the family live in the loft. From Marken we returned to Amsterdam, much pleased with our excursion.

Rotterdam, Delft, The Hague, and Amsterdam, had their special attractions, but Marken, with its primitive people, bizarre costumes, and strange modes of living, was most interesting. We left Dutchland, with regret, and returned to London by way of the Hook of Holland, with ample time to rest and think of the many pleasing incidents of our stay, which are stored away in memory's book for future use. In spite of our difficulties with the Dutch time and the Dutch money we felt amply repaid for the time spent. I will close by hoping the readers of the LYCEUM BANNER will have the pleasure of visiting this land of novelty, only a few of the attractions of which have been brought to notice in this already too long article.

[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]
LORD OF HIMSELF.

BY ANNIE E. FITTON.

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

DORIS released her hands, and passed them soothingly over his dark hair, and insensibly her soft touch soothed and calmed him, the heavy sobbing gradually ceased, and heartily ashamed of his childishness, as he mentally termed it, he dashed away the still rising tears, and exclaiming, "what a fool I am, to be sure," scrambled to his feet, and crossing the room, plunged his face into a bowl of water. It was the best thing he could have done; the tension of brain and heart relieved, he was the better able to face his position and meet the accusation brought against him.

Doris puzzled over the mystery until her head ached, but she could offer no solution, only reiterate her belief in the absurdity of associating Ralph with the robbery.

"And as to our father suspecting you—I simply don't believe it, you have misunderstood him, Ralph. You were in such a white heat of passion that you were unable to discriminate."

"Well, others are quite prepared to put me down a thief," replied Ralph, gloomily.

"Oh, I daresay, but their opinion will not count for much," said Doris, contemptuously.

"I don't know that, Mr. Edge is a partner, and no friend to any of us."

"But the very fact of being a partner should urge him to prove your innocence," said Doris, shrewdly.

"But what if he hates me? I know Fred does."

This was too probable to be disputed, though Doris was unconscious of the extent and bitterness of his animosity.

"I say, Doris, I'm nearly dying for something to eat." Doris smiled, relieved to find the tragic vein exchanged for one more prosaic.

"I dare say you are. Then while I make a raid upon the larder will you go to Guy, he is worrying himself to fiddle strings about you, and fretting because he can't come to you."

"Poor little chap! Doris, I must be a most unlucky beggar, I am always in trouble one way or another."

"Because you are not lord of yourself, master of your own actions," said his sister, gravely.

"And am I to blame for that? I did not make myself."

"You did not, and yet you are making yourself, every day and every hour."

"How do you make that out?"

"We make ourselves by the way in which we let experience teach us and circumstances mould us," was the reply.

"There is a strong flavour of Drummond about that theory," said Ralph, with a meaning smile, which called up a vivid blush, to hide which, Doris hurried from the room.

CHAPTER VIII.

"Ralph, what an age you have been!" exclaimed Guy, crossly, as his brother entered his room.

"Have I? Well, I have been working off some surplus indignation, exploding a bit just to relieve my mind," replied Ralph, as he edged himself on the bed and looked down upon the boy with a faint smile.

"And what is it all about—another row at the bank?" Ralph motioned assent and then briefly explained.

"And they suspect *you* of taking the things!" exclaimed Guy, horror struck, "What a blooming set of idiots!" I hope you pitched into them, Ralph."

"I'm afraid I said too much and did myself harm instead of good. That's me all over, letting my temper run away with my discretion."

"Discretion be hanged, who can think of that in the face of such insolence. Ralph, its just like Uncle James, he is mean enough for anything, and Fred, too.

"You don't mean the robbery?" asked Ralph, in surprise.

"No, though I don't think Fred would be above even that," added the boy. "Who do you think has done it, Ralph?"

"I have not the ghost of an idea, all our men are honest, besides, what chance have they? the keys are kept in our possession."

"I thought Martin had them sometimes."

"So he has, but he is as one of ourselves, and as true as steel"

"Does Fred ever have them?" asked the boy, thoughtfully.

"Very rarely; he *has* been sent into the strong room, but not lately, to my knowledge."

"Does Father bring them with him every night?"

"Oftener than not."

"And who has them when he does not bring them?"

"Uncle James, of course; what a capital inquisitor you would make, old fellow," said Ralph, teasingly.

"Never you mind;" then, noticing Ralph's pale face and tired look, he exclaimed, "I say, Ralph, have you had any dinner yet?"

"Not even the smell of it, and that reminds me I'll go now and see what Doris has foraged for me."

"Come back again, will you?"

Ralph promised, and, left to himself, Guy settled himself on his back, and his busy brain was soon engrossed in the mystery of the robbery, and having a little theory of his own on the subject, he was vainly trying to fit it in with the facts as far as they were known to him.

"It's awfully tiresome to think out," he sighed, "but it's a shame that dear old Ralph should be suspected of such a

mean trick." "Oh, Father," he exclaimed, as Mr. Cardwell at that moment entered the room, "I was just wanting you."

The banker was looking worried and anxious. The theft of the jewels was causing him intense annoyance, and his son's hurried exit from the bank had made him so uneasy that he had hastened his own departure, and was relieved to find Ralph sufficiently recovered from his passion to be apparently enjoying a substantial meal. He had then found his way to Guy's room, and as he took a seat by the bed he said with a smile, "And how is my little lad getting on?"

"Oh, I'm all right, but Ralph—Father, you don't think he has done this horrid thing, do you?"

"No, I do not; though who has done it is a mystery, that perhaps the police may solve, for I cannot."

"I don't understand why Ralph should be suspected at all. What had he to do with it?"

"The casket was entrusted to him to place in the strong room," said the father, absently.

"Who first suggested that Ralph might have done it?"

"Your Uncle, I believe, at least his remarks pointed that way," said Mr. Cardwell, with some hesitation, feeling quite unable to recall the exact form in which the suggestion had been clothed.

"Have you questioned Fred at all, Father?"

Mr. Cardwell nodded assent.

"Of course he did his best to make you suspect Ralph?"

"In a vague sort of way I must say he did."

"I knew it!" exclaimed Guy, "the mean fellow!" Father, he knows more about it than he will tell."

"Why do you think that?" asked the banker, startled at the boy's vehemence and the confidence of his tone.

But here Guy was non-plussed. He felt he was right, but could give no convincing reason for his belief.

"Well, it's to be hoped the detective will find the culprit," said his father, rising.

"Father," exclaimed the boy, earnestly, grasping his hand, "Whatever comes of it don't think Ralph has done it; poor fellow, he has been in such a state about it, he thinks you *do* suspect him."

"I will undeceive him, then; the Cardwell's are no robbers, are they, lad?" said the father, as he looked down into the eager pleading face with a re-assuring smile.

Entering the dining-room, Mr. Cardwell found the bird had flown, and once more ascending the stairs he made his way to Ralph's room, from whence issued the plaintive tones of the violin. Quietly entering, he watched the youth for a few moments unperceived. The dark shapely head was bent over the fiddle, and the slender figure and still boyish face, despite the gravity which these last few months of struggle and tempest and endurance had impressed upon the firmly closed lips, which were not without a touch of sweetness, appealed to the Father's heart, and following an impulse that surprised himself, he walked up to the unconscious youth, and laying his hand on his shoulder, said quietly, "Ralph, my boy."

Ralph started and lowered his violin, at the same time, raising his head with a quiet dignity which the other rightly interpreted.

"Ralph," continued his father, "you misunderstood me this morning. I have no more doubt of your innocence in this unfortunate affair than I have of my own. Who the culprit may be is more than I can even guess at, but I am well convinced my son has had nothing to do with it."

It was frankly said, and there was a kindness in both face and voice to which the youth was not slow in responding.

His face lit up as he replied, "Thank you, Father, I thought you did suspect me, and I'm afraid I lost my temper, as usual."

"Well, rather; when will you learn to control yourself, Ralph?"

Ralph coloured painfully. "Has anything come out yet about the diamonds, Father?"

"Nothing; we have put it into the hands of a detective, a clever fellow, who has unravelled many a hard knot in his time; I hope he will find the clue here, it worries me dreadfully. In all our experience as a banking house we have never yet had such an unpleasant case to meet."

"But Lady Coventry cannot suspect you of abstracting the diamonds," exclaimed Ralph, hotly.

"They were intrusted to us and we are responsible for their safe keeping."

"Is it possible she was mistaken in the different items in the casket?"

"No, she made out the list, as usual, locked the box, and brought it to us with her own hands. You know how methodical she is, and may imagine her surprise when she found the several articles missing."

"Have you seen the detective, Father?"

"Yes, I sent for one after you left. He has interviewed the men and asked countless questions. Of course he wanted to see you, being the last person to whom the casket was entrusted. I told him you had just left, so he will be down here this evening. See that you are at home, Ralph, and do try to answer his questions without feeling yourself insulted."

Ralph coloured painfully. "I know I forgot myself this morning, Father, but Uncle James was so offensive with his insinuations."

"He was, I grant that. He understands the art of making himself disagreeable," added Mr. Cardwell with some asperity. "I have thought, Ralph," he continued, "you seem to have settled down to your work better the last few months, taking more interest in it. I am pleased to see it, put your heart into your work and it becomes interesting."

"Poor Ralph! what could he say? His heart was no more in his work than it had ever been, he had but succeeded in disguising his antipathy more effectually, and forcing himself to closer attention. But his father had noticed this it seemed, which so far was encouraging."

Mr. Cardwell was struck by his son's silence, and though somewhat obtuse where the motives and springs of conduct were in question, being too apt to judge merely from the surface aspect, unthinking of what might lie beneath, a slight suspicion of what the youth's silence might portend crossed his mind. He felt shut out, somehow, from his son's confidence, and experienced a very real sense of disappointment that it should be so, but he had only himself to thank for it. He had never detached his mind sufficiently from his own engrossing pursuits to enter into the boy's tastes and widely different pursuits, and now that he was merging into manhood, the barrier that divided them, if not broken down, must in the end separate them effectually. And now for the first time he wished he had acted otherwise. The father's heart, too long stifled and ignored, was beginning to assert itself, and with a vague sense of uneasiness he saw the difficulty of retracing lost ground and making good his claim to his rightful place in his son's confidence and affection, which so far he had not taken the trouble to secure.

While these thoughts in a dim undefined fashion were passing through his mind, his eyes were taking in the different

items in the room, the books, the few artistic trifles which Ralph had gathered around him, and lastly, the violin lying on a chair close by. The sight of the latter suggested an inquiry which broke a silence fast becoming embarrassing.

"You still cling to the fiddle, Ralph! How are you getting on with it? Anything fresh in the composition line?"

Ralph's surprise was reflected in his face. He could not understand his father to-night. Hitherto his musical hobby had been a subject tabooed between them, treated with a contemptuous shrug, and dismissed as unworthy of serious consideration and a decided hindrance to a business career.

Was his father chaffing him, he wondered, as he replied with a lighting up of the dark luminous eyes, "I have written a sonata lately, and I am thinking of a setting for an old song I came across the other day."

"Well, play me the sonata, will you, though I have not the faintest notion what the thing is," continued the elder man frankly, "Its music of some sort I suppose, so play away, I won't be too critical," and seating himself in Ralph's easy chair he motioned his son to begin.

With an amused smile, which he had some difficulty in hiding, Ralph complied, and was soon lost to all save the melody he was evoking.

The banker listened for a time to the unaccustomed strains, but the comfortable chair, and the soft adagio movement into which the theme changed, were not without their effect, and as the young musician ceased and turned to his auditor he found that individual in a sound sleep.

"Poor old dad," he murmured, "Orpheus has been too much for him this time. Whatever possessed him to ask me to fiddle for him?"

Taking up the instrument again Ralph continued his practice until a drowsy voice interrupted him with the remark—"That's a long sonata of yours, Ralph."

Ralph laughed! "You have been asleep, Father. This is a Scotch air I am playing now."

"Might be Dutch for anything I can tell," said the banker with a yawn. "Well, Ralph, I don't know that my opinion is of any value where music is concerned, so I won't attempt to criticise, particularly as you say I have been dozing instead of listening, but it seems to me you have learnt the knack of it, and if a few more lessons from a professional would help you you shall have them. What say you?"

"It's just what I have been longing for but I am too short of cash at present to indulge myself. Thanks, Father, its awfully good of you to think of it."

"Then that's settled," exclaimed Mr. Cardwell, jumping up, "and Ralph," he continued, laying his hand on the youth's shoulder with an affectionate pressure, "continue to improve at the bank, do your best there, and as to the music—why, you may find time for both it seems to me."

Ralph listened to this admission with a touched surprise; it was a concession he had not expected.

"I think so, too, Father, and I will promise you to do my best."

And so the two parted, the elder congratulating himself upon his tact, and the younger inclined to suspect himself of dreaming, so unaccustomed was he to any display of parental interest in his pursuits. *(To be Continued.)*

OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS.

Who shall say that we are not blessed with guardian angels—our own dear loved ones, passed from our sight, 'tis true, but still near us, and eager, as of old, to

guide, help and shield us from danger, if we will but heed their warnings.

Little Dorothy Garner was a winsome child of some seven years old—old enough to realize the void in the house occasioned by the loss of her mother, who had just been taken from earth life. Her father, distracted with grief, refusing to see aught but the death of the body, and not realizing the birth into a fuller and more glorious life of the spirit of his loved one, could scarcely bear to hear the child in her play, speaking to her mother as if she were still at her side, ready with her love and sympathy in all her childish pleasures. At night the little one would still, as before, pray, "God bless Papa and Mamma"—it was useless to tell her, as he did, that she was gone; the child would not believe it—"No, no," she would say, "Mamma still here—I cannot see her, but I hear her saying, 'Dolly, dear, be good and love Papa.'" The bereaved husband smiled pityingly—he wished *he* could hear the loved voice, feel the touch of the "vanished hand;" but alas! from the bourne to which she had gone no traveller returns—such was his belief. One day the little one was playing with her doll in a room by herself; she had planted herself on the hearthrug, and was talking to her doll in a way we all understand, when, clear and distinct came "Dolly, Dolly, come here, dear!" With a glad cry of "Mother, mother is come back!" The child sprang to her feet, and, dropping her doll, ran out of the room still crying, "Mother, Mother." She had scarcely reached the hall, when a loud crack was heard, and on entering to see what caused it, a heavy picture was found lying in a thousand pieces on the very spot where little Dorothy had been playing, the doll which she had dropped being crushed beyond recognition. The father, clasping his little one in his arms, could not but acknowledge with heartfelt love and gratitude, that his darling was right, that mother *was* near and could penetrate to some extent at least, the thin veil that parts this world from the next. Led by the hand of his little child, he soon, like she did, heard the voice of his loved one, felt the touch of the vanished hand, and settled down to patiently wait till the call came for him to join her in the sweet Summerland of Heaven. VERA, Birmingham.

The Outlook.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.—No. LXVI.

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

WILL Lyceum Secretaries please note that the price of "The Spiritual Songster" is 3s., postage 4d., to those who are in the Union. To all other Lyceums the price is 3s. 6d., postage 4d. The above are the prices, no matter how few or how many are wanted. Lyceum Scholars will be supplied at the same rates, if they enclose a note from their Secretary certifying they are members of their Lyceum, or, better still, get your Secretaries to order them for you.

The price of the Jubilee medals, in future, will be—white ones 1s. each; bronze ones 5s. each; cases to keep them in 1s. each. The number in stock is very limited, and when they are sold no more can be got, as the dies are destroyed. All orders should be sent to me.

THE E.C. will visit Bloomsbury Lyceum, Birmingham, on October 21st, when special services will be held. In the morning there will an open session, and services in the afternoon at 2-30 and evening at 6-30, when the members of the Executive will deliver brief addresses.

MESSRS. J. J. MORSE (president), S. S. Chiswell, and Thomas O. Todd, are appointed a sub-committee of the Executive, to confer with the sub-committee elected by the Executive of the Spiritualist's National Federation to consider the relationships between Societies and Lyceums, and draft a basis of agreement. Their first meeting will probably be held in Liverpool on the 16th of September. We trust their efforts will prove highly successful.

I AM sorry to report that the Lyceum, meeting at Hollis Hall, Sheffield, has been closed for over twelve months.

THE Lyceum, meeting at Langsett-road, Sheffield, celebrated its first anniversary on July 30th. The children sang special hymns, led by Mr. Caswell, in a creditable manner. I was pleased to find them very orderly and attentive throughout the services, notwithstanding the excessive heat. There is the making of a splendid Lyceum at Langsett-road.

ALTHOUGH Wisbech Lyceum is isolated, the officers never having seen any other Lyceum, yet the executive found something new in the form of the star and wheel marches. We hope to see this Lyceum become a centre for the south-east districts, so that they can have their field days and District Councils. Why not?

ALL invitations to the Executive to visit Lyceums during 1900 should be sent to me as early as possible. The conditions of said visits are, that the collections be denoted to the Union, towards defraying the travelling expenses.

The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

DEAR RIDDLERS.—Successful solvers are Alfred Ready, Nina Shilling, and R. T. Tent. Correct answers to August riddles as follows:—

Mr. Cooke's contributions:

Alphagram: *Cart* (hart). Omegram: Band (bank).
Encylogram: *Daisy* (dairy).

Prize Puzzle: Perfection.

Our undefatigable friend, Mr. John Cooke, is still persevering with his original examples of riddles. He has now commenced Class Two (see page 62 last vol.) and is constructing consecutively. They are as follows:—

METAGRAM.

A hedge of *hawthorn*, trimmed by a tanner;
Therein find contributor to LYCEUM BANNER.

DEFINIGRAM.

An island am I, most beautiful and fair;
Curtail, and you will see a young bear.

DECAPITATION.

I steer the ship far o'er the sea;
Behold and behold a beautiful tree.

Correct answer to following Prize Puzzle is two words.

TRANSPOSITION.

My whole is in the *Salt Sea*,
Yet I wait on dry land;
My customers oft-times please me
With a "tip" placed in my hand.
I, of the feminine gender be,
And dearly love to "spoon"
With city clerks who visit me
In the town refreshment room.

This is all this time. Contributions from old and new riddlers are always welcome. J. HARRY BUNN.
83, Blenheim Road, Reading-on-Thames.

Our Temperance Department.

THE SPIRITUALISTS' NATIONAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

"FOR OTHER'S SAKE."

OFFICERS:—PRESIDENT, Mr. A. Smedley, Park Mount, Belper; TREASURER, Mr. G. Ormerod, Rishton, near Blackburn; SECRETARY, Mr. T. E. Morgan, 15, Burcot Road, Meersbrook, Sheffield, to whom all communications concerning this Department must be addressed.

PLEDGE.

I hereby promise to abstain from all intoxicating liquor as a beverage.

TEMPERANCE NOTES AND NEWS, No. 1.

By T. E. MORGAN, SEC., S.N.T.L.

DEAR FRIENDS.—The Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER, ever desirous of promoting all good things in his paper, has invited me to open a Temperance Department in these pages. He has very generously accorded hospitality to the work of the Spiritualists' National Temperance League, about which I am desired to inform you all from month to month. So, acting on these invitations, I now make my bow and will at once proceed to tell you something about our League, founded by Mr. G. H. Bibbings, who was its first Secretary, a post which is now filled by myself.

The officers of the League are as stated at the head of this article, where you will also see our Motto, and the Pledge we all take. A large number of pledge books are out, and I should be pleased to hear from all who took them prior to July this year, and for them to send the number of signatures and fees they have in hand. The annual subscription to the League is threepence, so the subscriptions of all who signed prior to July this year are of course due, and should be paid to the person whose book they signed or to me as Secretary. I understand that there are about 1,500 members on the books, but cannot be sure, until I hear from those who have the pledge books. We should be pleased to hear from Secretaries of Lyceums asking for pledge books as this is a work which seems to well fit in with their work.

I shall be pleased to announce each month the names and addresses of those who have taken books, so as to give all persons interested the information as to where they may sign.

Temperance is a work which needs to be pushed in our movement, our mediums being so sensitive are susceptible to the drink temptation and are liable to be drawn into its baleful influence, so let us do what we can by providing some deterrent to this, by getting them to become members of our League.

Some of our Societies have started "Bands of Hope," this is a step in the right direction and I hope to hear of all Societies doing this. If we can teach our children the evils of the drink traffic, not only by the usual lectures, but teach them *how* and *why* it injures us, much good will be accomplished, and the lessons so learned will be more likely to be remembered in after life than the work in the Bands of Hope I used to attend. The most prominent Band of Hope I ever remember attending was about 16 years ago, when the Mayoress of the town was there and pinned a piece of blue ribbon on each of our coats, I remember how big I felt on that occasion—just as if my shoes or hat would be too small to hold me, and she also gave me my pledge-card, which I still keep.

Then what of our older friends? There are many of them who could sign our pledge; I know many older ones say that if a man has not got judgment enough to know when

he has drunk sufficient, he is not of much account. But, let our friends who are strong enough to leave off at the right time, remember that the more sensitive a man is the more liable he is to fall.

Again, they say, that by signing a pledge it is signing away their freedom, and they like to be in a position to do that which they think best. I would ask them to notice our Motto: "For other's sake;" personal example is a great factor amongst the human race, and no doubt by you giving up a luxury which you can well do without, it may prove a help to some friend to do likewise, and so keep with us some good friend who might fall through this abomination.

We are told that drink does nothing but evil, and as a general principle this is only too true, but as we were taught when we were at school that "there are exceptions to every rule." I know of a case where a certain person went a few miles from home to conduct a semi-private circle, but the drink-craving came on him, as it had many a time before, and he was decidedly the worse when he got to his destination. One gentleman present was so disgusted with the carrying on that he began to reflect what it might be were he in a similar position, so he went out and signed the pledge, so has to have a safeguard against such a condition for himself.

The following friends have pledge books and will be pleased to receive signatures, and the annual subscription of threepence. The pledge-card is one penny, and is well worth the money.—Mr. Griffith, Secretary, Milton Hall Lyceum, Bradford; Miss Whitaker, Secretary, Keighley Lyceum; Mr. L. M. Yeadon, of Temperance Hall Society, Bradford; Mrs. Beardsall, of Bradford; Mr. Burchell, of Milton Hall Society, Bradford; Mr. W. E. Inman, of Sheffield; Mr. J. W. Lowrey, of Leeds.

I shall be pleased to publish the names of pledge-book holders each month, as they are applied for. Please address all your communications to T. E. Morgan, as at the head of this article.

THE NEW TRACTARIANISM.—Our old and indefatigable friend, Bevan Harris, of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham, has sent us a sample case of his Tract Distribution enterprise. It is full of good things, neatly cased, and marvellously cheap. Send him 3d. for a sample case, and give the contents to any enquiring friends. Bro. Harris's idea is alike novel, and most useful.

THE CHILDREN'S PROGRESSIVE LYCEUM.—This movement has two able advocates in Mr. J. J. Morse and Miss Morse, the editors of the 'Lyceum Banner,' which, in its August issue, announces that Mr. J. Ainsworth has purchased a house at Blackpool with a 'view to ultimately handing it over, with all the furniture, books, &c., to trustees for a "Lyceum Home of Rest." The 'Banner's' Golden Group now numbers 1,353, and as it inculcates kindness, love, and temperance in all things it should exert an influence for good upon the members.—*Light*.

THE BANNER congratulates Bro. J. B. Longstaff on the beautiful presentation recently made him. It is an honour well won and worthily bestowed. Our good brother has been seriously ill for the past five weeks, but we are glad to know that his health is now returning.

LYCEUMISTS will do well to use Miss M. Medcalf's useful recitation, "Orthodox Sunday Schools *versus* Spiritualists' Lyceums," printed in this number. It was recited at the Stockport Lyceum, on the occasion of the recent visit of the Union's Executive, and gained hearty commendations from all who heard it.

MR. MORSE is busily engaged in re-arranging his famous Lantern Lecture for the coming Season. He is separating it into two distinct lectures, as a number of new views are being prepared. One lecture will be devoted to American Spiritualism, while the other will be devoted entirely to Spiritualism in Great Britain. Each lecture will conclude with a fine series of slides pertaining to Materialisation, Slate writing, spirit photographs and other phenomena. Bookings are already fixed for Dover, Bootle, Liverpool, and other places. Write soon and secure a date.

Lyceum Recitation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VERSUS SPIRITUALIST LYCEUM.

A Dialogue for two persons.
By MISS E. MEDCALF.

FLORENCE MEETING NELLY :

Nelly, what makes you look so happy and gay,
Whilst at your work, at school or play,
Whenever we meet, you never look sad,
Pray tell me what makes you so merry and glad?

NELLY.

I cannot be sad when Angels are near,
My loved one's who come to guide and to cheer,
Who invite me to fulfil a glorious mission,
Under their care and loving tuition.

FLORENCE.

Those who are 'dead,' are you meaning, Nell?
If so, pray how can you hear them tell,
When they are in Heaven, so far away,
Where all is so holy, and as bright as day!

NELLY.

I suppose at school your teacher has told,
That 'Heaven' is a place all paved with gold,
Where angels are singing all through the day,
Thus passing their lives away?

FLORENCE.

Yes, and besides our Sunday school teacher,
At our church, Mr. Goodall, the preacher,
Preaches unless our sins be forgiven,
We cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
That Jesus our Saviour forgiveth all sin,
If we but believe, and trust only in Him,
If at the last moment we ask for His grace,
In Heaven we'll meet Him face to face.

NELLY.

And have you Faith, do you believe,
That Jesus will ever our sins receive,
That His blood will our souls ever free,
And that at last we his face shall see?

FLORENCE.

Do you not believe in Jesus, Our Lord,
And read your Bible, God's holy word,
What is your Faith, what is your creed,
Who is your friend in the time of your need?

NELLY,

We have no Dogmas, Faith or Creed,
We are from such for ever freed;
We love to study, prove and test,
Defending all that's true and best.
It has been proved times o'er again,
That at death body and spirit are parted, twain;
That the spirit lives on for evermore,
That our body decays and is seen no more.
Would it be right, dear Sister Flo,
That thief and liar to heaven could go,
By simply calling at the last,
"Oh Lord forgive my wicked past"?
This is what Spiritualists teach,
What Angels teach and mediums preach,
That each shall reap as he has sown,
Each kindly deed's by brightness shown;

That every action we do here,
Is plainly shown to the spirit sphere,
That every woman, child or man,
Are their own saviours, for we can
Return to earth from our future sphere,
To right the wrongs we did while here.

FLORENCE.

Why, surely Nell, yours is a noble cause,
It seems to be God's truest laws,
That when he calls our spirits home,
'Tis not above the clouds we roam,
But that He wills that we should guide,
When we have reached the other side,
Our loved ones who are yet on earth,
'Till they shall reach the higher birth.

NELLY.

Yes, 'tis sweet to think our loved ones come
And mingle with us in our homes,
So, may I ask the friends around
If from this some light they've found?
We welcome all who join our band,
To share with us the light from Spirit-land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCIL.
—Secretaries of Lyceums please note that the Quarterly meeting of the above Council will be held at Brighthouse on Saturday, September 30th, 1899.—G. E. BAKER, Sec.

THE Leeds District Lyceum Council will hold their Quarterly Conference on Saturday, September 30th, in the Armley Spiritualist Church, Thacker Lane, at 3 o'clock, when it is desirable that all Lyceums in the District should send representatives.—J. W. WEBSTER, Council Secretary.

THE *Two Worlds* has our thanks for favours received.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.—"All matters especially interesting to Lyceums are gladly received by us," says the *Torch*, and then comes this generous remark, "but friends should remember that the first communication should be courteously made to the LYCEUM BANNER."

"THE HARBINGER OF DAWN" is a new monthly Journal published in San Francisco, and edited by our old friend, Ernest S. Green. It is full of interesting matter pertaining to all aspects of spiritual and psychic phenomena. It is adorned (?) by a crude engraving on the cover that could be dispensed with to advantage. We can receive subscriptions for the *Dawn* at 6/6 per year, post free.

TEN valuable prizes will be given to the ten largest distributors at Christmas, and a possible surplus for the Lyceum Union during the next year if the distribution is very large.—ADVT.

Humour is out of place where love is lacking.

We learn better to appreciate purity as we rise to it ourselves.

What some call imaginary dangers are often intuitive warnings.

It is said that a truth-telling business man would ruin his trade. This speaks ill for advertisers.

"Then she doesn't look with favor on your suit?" "No; I made a mistake in proposing to her in golf costume."

She—"What are they all coming in for?" He—"They are dissatisfied with the umpire's decision." She—"Oh! Are they going to bolt?"

Mother (instructing her little son's devotions)—"And now, Willie, pray for grandma's safety." Willie—"Does she want a bike, too?"

"Congratulate me, old boy—at last I'm on the top round of the ladder of success." "Well, here's to you; but I'll bet you got there by turning it upside down."

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.

Adopted as the official organ of the British Spiritualists Lyceum Union, May, 1891.

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

PRICE ONE PENNY. POST FREE, 1½d.

J. J. MORSE: Editor and Publisher.
FLORENCE MORSE: Associate Editor.

Assisted by Lyceum workers in all parts of the world.

Office—Florence House, Osnaurgh Street, Euston Road, London, N.W.

Special Reduced Terms to Lyceums and Societies.

Twelve Copies 10½d., 18 copies 1¼, 24 copies 1/9, 36 copies 2/7½, 48 copies 3/4. All orders for four dozens and upwards at tenpence per dozen. No less than twelve copies supplied at these rates. Odd numbers, if supplied in usual parcels, ¾d. each. All parcels sent carriage paid at above rates. Accounts due quarterly. Receipts returned in parcels, unless ¼d. stamp is sent to cover return postage. Send all orders on the last Monday of the month.

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P.O. on EUSTON ROAD, N.W.

The Trade supplied by: F. Brett & Co., 5, Pilgrim Street, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.

The Lyceum Banner.

SEPTEMBER, 1899.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

Our New Department. IN this month's BANNER we commence a new department. It is devoted to the work of the Spiritualists' League of Total Abstinence, and will be conducted each month by Mr. T. E. Morgan, of Sheffield. For a very long time past we have made frequent endeavours to establish a department of the kind above mentioned. Our good friend Mr. T. O. Todd at one time was good enough to promise to do it, and articles from his pen appeared respectively in our issues for January and February of last year. But his illness and the stress of many duties prevented him from continuing the work. Several friends who were constantly urging us to open a Temperance Section, when asked to contribute articles, or conduct such section, suddenly refrained from any further suggestions! The subject was put aside in the hopes that the right man would ultimately arise, and he having now come we hope our Temperance friends will recognise our desire to place a part of the paper at their services, by doing their best to increase our circulation.

That Lesson Plan and other things. THE publication of the Monthly Outline Lessons for use in the Lyceums has been temporarily suspended. So far the only notice the suspension has called forth comes from the Conductor of the Battersea (London), Lyceum, who writes seriously regretting its discontinuance. We have asked over and over again if this Plan was useful, and as so few troubled to say yes or no, we have about concluded it was not required. Indeed some have said it was not needed, as leaders preferred to do their own way! Yet others complained

that they had the utmost difficulty in finding suitable lessons! As we are contemplating making some important alterations in the BANNER next year we shall be glad if all our readers will each send us a post card saying what parts of the BANNER they like best, and what they like least? If a plan we have in mind is carried out there may be from four to eight pages added in the form of a special monthly supplement without any additional charge. Now just think it over and let us hear from you. Particularly let us know if you want the Outline Lessons to be continued.

Next Month's Supplement. THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Thos. O. Todd, we are going to give you a handsome supplement next month. It alone is worth the price of the paper, without all the other good things you will find in the regular issue. Make this known in your Lyceums, and try your best to double your usual order for next month, just to show Mr. Todd how much you appreciate his generous present to you all. It will be devoted entirely to a full account of the position of affairs regarding the Lyceum Home, and it will also be illustrated.

The Golden Group. OUR friends are thanked for the interest they are taking in Aunt Editha's 'Golden Group,' as evidenced in the letters and names she publishes this month in her Department. Lyceum Conductors will be doing good service by bringing this matter before their Lyceums, and securing names for enrolment in the Big Book. Read her letter this month, you will find it as chatty and interesting as usual.

Mr. Ainsworth and the BANNER. IN the issue of the Banner for last month the Editors raised the question as to the apparent overlooking of this journal in the announcement of the generous offer of Mr. Ainsworth regarding the Lyceum Home project. Subsequently the Editor wrote a private note to our friend referring to the same matter, and while personally congratulating him, at the same time asked how it was that, apparently, this paper was not favoured with the announcement? Considering that the matter was first mentioned in these columns of September of last year, the Editors reasonably wondered at the information not reaching them. Mr. Ainsworth replied that he only gave the information to our contemporary, *The Torch*, and that he was not responsible for any other publicity the matter obtained. Our friend adds that as the BANNER is a monthly we must necessarily (?) be behind with the news; but had it been sent to all three of our weekly journals so that it could have appeared simultaneously in them and the BANNER we certainly should not have raised any question. Mr. Ainsworth, being in correspondence with Mr. Todd, left the matter of the publication in the BANNER in the hands of that gentleman. However, in justice to Mr. Ainsworth, and at his direct request, we print the foregoing. This is the official Lyceum paper, the Home is adopted by the Union, and so we hope in future to receive the share of the news in this and all other Lyceum matters. All we ask is fair play around.

MR. J. J. MORSE'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER.—
London, Cavendish Rooms, Sunday, 3rd. Keighley, Heber Street Temple, Sunday and Monday, 10th and 11th. Bradford, Free Spiritual Church, Tuesday, 12th. Liverpool, Daulby Hall, Sunday and Monday, 17th and 18th. Birmingham, Masonic Hall, Sunday, 24th.

OUR EXECUTIVE AT WISBECH.

QUARTERLY VISITATION.

IN accordance with previous arrangements the Executive held its usual quarterly meeting at Wisbech, on Saturday, August 5th. The local friends did all in their power to contribute to the comfort of the visiting workers, and to promote the success of the work they had in hand. Mr. Wm. Hill, jun., the Secretary of the Wisbech Lyceum, carried out the local arrangements, and every praise is due to him for the admirable manner in which all was done. The usual custom was adhered to, of a business meeting on Saturday evening, and public meetings on the Sunday. It was a matter of sincere regret to all that ill health prevented Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool, attending. Also, that the train arrangements compelled our worthy Secretary to leave on Sunday afternoon, as otherwise he could not arrive home in time for his duties. A further cause of regret was in the fact that our good sister Mrs. John Venables, was obliged to return home on Monday noon, through a slight return of indisposition; while business compelled Mr. Albert Wilkinson to return early on the Monday, thereby depriving him of the pleasure of attending the Lyceum picnic held that afternoon.

At the business meeting various matters were disposed of, such as the report on the Jubilee Medals, the presentation to Andrew Jackson Davis, the copyrighting of the "Physical Exercises," and various routine matters. The question of the Lyceum Home was brought up on a Report from Mr. Thomas Olman Todd, Sunderland, who stated the facts, as far as they were, regarding Mr. J. Ainsworth's generous offer to make a gift of a house and its furniture for the purpose of establishing a Lyceum Home, as originally suggested by 'Daisy Dimple,' in her letter to the BANNER of September of last year. After hearing Mr. Todd's report the following resolution was then passed:

On the motion of the President, Mr. J. J. Morse, London, seconded by Mr. John Venables, Past President, Walsall, it was

RESOLVED:

"That this executive of the B.S.L.U., having heard from Mr. Thomas Olman Todd of the generous intention of Mr. John Ainsworth, of Manchester, to present a house and furniture, situated in Blackpool, to the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, as a Lyceum Home, hereby tenders to Mr. Ainsworth its unanimous and most grateful thanks for the same, and accepts his offer with the utmost feelings of pleasure and gratitude for his most generous gift, and that we pledge ourselves to promote the maintenance and success of the matter to our utmost ability, in the full assurance that the objects in view when attained will prove a blessing for those for whom it is intended, and a lasting memorial to the generous donor."

The question of Trustees for the Home was then gone into, and a series of names was suggested for submission to Mr. Ainsworth for his consideration, and the further negotiations were left in the hands of Mr. Todd, who will report at the next meeting of the Executive, at the Bloomsbury Lyceum, Birmingham, in October next. It was also reported that the Gladstone Hall Lyceum, Nottingham, had generously donated a sum of £1 to the funds of the Union, as an expression of their appreciation of the good the late Conference had done to the cause in that city. A resolution of thanks was heartily accorded them. The

members of the Executive present were, Mr. J. J. Morse, the president, Mr. John Venables, past president, Mrs. M. H. Naylor, and Messrs. T. O. Todd and A. Wilkinson, with Mr. Alfred Kitson, Secretary. The meeting continued for two hours and a half.

On Sunday there were two sessions of the Lyceum, morning and afternoon. The local conductor, Mr. Wm. Hill, junior, asked the President of the Union to conduct on each occasion, which was evidently highly satisfactory to the members and visitors. The children acquitted themselves admirably, the singing, readings, calisthenics and marching all being done in admirable form, the 'wheel' and 'star' marchings being particularly well done. The Executive made addresses at each gathering, their remarks being thoroughly enjoyed. Considering that the Conductor and Officers have never seen any other Lyceum than their own, the results were really wonderful. The hall was was prettily decorated with flowers and ferns, and presented a very pleasant effect. Not the least gratifying feature was the spotlessly clean condition of the room, which showed the zeal with which all had worked for the event of the day. It was an object lesson that would have done many good to have seen. Mr. Morse and Mr. Wilkinson took pictures of the Lyceum, and we understand the results have been very satisfactory.

The evening meeting was held in the Public Hall, a clean and comfortably chamber capable of seating nearly three hundred people. It was comfortably filled. Mr. Weaver, the esteemed President of the Wisbech Spiritualist Society, and Mr. Ward, the equally esteemed speaker of the body, were among the audience. Miss Weaver presided at the organ. The President opened the meeting in one of his suitable and characteristic addresses, which was listened to with marked attention and evident interest. Messrs. Venables, Wilkinson and Todd also gave very fine addresses, and Mrs. M. H. Naylor contributed a number of highly successful Clairvoyant descriptions, several causing quite a sensation by their accuracy. The meeting, though quite protracted, was in every way a complete success, and the claims of the Lyceum were never better advocated.

On Monday the visitors visited the various points of interest in the town and neighbourhood in the morning, and in the afternoon were present at the Annual Picnic of the Lyceum, held in a large field kindly loaned for the purpose. A public tea was held by the Lyceum, at their Hall in Ruby Street, and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the gathering. The local friends were loud in their praises for the presence of the Executive, and warmly invited them to come again at the earliest opportunity.

MRS. JOHN VENABLES.—Just as the BANNER is going to press news reaches us that our good friend, Mrs. John Venables, Walsall, has recently undergone a severe surgical operation, with most satisfactory results. The event occurred on Saturday the 26th, ulto., and the patient is making an excellent recovery. Our readers everywhere will, we are sure, heartily unite in sending their loving sympathy to our valued friend, with every wish for her speedy and complete restoration to perfect health, with, also, their sincere congratulations to our esteemed Past-President, Mr. John Venables, upon the happy issue of the great trial he and his family have just passed through. May the loving sympathies of friends in, and out of the form, go to them, and so assist our sister to that health which will restore her to the active work in our cause which she so loves to render at all times.

The Golden Group.

FOUNDED 1890.

CONDUCTED BY AUNT EDITHA.

MOTTO:—LOVE, TEMPERANCE, PURITY.

Membership.—Membership in the GOLDEN GROUP is open to all who belong to a Spiritualist Progressive Lyceum.

Rules.—I. That I will endeavour to be kind and loving to all human beings, and every living thing. II. That I will try to be temperate in all things, and strive to abstain from using intoxicants and tobacco. III. That I will not use profane or vulgar language.

Certificates.—Every Member upon joining must apply for a Certificate of Membership. To obtain this you must either send direct to AUNT EDITHA, or hand to your Secretary, One Penny to cover the carriage of Certificate. All names of Members will be published in the LYCEUM BANNER every month.

Special Notices.—AUNT EDITHA will be glad to receive short letters from Members of the GOLDEN GROUP upon anything they think would interest the GROUP.

OUR AUGUST ASSEMBLY.—No. LXXVII.

AUNTIE'S Letter Box has had quite a large number of Letters since she wrote to you last time! Some of our 'Grown ups' actually saying they had no idea that there was such a thing as the GOLDEN GROUP until they saw last month's LYCEUM BANNER! One dear friend writes me that she 'thinks it is just the thing our children need, as it will give them a chance to learn to write for papers and so cultivate their minds.' This Lady says, 'never mind if you are misunderstood, I have read your articles from the first, and many a time we have had a hearty laugh over Master Johnnie's sayings and doings, and I have always admired what you have said to us, for what you say for the children is just as good for us older ones.' This is very nice. But just afterwards came another letter saying, 'you will never do any good until you strike out for total abstinence, and until you do so I will have nothing to do with your work!' While a third friend says, 'you are quite right not to ask a child to take a pledge, as I think such a thing is improper, owing to the child either not understanding it or failing to keep it, and so becoming too ashamed to try again. I think a promise to strive one's utmost not to use intoxicants is much better.' There, now, you will see how Auntie is talked to by her good friends, but, after all I shall keep to the lines we have always followed in the work of the GROUP, welcoming all who will join us, and hoping for the time to come when those who do not agree with us will come over and join with us to help in doing something for the young folks.

Our August Assembly was quite a small one, the great heat and the holidays had sent nearly two-thirds of our members away from home. Owing to the smallness of the gathering it was decided to do the necessary business, and devote the remainder of the time to an impromptu Programme.

Our Grand Secretary, Eva Justlove, said she had received some letters since our last meeting, and on permission being granted, read them as follows.

Singularly these came from our Hammerton Street GROUP, Burnley, and each letter was dated the same day! You will all, I am sure, be delighted to read about what good times the Burnley Group have had lately, and no doubt some will wish they had been with them at that Picnic? The first is

A LETTER FROM JANE WHITTAKER.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—This is my first time to write to you, but I will try to write more often. Now I will try to tell you a few things about our GOLDEN GROUP. We have had two picnics this year, one to Cantelough, and the other—which we had on Saturday, the 12th of August, was to Thively. We walked it there and back, and took our

teas with us. I am glad to say that we all enjoyed ourselves. Our GOLDEN GROUP, which consists of about twenty members, are going to have our photos taken together. You must excuse me telling you that you made a mistake in my name and put 'James' instead of Jane, but I may have made many a mistake myself, so no more at present.—From your loving niece,
JANE WHITTAKER.

73, Sandy Gate, Burnley.

We are all glad to learn from the next letter that the weekly GROUP at Hammerton Street is doing well, and Auntie hopes the new Treasurer will have lots of money to take care of, and that those two members will not want to leave again? But there you will see all about it in the

LETTER FROM LILLIAN CROSSLEY.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—We had a picnic on the 12th of August, and we enjoyed ourselves very much. We walked it there and back, and took our own tea with us. I would like to tell you we are going to have our photos taken on the 26th of August, all the GOLDEN GROUP together. On Monday, the 14th, we had our GOLDEN GROUP Meeting as usual, and our Treasurer gave up his office, but I am glad to say we have got another in his place; we should have lost two members had we not voted them back again. We are doing very well in keeping our meetings up once a week, Monday night. It is the first letter I have written and I hope that I may gain courage to write more often. I must now conclude, with love for you and all.—Your loving niece,
53, Coal Clough Lane, Burnley,
August 15th, 1899.

LILLIAN CROSSLEY.

Auntie would like ever so much to put the photo into this part of the paper, that the next letter speaks about, and if you will send it her she will see what can be done. But such things cost money dear, as no doubt you know? Well, here is the

LETTER FROM ALVINZA M. LAMBERT.

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—It is with pleasure that I write to you. I have been a member of the GOLDEN GROUP now about 5 months. I much enjoy our meetings every Monday night, I am doing my utmost to further its progress. My father is going to take a photo of the GROUP on Saturday, August 26th, if the day is fine, and will send you one. The G.G. hope you will do your best to have it put in our BANNER in some future issue! With kind love to you.—I remain, your loving niece,
ALVINZA M. LAMBERT.

144, Branch Rd., Burnley, Aug. 15th, 1899.

Now these are all nice letters, and Auntie thanks you very much indeed for sending them. Will some more of my nieces and nephews send others, so that we can print a few more next month? I am sure I hope so.

When the Grand Conductor called for correspondence and names of new members, the Grand Secretary rose and reported the receipt of the following letter, with a list of twenty-four names for the Roll! At which there was quite an outburst of cheers. The letter is from one of our earlier members, who joined us in August, 1894! The Grand Conductor expressed herself very much pleased to hear from the young lady again, and added she hoped to do so again before long. The following is the

LETTER FROM MISS LILLIAN GEORGE, (No. 668).

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—It is with very great pleasure that I send you the following names. As there is no restriction with regard to age, several officers have given in their names with the little ones, to become members of the GOLDEN GROUP. I feel assured that, from the youngest to the oldest, all will do their best to obey the rules; and I know, from my own experience, that they will be warmly welcomed by Aunt Editha.—From your loving niece,
LILLIAN GEORGE.

28, Windmill Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham,
August 21st, 1899.

The list of names being read over, on motion of Birt Ensloe, seconded by Aunt Editha, they were all unanimously admitted, and it was specially stated that we were as glad to receive the adults as we were the younger members. Certificates were ordered, sent in the usual course.

Why! Here is something else from Burnley, I declare! It is from James Lister, who sends me the following pretty poem by Francis J. Battersby, and very excellent is the

advice. It is so good that the G.S. at once handed it to Master Johnnie, and asked him to read it to the Group, which he did very nicely. It is called,

NEVER MIND A FALL.

Never mind a fall, my boy,
Never mind a fall;
Up again, my little one,
Catch your hoop or ball;
Plant your feet the firmer, child,
As you run your race;
Nor for fear of sudden trip
Falter from your pace.

Never mind a fall, my lad,
In your schoolboy plan;
Up again, and show your mates
You can play the man.
Fight your way through bush or thorn,
Prickly though they be,
Careless—so you win your prize—
Honour or degree.

Falls are sure for old and young
In this world of ours;
Some are sent to cure our pride,
Some to test our powers,
Some are sent to plant our feet
Firmer on the sod—
As we climb the steep ascent
To the Mount of God.

Pressing onward, upward, higher,
From each painful fall,
Through the furnace or the fire,
To the Lord of all.

We may learn in fairer climes
Why we stumbled here,
When we see Him "face to face,"
And his ways are clear.

FRANCIS J. BATTERSBY.

After the above was read the conversation turned upon stories about animals and birds. Chris. Polk told us about a fowl with a wooden leg, and Mary Wilver told a funny story about her cat and its kittens, when Albert Stepson asked if he might read a story about a dog that he found in an American paper, the story, not the dog. The Grand Conductor assented, and Albert read the following story of

CANINE STRATEGY.

The owner of an old shepherd dog tells many stories which go to prove that although the animal—Dick by name—is less active than in his youth, his intelligence his by no means on the decline.

The collie has been much annoyed by the conduct of a neighbor's dog which is too lazy to bury bones for his own consumption, but greatly enjoys unearthing the treasures of others.

When Dick had been deprived of several choice stores in this way, he evidently meditated over the vexing matter, and at last a bright idea came to him.

One day after dinner, when the neighbor's dog was out of the way, Dick began to dig a hole, not far from where his master sat watching him. The hole was unusually deep; in it he deposited a big and still eminently desirable bone. Then he covered it well with earth, disappeared for a moment, and came trotting back with a small bone which had seen its best and second best days, but was still good enough, in Dick's opinion, for a thief.

This bone he laid on the earth which had hid the big one, and scraped the earth over it with elaborate care. His master had the satisfaction of knowing that the ruse was successful, for early the next morning he saw the thief hastily leaving the premises with the small bone in his mouth.

Later in the day Dick reaped the reward of his wisdom as he sat munching and crunching the big bone at his leisure.

This tale caused much laughter, as every one was amused at doggie's smartness. The time of adjournment having now arrived the Group was closed in the customary manner, and shortly after all had gone home, and the lights were put out.

AUNT EDITHA.

The day after our Session Auntie received another letter, from Burnley, too, again! Burnley is well forward this

time, and no mistake. You are setting a good example to everyone this month. This letter is from the Secretary of the Burnley Local Group, and our good friend sends us two more names for the Roll, which on behalf of our Assembly I have ventured to enter, and issue the Certificates, which have been duly sent as Miss Ashworth requests. Evidently the picnic and photograph have excited a great amount of interest, for each of our Burnley members refer to it! I will now send this to the printer, and ask him to place it with the rest.

LETTER FROM LILY ASHWORTH, (No. 1306).

DEAR AUNT EDITHA.—I now take up my pen to let you know how we are progressing, I am Secretary now and it causes me to have more work and more care on my mind. We had a picnic on the 12th of this month out in the country amongst the beautiful hills of Thively, and we enjoyed ourselves immensely, it was such a beautiful day, and we came home tired out. We are thinking of having our photos all taken, the Group together, a week on Saturday, if the weather permits, and I shall most probably forward you one to put in the BANNER. I am very glad that our friend, Mr. Ainsworth, is so good as to buy the Home for the sick of the Lyceum, and I hope it will be a success. I hope every society will put their shoulder to the wheel, and do their best. I will keep up my reports as well as possible, and write often. I think that is all this time.—From your loving niece,

LILY ASHWORTH.

P.S.—Please will you kindly forward me two certificates for two new members, the names are Maggie Nutter and Eliza Towler, send them to 35, Wren St., Gannow Lane, Burnley. Good-bye for the present.

Members Proposed at the August Assembly.

BURNLEY (Hammerton Street.)

1354 Maggie Nutter 1355 Eliza Fowler

SMETHWICK.

1355 Harry Morris	1363 Fred Corbett	1371 Mr. Norton
1356 Eva Burrows	1364 John Lynch	1372 Miss Hammond
1357 Stella Burrows	1365 Howard Norton	1373 Mrs. Thomas
1358 Norah Hodgkins	1366 Bessie Burrows	1374 Violet Davis
1359 Kate Westwood	1367 Miss Deakin	1375 Mr. Deakin
1360 May Westwood	1368 Mr. George	1376 Lenzytta Wedekind
1361 N. Polkinhorne	1369 Mr. Findlay	1377 Harry Wedekind
1362 Willie Lynch	1370 Mr. Morris	1378 Fred Osborne

AMBULANCE WORK.—As will be seen elsewhere, a class of ladies has been held in the Lyceum, at Milton Hall, Bradford, for the study of Ambulance work. Twenty-seven out of twenty-eight attended the examination and were awarded Certificates. The names of the successful ones are as follows: Agnes Fairs; Martha Beals; Margret Sagar; Mary J. Raine; Beatrice Parker; Lucy Messenger; Mary Schen; Mary A. Ayrey; Ada Moore; Mary Marshall; Elizabeth A. Marshall; Sarah A. Leach; Maud Rudd; Virginia Hunt; Edith Turner; Edith Hudson; Annie Collins; Jane Johnson; Martha A. Jackson; Sarah Taylor; Alice Taylor; Ada Messenger; Mary Bishop; Mary Rodgers; Annie Anderson; Florrie Grant and Catherine Haenlien.

THE many friends of Miss A. Rowan Vincent will regret to learn that she has lately undergone a serious operation, and is thus temporarily, we trust, unable to continue her exertions for our cause. The latest information to hand is that the operation was quite successful, and the patient is progressing as well as can be expected. We join our sympathies with the rest.

PAPERS, BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.—"The Banner of Light," Boston.—"The Progressive Thinker," Chicago.—"The Light of Truth," Columbus, Ohio.—"The Religio-Philosophical Journal," San Francisco.—"The Harbinger of Light," Melbourne.—"The Messenger," Brunswick, Victoria.—"The Humanitarian"; "The Coming Day," "Light" and "Phyche," London.—"The Torch," Leeds.—"The Two Worlds," Manchester.

We have in stock an excellently arranged Library Card for use in Lyceum Libraries. It is ruled for twelve months, with spaces for member's number, the name of the Group, and the Lyceum, and the Leaders' names, of the borrowers' group. It is printed in blue, on both sides, and can be supplied at 1/9 per 100, postage free.

If you want to be up-to-date, and in touch with the Lyceum movement in all parts of the United Kingdom, send your reports to the LYCEUM BANNER, the only journal devoted to Lyceum work in this Country, and which is sold in ninety per cent. of our Lyceums. Reports and announcements are all inserted free. Special advertisements at low rates.

The Monthly Record.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

ANNIVERSARY AT NEWCASTLE.

On Sunday, July 23rd, we held our thirteenth Lyceum Anniversary Flower Services in the Northumberland Hall, High Friar Street. In the afternoon we had a most enjoyable session, including songs, solos, recitations, pianoforte solos, etc. There was a good attendance. One of the best features of the afternoon was the splendid manner in which the children acquitted themselves by paying attention to the Conductor of the afternoon performance. There was a fine display of "talent," which, with a little training, would be worthy of much praise. The songs of the Lyceum 'in chorus' were particularly well rendered, each and every one doing their particular part finely. At 6-30 we began our evening programme before a large audience. There was not a hitch during the entire evening. The chief features of the entertainment were due to Miss Ellison, Miss Greenwell, Miss Jeffreys, the Misses Allan, and Miss Lamb; also Mr. W. Moore, Mr. Parkin, Mr. Telford, Mr. Greenwell, and Mr. Dobson. Many children are to be included as having done something towards the entertainment. The recitations, songs, solos, and pianoforte pieces were all well rendered, and the evening was brought to a close after a lengthy and excellent entertainment had been satisfactorily accomplished.

On Monday night, July 24th, the service assumed a more humorous form. There was included in the programme many amusing pieces which produced much merriment and real enjoyment. We are very thankful to all friends who assisted in any way with the tea or entertainment, while considerable praise is due to the conductors of the musical, singing, and conducting portions of the Lyceum Anniversary Flower Services. The Hall was nicely decorated with a large quantity of plants and flowers.

BANK Holiday in the South of England is generally looked forward to by the workers as a day for enjoyment. It has not been so much so in our northern counties, but I am glad to say it is gradually taking hold of us here, although our factories and workshops have not yet adopted it as a general holiday. It seems an understood thing that the Lyceum hold their annual picnic on this day. We had some difficulty in deciding where to go, as we had a pressing invitation from our Ashington friends to join them, but we ultimately decided to go to our last years' quarters, the pleasant little village of Wylam-on-Tyne. Our Gateshead friends and Lyceum joined us. We are looking forward to the time when it will be possible for the whole Lyceums of the north to join in one day of hilarity together. We had a capital turn out of members and friends, but we regretted very much the absence for the first time in the history of our Lyceum of our old Lyceumist and friend, Mr. H. A. Kersey—we presume through pressure of business. We had a fine day, and enjoyed ourselves to the utmost, and returned home after a royal day, feeling that it was good to be Lyceum members, and fully resolved to make our Lyceums as pleasant and as profitable in the future as it has been in the past.—G. M. MARTIN, Hon. Sec.

OPEN-AIR SESSION AT STOCKPORT.

On Sunday morning, July 30th, our Lyceum held a successful open-air session on the Heaton Norris Recreation Ground, a popular place of local resort. The LYCEUM

BANNER was displayed, and willing workers had carried forms and Lyceum requisites for the use of the lyceumists, who turned up in good numbers under the command of the conductor, Mr. T. Edwards. An admirable programme of inspiring melodies, readings and recitations, in parts and in unison, was ably executed. Special items of solos, duets and auto-harp selections were creditably performed by Misses N. and F. Pickthall, E. Marston, E. Medcalf, L. Marston, E. Newall, E. Roscoe, N. Roscoe and others, who deserve much praise for their plucky and courageous work in public for the Lyceum cause. The capital marching evolutions were briskly led by Miss L. Medcalf, guardian, and Mr. J. Marston. Calisthenics are done by this Lyceum in moderate speed, allowing time for every movement to be effectually and accurately performed, a really splendid exhibition of this useful exercise drew complimentary remarks from bystanders. Mr. Hurst and Miss E. A. Medcalf did good service on the harmonium. Mr. Pickthall was in excellent form, and "The Children and Spiritual Progression," furnished a pregnant and suitable theme for a 30 minutes forcible exposition of Lyceum teaching and the general principles of our own philosophy, to an orderly and sympathetic public gathering, who showed their appreciation of our service by contributing liberally towards a fund for our children's picnic. A powerful influence controlled the proceedings, and every one felt the importance of their duty and worked hard for the credit of the Lyceum and the promulgation of the principles of truth, justice, wisdom and love, leading features of our rational system of Sunday School procedure. The writer has no narrow experience of spiritualistic work of all kinds, and never felt better conditions furnished by a promiscuous gathering. Rejoice, spiritual workers on both planes of life; your efforts for the good cause are being recognised and we can now worship the Great Intelligent Centre Soul in our own way, "none daring to make us afraid."

PRESENTATION.

A good tea and entertainment was provided by the Lyceumists of Higher Broughton on the 19th instant to welcome the members of the newly-formed District Council. The Council's business over, Mr. Tinker presided, and extended a hearty welcome to the visitors. He then called upon Mr. T. Taylor to present a beautiful illuminated address to Mr. J. B. Longstaff, hon. sec. to the Lancashire Demonstration. Mr. T. Taylor then read a letter from Mr. Longstaff, regretting his inability to attend through illness, but had sent his daughter to represent him and receive the address on his behalf. This was done in suitable language, explaining the long and progressive labours of our worthy friend in the children's cause. Messrs. Stafford and P. Bewick also gave short addresses on the valuable services rendered by their co-worker.

The following is a copy of the address:—

"We, the representatives of the undermentioned Lyceums, have great pleasure in presenting our cordial expressions of goodwill in high appreciation of your noble and devoted services during the last seven years to the children's cause in Manchester and district. We recognise, through your indefatigable labours, an increased interest and more self-sacrificing effort in combining our local forces, and in symbolising our aims and teachings by the beautiful silk banners now possessed and displayed in public procession, encouraging a more manly and open conviction of the practices and principles of our Lyceums.

May the consciousness of loving guardians bless and cheer you and yours through the vicissitudes of life, and the quickening inspirations of wise and good spirit friends maintain your efforts in illustrating God's immortal plan of life's progressive continuity from the child to the angel, is our united and fervent prayer.

We are, on behalf of the following Lyceums—Hollinwood, Ardwick (Tipping Street), Ash Lodge, Bury, Collyhurst, Higher Broughton, Hyde, Harpurhey, Longsight, Oldham, Pendleton (Cobden-street), Pendleton (Broad-street), Rochdale, Royton, Salford, and Stockport.—Fraternally yours,
 July 8th, 1899.

THOS. TAYLOR,
 PERCY BEWICK, Conveners."

Miss Florence Longstaff, on receiving the beautiful address, said: "Allow me, on behalf of my father, to thank all Delegates and Lyceumists for this grand illuminated address, and I feel sure that he will appreciate your kindness and goodwill towards him for his humble efforts as Secretary of the Lancashire Lyceum Demonstration."

Mr. J. B. Longstaff writes: "I cannot but express my sincere thanks to all the Lyceumists of the sixteen Lyceums for their beautiful illuminated address. It is indeed a work of art, and I shall cherish it as long as I live on this natural plane of existence. This display of cordial relationship is most acceptable, and I hope I may retain this kind expression of good feeling towards me."

OUR PRESIDENT AT WALSTALL.

Sunday, July 30th, our old friend, Mr. J. J. Morse, fulfilled his engagement with the parent Society, and that his efforts were appreciated, is confirmed by the fact that the audiences which greeted him were the largest that had assembled at our hall during the present year. In the afternoon he visited the Lyceum and spoke very acceptably to the members, who, considering the warm weather, listened to him very attentively. On the day following (Monday) the Lyceum annual picnic to Sutton Park was held, and we were again delighted to have the company of our genial Editor and President, and such an attraction did his presence prove, that the number of the party constituted a record. The members and friends, numbering in all about 130, left Walsall on the 1-40 p.m. train, and head-quarters at Sutton Park were reached soon after 2-30. After indulging in the various usual amusements for some little time, tea was served about 4-30, and a right jolly party we were, everybody being bent on enjoying themselves, despite the almost tropical weather. A word of praise is here due to the young ladies who worked most energetically in preparing the tea, and when one says they were quite up to Walsall Conference form, those friends who visited the Federation and Lyceum Conferences here will quite appreciate what that means. After tea, more games were indulged in, and last, but not least, we were submitted to the trying ordeal of being photographed, our friend, Mr. W. H. Brecknell, being the executioner, with Mr. J. J. Morse as his accomplice. What the results were I am not yet aware, but from the merry manner of a past President of the B.S.L.U., who shall be nameless, I am afraid that one group will present a somewhat animated appearance. Were pleased to have the company of friends from Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Home was reached at 8-0 p.m., many expressing the opinion that it had truly been a red letter day.—JNO. J. BENNETT.

LYCEUM PICNIC.

BIRMINGHAM, SMETHWICK.—Our third annual picnic took place on Wednesday, August 2nd, when we spent a most enjoyable day at Sutton Park. On the date named, at 10-15 a.m., about sixty lyceumists and friends, with smiling faces, quite ready for a good time, were assembled outside the Central Hall at Cape Hill. The brakes arrived, and we started off on a pleasureable drive of about 12 miles. Arriving at the Crystal Palace, Sutton Park, we sat down underneath the trees to eat our lunch; after which we made our way to a large pool, where a steamer attracted both young and old.

During a ramble through the woods the voices of the children could be heard from far and near, proving their enjoyment. After tea, which was served in the Crystal Palace, some of the children indulged in various games; the elder boys played at cricket, while others enjoyed boating. The drive home was as productive of pleasure as the drive to the park. The Lyceum songs could be heard, sung very harmoniously, from the different brakes. On our arrival at the Hall we were met by other friends, who were not able to be with us during the day, and at 9-30 p.m. the children's voices might still be heard, giving to others the pleasure of knowing that they had all enjoyed a thoroughly good time.—L.G.

AMBULANCE WORK IN A LYCEUM.

BRADFORD, MILTON HALL.—At the Ladies' Ambulance Class, held under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association, 28 ladies received instruction in first-aid to the injured by Dr. Percy Lodge, assisted by Mr. John Jackson. Twenty-seven of the ladies presented themselves for examination, all of whom were successful. On Monday evening, Aug. 14th, certificates were distributed by Mr. Firth, one of the Bradford Corporation Officials, and a member of the Centre Ambulance Committee, who spoke of the pleasure it gave him to be present, and said it reflected great credit on the Society that all the ladies who were examined had been successful and he hoped they would take their second and third course, in sick nursing, which if they were again successful, they would obtain a medallion each. After presenting the certificates, he also presented, as a token of respect on behalf of the class, an umbrella to the Doctor for his kind instruction. Songs were ably rendered by Mr. Eldred Hallas, recitals by Miss M. A. Jackson and Mr. J. Jackson. The room was beautifully decorated. Whilst coffee was being served, a squad of the Bradford Ambulance Brigade gave an exhibition in first-aid and stretcher work, which proved very instructive. Afterwards the ladies gave a display in bandaging, which was very creditably done. Mr. J. Burchell presided over the gathering, and proposed votes of thanks to all who had kindly assisted to make the gathering such a brilliant success. The proceedings terminated with a dance.—J. JACKSON, Class Secretary.

JOHANNESBURGH, SOUTH AFRICA.

A tea was given to the pupils of the Johannesburg Lyceum on the 1st of July. About 30 little ones responded to the invitation extended to them by the officers of our Lyceum. It was evident that the children enjoyed themselves very much. Games were indulged in, and everybody present returned to their respective homesteads in the happiest possible mood. Our Lyceum is going ahead very smartly. This is chiefly due to Mrs. Williams, the Conductress of the institution. This lady spares no trouble in promoting the Lyceum.—L. A. DE W.

LYCEUM TREAT AT SKIPTON.

Saturday, August 5th, was a red letter day in the annals of our Society. An arrangement had been come to by the representatives of the Nelson, Colne, and Skipton Lyceums, for their respective Lyceums to meet together at Skipton. The weather being favourable, many favoured us with their presence. Our meeting place was the large room of the Temperance Hall (which we had engaged for the occasion), and when all were congregated there, over two hundred bright faces were to be seen smiling in happiness. From the Temperance Hall we marched two abreast through the

principal streets to Skipton Castle (and many were the wondering glances cast upon us while so doing). Arriving on the Castle grounds some time was spent in taking several photos of the combined Lyceums, after which an interesting and instructive visit through the old portion of the Castle was our privilege. From there we returned to the Temperance Hall to have Tea, and the way in which the eatables disappeared was a striking testimony to the healthy appetites of the children and older folks present. After tea, under the leadership of Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Hoskyn, the combined Lyceums went through their evolutionary marches. Viewed from the platform it was a truly inspiring sight, and one which will not readily be forgotten by the writer. Then followed several neat and effective speeches by Mr. Wilkinson, Mrs. Stairs and the representatives of each Lyceum, congratulating each other on the happy time we all had spent together, and commenting on the great benefit, nay the necessity, of frequent meetings such as these, with a wish, which was unanimously expressed, that it should be an annual affair. This concluded a fete which I hope and believe will have a stimulating effect on our cause at Skipton.—A.E.S.

ANOTHER STEP ONWARD AT WALSALL.

On Sunday, August 6th, we held our annual services in connection with our Band of Hope. With the kind permission of our Society, we invited for our morning speaker, Mr. W. H. Brecknell, of Walsall, who read a most interesting paper on Scientific Temperance, which was thoroughly appreciated. Mr. J. H. Bailey acting as chairman. In the evening our speaker was Mr. Alfred Stanley, founder of the temperance cause in Walsall. He, being a well advanced student, spoke eloquently on the Total Abstinence question, showing in every detail the health, happiness and prosperity caused by being a teetotaler. The chair on this occasion was taken by Mr. A. Gilby. A vote of thanks being passed to our speaker, who expressed a wish to again come and visit us, we closed our day's proceeding.—J. VENABLES, JUNR., Secretary Band of Hope.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

BLACKPOOL.—Since our last report we have had to depend very largely upon our visitors, to all of whom we tender our hearty thanks. Our workers are very busy, but we have had the help of visitors from all parts of the country. We would like Lyceumists to make themselves known to us on arriving at our Lyceum.—J. ROBERTS, Sec. [This was sent to Mr. Todd; why, we fail to understand.—Eds.]

BOLTON, Bradford Street.—Lyceum progressing wonderfully. We are having an outing to Barrow Bridge (the deserted village) on the 9th of September. Friends and Lyceumists invited.—J. McCLELLAN, Cor. Sec.

BURNLEY (Hammerton-street).—On Wednesday evening, August 9th, the members of the Lyceum held a social and farewell meeting in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Grimshaw, prior to their departure to America. About 70 attended the meeting. Short and appropriate speeches were delivered by Mr. D. H. Wilkinson (president of the Society), Mr. R. Varley, and Mr. Wm. Mason. Mr. Grimshaw feelingly replied, and in his remarks said that although he had been absent a few years he never forgot the Burnley Lyceum, the School of his early days. He thanked all present for their kindly greetings, and hoped that he might be spared once more to return and take up his work with the Hammerton Street Spiritualists. Songs were given during the evening by

Mr. Benjamin Parkinson, Mr. Wm. Dean, and Miss Clara Wrathall. Light refreshments were served, and dancing was indulged in during the remainder of the evening. Many hearty hand shakes and farewell greetings were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw on behalf of the members of the Lyceum. Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw sailed on the 12th of August, with our best wishes that they may enjoy good health, a pleasant voyage, and that they may grow strong both physically and mentally. We shall gladly welcome them back to our shores next June, to work amongst us.—JAS. CROSSLEY, Sec.

BURY.—Our Band of Hope held its first annual picnic on Saturday, August 12th, Prestwich Clough being the place selected. Being favoured with a fine day, there was a good muster of members and friends, numbering about 100 in all. An excellent tea was provided by the ladies of the Band of Hope committee; after which several of the party went for a stroll through the Clough and Phillips' Park, the remainder going into a field close by, where games of cricket, etc., were freely indulged in. The return journey was made about 8 o'clock, arriving home again about 9-30, after a most enjoyable afternoon. The membership of our Band of Hope has now reached 94, and we are hoping that the hundred will be reached at the next meeting, which is to be held on Monday, September 4th. Admission free.—H. JACKSON, Hon. Secretary.

EXETER.—The Lyceum children held their first Anniversary Services on August 20th. The singing was very lively, special hymns being chosen for the occasion. At the evening service the youngest child of Mrs. Letheren's was named. The spirit name was given through Mrs. Grainger. The children made a very pretty sight, forming an avenue of flowers (white predominating), under which the child was carried by its sister.—S. WILKINGS, Sec.

GATESHEAD.—This Lyceum held its first annual trip on Monday, August 7th, to Wylom-on-Tyne. Having assembled at St. Cuthbert's Hall, we marched to the railway station and took train, in conjunction with the Newcastle Lyceum, to our destination. On arriving, we at once set to work to enjoy ourselves, which we did in a most hearty manner. Games and contests for the children, and fun for the big ones. After which more games and, Mr. Editor, did you ever witness a ladies sack race, or a ladies tug of war and the rope to break. [No, we never did.—Eds.] Well, we did enjoy ourselves. Every scholar was presented with a prize, the money for which had been kindly subscribed by the officers and friends. Then the whole Lyceum was taken by the the pleec—, no, Mr. Editor, by the snap-shotter, which placed on record a most happy family. Finally, journeying home and arriving all safe, but tired out, brought to a close a happy and enjoyable outing.—J. E. CONNELLY, Secretary.

MACCLESFIELD.—The Lyceum Anniversary and Floral Services were held on Sunday, August 6th. Morning Lyceum, open session; the marching and calisthenics were done in fine order. Solos, readings, etc, along with the humorous address by the Rev. A. Rushton, entitled, "Sunday School teaching, as it is and as it should be," showing that we should always have punctuality, order, and moral teaching, along with object teaching; the beautiful singing and music in the flower-decorated church, made it most delightful. Mr. W. J. Mayoh gave two splendid addresses—afternoon subject, "Is it the work of the spirits?" and evening, "A Spirit's view of the Lord's Prayer." Music and singing, rendered by a good choir and orchestra, with a

good collection, made it one of the best anniversaries we have had.—G.C. [What is the number of this year's anniversary?—EDS.]

NOTTINGHAM, Cobden Hall.—Herbert Edmund Clarke, a member of this Lyceum, has been successful in taking honours in the recent Oxford local examinations. He has also won a Scholarship of the annual value of £15, tenable for three years at the Nottingham High School. Delegates at the recent Lyceum Conference will remember our young friend (aged 14) as having delivered the address of welcome so nicely.

MANCHESTER, Longsight.—On Sunday, July 30th, we had our Open Session. We were very pleased to have with us Mr. Tinker and Mr. P. Bewick, who conducted the services. Recitations were contributed by Miss F. Roughsedge, E. Cadwallader, E. Heggs, A. Stockton, Master Cadwallader, and Charles Roughsedge. Miss S. Archer gave us a reading, and Miss Roughsedge gave a song. In the evening Mr. Tinker gave a very good address, and Mr. P. Bewick gave Clairvoyance. We thank both our Higher Broughton and Collyhurst friends for assistance, and we hope to have them with us again soon.—W. H. LAWSON.

PENDLETON, Broad Street.—On the 30th ult. we held our first Lyceum Flower Services, the order of proceedings being taken from the Lyceum Manual, both in the afternoon and evening, of which there was much favourable comment from the audience. In the evening Miss Philips gave a recitation entitled "God's Temple"; Alice Ashton, a four-year-old Lyceumist, gave us "Great God, who art Thou, followed by a reading by Mr. F. Johnson: "The good time now." Much praise is due to our Conductor, Mr. J. Moulding, for the manner in which the Lyceumists rendered their services. We had a fruit Banquet on the Monday night following.—BENTLEY WILD, Sec.

PRESTON, Weavers' Hall.—August 7th, we held our monthly Band of Hope gathering, Mr. Whitaker officiating as chairman. Our speaker, Mr. A. Wade, secretary of the Preston and District Band of Hope Union, failed to put in an appearance. The breach was ably filled by our esteemed president, Mr. J. Crookall. The programme was interspersed with songs, recitations, etc., by the following persons:—Misses J. Town, Roberts, Polly Hodson, Beatrice Town, Alice L. Fisher, and Masters Town and Hodson. The calisthenics, ably conducted by Miss Scowercroft, were highly appreciated. A dialogue, entitled, "The Lights of London," was very creditably performed by Messrs. Jackson and Birkbeck. Our Band of Hope is making capital progress, the total paying and non-paying membership being 86. The attendance, 98, on this occasion was quite up to the usual standard. Our next Band of Hope gathering will be held on Monday evening, September 4th. I earnestly appeal to the members to make this meeting widely known, seeing that Mr. A. Wade has kindly promised to occupy the platform, and also to bring his physiological diagrams.—C. PARKINSON.

SHAW.—July 23rd, open session in the afternoon. Recitations by Mrs. Fielding and Miss Pears. Marching and Calisthenics ably conducted by Miss Shephard and Miss Jackson. Evening: Silver chain recitations and a musical reading; recitations by Mrs. Fielding and Mr. Jackson, solos by the Misses Shephard, Pears and Jackson. Address by Miss Shepherd, who presided in a most efficient manner. J. B. JACKSON, Sec.

ITEMETTES.

THE Lyceum Home affairs are progressing. Mr. Ainsworth's offer has created wide-spread comment.

WISBECH friends did well at the late Executive Visitation. Every one was made thoroughly at home.

MARRIED.—At Cardiff, on August 11th, Mr. Davis to Miss Woodman. Hearty good wishes to our friends, and many thanks for card and cake.

BURY Lyceum has our thanks for an important increase in their monthly parcel.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—Mr. Jno. Venables, of Walsall, has very kindly paid a year's subscription for the BANNER to be sent to the Free Library in his town. Next, please.

MRS. GREENWOOD, and her good husband, have removed from Sowerby Bridge to Hebden Bridge. Though transplanted they will flourish, and do good work wherever they are.

MR. WALTER HOWELL will be the settled speaker, at Keighley, for 1900. Mr. Howell is an earnest worker, and will render, without doubt, excellent service in the mother town of our noble cause.

WILL our Secretaries please read the standing notice in heavy type at the top of the Editorial page. We cannot guarantee the insertion of reports that reach us after the 23rd of the month.

BRO. T. O. TODD has issued a further edition of Hudson Tuttle's "Life in Two Spheres." It is a charming work, and can be had from this office, post free, for 1s. 8d.

How do our friends at the Freckleton Street Lyceum, Blackburn, get along without the BANNER? Are they using their spare income for that Building Fund? A Lyceum without the BANNER is not complete.

THERE are two Lyceums at Halifax. At the May Conference they returned an average attendance of 165, but one dozen copies of "our" paper suffices their requirements. Why is this thus?

WE have on hand for use, as opportunities arise, fine articles from Walter Booth, Peter Lee, Edna Turton, Brian Hodson, Lady Bowyer, and others. If we could have a guarantee for the extra cost, we would make the BANNER full sixteen pages. Who will help?

THE Executive Committee of the S.N.F. would be pleased to receive invitations from Societies, for the holding of their quarterly meeting in the month of March, 1900. Invitations to be sent to the Secretary, W. Harrison, 37, North Street, Burnley.

THE many friends of Mr. H. Rumford will be pleased to know that he is comfortably settled, and doing well, at Hong Kong, as we learn from frequent letters from our absent friend. Early next year we hope to print some articles from his pen, descriptive of life in China.

READ, "In Dutchland," from the facile pen of Mrs. M. E. Cadwallader, in this issue. It will well repay you. Our good friend, and her father, are touring in Killarney, Scotland, and the North. They sail for Boston on Thursday, September 14th, from Liverpool, per Dominion Liner *New England*. We shall miss them both.

MR. G. H. BIBBINGS will presently remove to Bootle, when a welcome reception will be tendered to him, and Mrs. Bibbings, on Tuesday the 12th inst. Mr. Bibbings is the settled speaker for Bootle and Liverpool for 1900. The two societies are to be congratulated upon the choice they have made. We wish all concerned every success.

O.P.S.—This fund having now passed into the possession of the Spiritualists' National Federation, we trust that our co-workers will do their best for it. Its objects are to provide, as far as its funds will go, for those workers in our cause and others, who, through sickness, and other causes, are prevented from making a living. We have offered one night in each quarter as our contribution. Who will join with us.—*The Torch*.

THE Editor of the LYCEUM BANNER will.

THE MEDIUMS AND SPEAKERS.—The Propaganda Committee of the Spiritualists' National Federation desire the assistance of speakers and mediums. All applications to be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. Jas. Swindlehurst, 159, Hammond Street, Preston.

AUSTRALIA.—The Melbourne Lyceum, we learn from *The Messenger* is still flourishing vigorously. Miss Rhoda Knight recently read an excellent paper on "The Fall of Nations," being her first attempt. June 25th was Recitation Sunday, at which a splendid programme was presented. While on July 2nd the ceremony "of dedicating two infants, Marie Irene Carr and Eveline Editha, daughters of Mrs. N'Namard, to the cause of Spiritualism" took place. The "mediums meetings have been crowded," and proved pleasant and profitable.

A PRESENTATION.—Our esteemed friend, Mr. W. H. Terry, Editor of the Australian Spiritualist Journal, *The Harbinger of Light*, was lately presented with a handsomely upholstered easy chair by a number of his warm hearted admirers and friends. The presentation and accompanying social evening was arranged by a party of Spiritualists known as "The Fern Tree Gully Party," of Melbourne.

THE BRITISH LYCEUMISTS' CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

HONORARY PRINCIPAL: PROF. T. TIMSON, F.B.P.A. (LONDON).

All correspondence for this Department to be sent to Prof. T. Timson, 3, Museum Square, Leicester, and B.L.C.C. written in front on left hand upper corner of envelope. A stamp must in all cases be enclosed when a reply is required.

LESSON VI.

THE MORAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SPIRITUAL ORGANS.

FROM the early discoveries in phrenology, by Dr. Gall, one hundred years ago, on to the present time, when phrenology has been recognised and honoured in its due establishment among the other sciences, by the grant of a special charter, by act of parliament, to the British Phrenological Society, we read that Dr. Gall observed that "some individuals imagine themselves to be visited by apparitions of persons, dead or absent;" and he asks, "How does it happen that men of considerable intellect often believe in the reality of ghosts and visions; are they fools, or imposters, or is there a particular organisation which imposes in this form or the human understanding, and how are such illusions to be explained?" He then enters into an historical sketch of the most remarkable instances of visions. Socrates spoke frequently and willingly to his disciples of a spirit who served him as a guide. Dr. Gall remarks that he is quite aware of the common explanation that Socrates referred only to the force and justness of his own understanding, but he adds, that "If he had not himself believed in a genius communicating with him, the opinion that he had one would have been lost in the twenty-three years during which Aristophanes made it a subject of ridicule, and his accusers would not have received it as a charge against him."

The late thorough and veteran student of phrenology, dear old L. N. Fowler, who passed into spirit-life at the ripe old age of 84, in his "Handbook of Phrenology," page 122, defines the faculty of "Spirituality" as Faith; Prescience; the "Light within;" Trust in *Prophetic Guidings*; Perception and feeling of the SPIRITUAL; Interior perception of Truth; what is best; *what is about to transpire* and be adapted to man's *prophetic gift, and a future life. Forewarned* of danger, and led by Spiritual monition into the right way, and feel internally what is true and false, right or wrong; that Spiritual communion which constitutes true piety; experience a species of waking CLAIRVOYANCE; high, pure, and Spiritual feeling; many *premonitions* or *interior warnings* and *guidings*, which, implicitly followed, conduct to success and happiness through life, and a kind of interior consciousness, which, independent of reason, yet unperverted, in harmony with it, are quite Spiritual-minded and led by the Spirit."

Here we have every evidence that both the early and modern discoveries of and teachers of authority, upon the science, have fully realised the Spiritualistic nature of this faculty in man, and although a few members of the phrenological profession may yet have more to learn, and to further investigate the science before they endorse these grand truths in their entirety. Nevertheless, their function and relation to the Spiritual life is as fully and positively established as any other facts of nature, and by scientific research, again and again repeated, by verification of phenomena beyond reference here. We shall, in our next lesson, consider the peculiar temperamental adaption to mediumistic or spiritual gifts and their varied character and phenomena.

The other faculties of the Moral and Religious Group will be more fully defined later in following articles.

(To be continued in our next.)

Official Bulletin.

BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

FOUNDED, MAY, 1890.

Officers for 1899-1900.

- President—
Mr. J. J. MORSE, Florence House, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.
Past President—
Mr. JNO. VENABLES, Hydesville, Foden Road, Walsall.
Treasurer—
Mr. J. SUTCLIFFE, Sowerby Street, Sowerby Bridge.
Secretary—
Mr. ALFRED KITSON, Royd Street, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury.
Executive:
Mrs. H. NAYLOR, 33, Prince Arthur Street, Middlesborough.
Mr. S. S. CHISWELL, 11 and 13, Renshaw Street, Liverpool.
Mr. T. O. TODD, 7, Winifred Terrace, Sunderland.
Mr. ALBERT WILKINSON, 10, Percy Street, Nelson.

The Plans, Purposes and Objects of the Union will, in part, be better understood by the following short extracts from its Constitution:—

OBJECTS.

The objects of this Lyceum Union are to promote the welfare of the Lyceum Movement, by (a) An Annual Movable Conference; (b) District Assemblages, when and where necessary; (c) Extending the work in new directions; (d) Bringing Lyceums into closer sympathy, and promoting greater uniformity in the manner of working them; (e) Encouraging the publication of suitable literature; and (f) Such other methods as may be found necessary.

UNION.

The Union shall be a Federal Union of the Progressive Lyceums of the United Kingdom. Any Progressive Lyceum can join this Union by instructing the Secretary to place its name on the roll; such instruction shall imply assent to this Constitution. The Union charges no fee for entrance. The rate of subscription from each Lyceum enrolled is one penny for every name on the Lyceum register; to be paid in advance. When this is paid the Lyceum is entitled to full benefits.

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

The Union offers distinctive advantages to its Members in the form of special cheap terms for books, such as Outlines of Spiritualism; The Spiritual Songster; and The Lyceum Manual.

REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Representatives to the Annual Conference shall be duly appointed by the various Lyceums joining the Union. Those Lyceums which have under 50 members on their register shall be entitled to send one delegate; those who have over 50, but under 100, shall be entitled to send two delegates; and those who have over 100 shall be entitled to send three delegates; which number shall be the limit of representation allowed to any one Lyceum.

EXECUTIVE.

There shall be three Officers, viz.: a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected annually at the Conference. There shall also be a Committee of four others, elected annually by the Conference.

CERTIFICATES.

A Certificate of Enrolment, printed in colours, duly signed by the President and Secretary of the Union, and a copy of the Constitution of a Lyceum, is duly furnished, free of charge, to every Lyceum on entering the Union.

The Secretary of the Union will at all times willingly furnish further information as to joining the Union, and as to its methods of work, and the advantages it can offer. While he will also be pleased to arrange for visits to institute new, revive lapsed, or encourage existing Lyceums, in any part of the kingdom. All communications to be addressed as above, and where reply's are needed a stamped and addressed envelope should be sent.

LYCEUM DISTRICT COUNCILS.

BRADFORD DISTRICT.—Secretary, Mr. H. Aiasworth, 9, Morley Street, Garnett Street, Bradford, Yorks.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.—Secretary, Mr. G. E. Baker, Cross Hill, Greetland, nr. Halifax.

LEEDS DISTRICT.—Secretary, Mr. J. W. Webster, 9, Progress Terrace, Mount Pleasant, Leeds.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.—Secretary. No information.

NORTH-EAST-LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.—Mr. Thos. Wilkinson, 13, Salt Hill Terrace, Clitheroe.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.—Secretary. No information.

ROCHDALE DISTRICT.—Secretary. No information.

* * Will District Council Secretaries please supply all omissions or corrections so that above list may be completed.