

THE LYCEUM BANNER.

A Spiritualist Magazine for Old and Young.

VOL. IX.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

No. 107.

THE PASSING OF EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN.

1823—1899.

ON Monday, October 2nd, 1899, at 10-30 p.m., at 2, Winfield Terrace, Chester Road, Manchester, Emma Hardinge Britten escaped from the confinement of the mortal frame after a well spent life of seventy-seven years duration. Her father was Captain Floyd, and his daughter was born in Stepney, London, on May 2nd, 1823. The chronicle is silent as to the early life of Mrs. Britten, though it is known that, probably between her twenty-fifth and thirty-second years, the subject of this brief record left her native shores for the great Republic of the West. In those early days she was evidently possessed of remarkable psychic gifts which subsequently enabled her to take the foremost place in our movement, not only in the land of her adoption, but practically wherever our cause is known.

The first record of her interest in Modern Spiritualism dates from 1855, in the city of New York, where she was resident at that time. And the highly interesting manner in which she was inducted into our work is told in her own inimitable manner in the pages of that valuable chronicle entitled, "Twenty-one Years of Modern American Spiritualism," which she published in December 1869, in the above-named city. In "Partridge and Brittan's Spiritual Telegraph," for April 11th, 1857, there appears an advertisement of the New York Musical Academy, 553, Broadway, New York, the principal of which was Miss Emma Hardinge, so evidently Mrs. Britten was then practising her profession as a musician, while in an issue of the same journal for November 7th, 1857, she is announced to lecture in Clinton Hall, corner of Clinton and Atlantic Streets, Brooklyn, N.Y., the following day, as by copies of that journal now before the writer. The last item showing that she had then fairly commenced her public career on our behalf.

From the above date her progress was a veritable triumph in the Eastern, Middle, Southern, and Western States of America, and the Spiritual journals of the time bore abundant

testimony to her abilities, her indefatigable labours, and the brilliance of her inspirations and intellectual gifts. Not only did she lecture on our great subject, but she threw herself heart and soul into the campaign for the election of President Lincoln, visiting California on his behalf, as well as lecturing on Spiritualism at the same time in San Francisco, Sacramento, and the principal cities of the State, and in Nevada, Wyoming, Ohio, and other States of the West and South West, as well as the Territories and in the Dominion of Canada.

Her first visit to England was, if the writer mistakes not, about 1864, when she gave a series of lectures in the old Polygraphic Hall, Charing Cross, London, which subsequently became known as Toole's Theatre, and has now been absorbed into the Charing Cross Hospital Buildings. It is to be regretted that no definite record of the above meetings appears to be available, though if the writer correctly remembers they were held largely at the instance of the late J. C. Luxmore, Esq., J.P.

The next appearance, which has been stated was in 1865, was at the invitation of Mr. Benjamin Coleman, a wealthy Spiritualist of London at this period. The meetings were at the Beethoven Rooms, Harley Street, London, and were held under the auspices of the above-named gentleman, and the lectures were published in the *Spiritual Magazine*, and subsequently issued in a separate volume entitled, "Inspirational Discourses," by Miss Emma Hardinge. Sub-



EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN.

sequent to these meetings Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten revisited London, and spoke at the Cavendish Rooms and Cleveland Hall, under the auspices of Mr. James Burns, and at Doughty Hall, Lawson's Rooms, and the Royal Music Hall in Holborn, and various other public halls in the Metropolis. It was at St. George's Hall, Langham Place, on the occasion of a large farewell demonstration in 1871, that Gerald Massey presided and delivered that remarkable address which was afterwards issued in book form, under the

title of "Concerning Spiritualism," and which production created considerable stir in literary circles.

Her work in the Provinces commenced at Manchester somewhere about 1867, were again renewed there in 1871, and in numerous other centres in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, and in Scotland and other places. Indeed without an exhaustive examination of the pages of such records as *Human Nature*, *The Spiritual Magazine*, *The Medium and Daybreak*, *The Spiritualist*, *The Herald of Progress*, and other old time papers, it is impossible to trace the multifarious wanderings and labours of our sister on her repeated visits to this country, prior to her final settling down in Manchester.

As one of the original founders of the Theosophical Society, in New York, in 1875, she inaugurated a movement that in the end has quite departed from its original purposes. Her literary labours were continuous, and as an historian of our cause her two large works, "The History of Modern American Spiritualism," and "Nineteenth Century Miracles," are storehouses of facts pertaining to the growth of Spiritualism in all lands. While her other noted publications, "Art Magic," and "Ghost Land," to say nothing of "The Faith, Facts, and Frauds of Religious History," "The Wild-Fire Club, etc., contain enough material to make the fame of numerous writers. But enough has been said, brief though it all is, to show the activity and resource of so long and active a life. Though one point calls for mention. We owe it to her that there is now in existence that well known weekly paper, "The Two Worlds," which, in conjunction with E. W. Wallis, she was instrumental in establishing, now just twelve years ago.

The last rites to all that was mortal of our co-worker were paid at the Harpurhey Cemetery, Manchester, on Saturday, October 7th last, and they were participated in by an enormous gathering of Spiritualists from far and near. The children of the local Lyceums assembled at the graveside, singing sweetly the hymns our sister loved best. Amid a deep hush, and in the presence of many a tear-dewed cheek, the remains were lowered to their last resting place, and Messrs. Lamont, Morse, and Wallis paid the parting tributes to the beloved worker who had entered the Golden Gates of the Higher Life. A short but deeply touching service had previously been held at the late home, from whence a lengthy cortege, comprising carriages from the Manchester and district Spiritualist Societies, including one with the Chairman and Directors of the "Two Worlds," each sent in token of esteem and respect to our arisen friend, wended its way across the city. The floral tributes were

magnificent in character and profuse in quantity. Seldom has Manchester seen a funeral more notable in appearance.

The passing of our sister was further commemorated in the large Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Manchester, on Tuesday evening, the 9th ulto., by what was announced as a Mass Meeting. This arrangement was made at the suggestion of Mr. Will Phillips, editor of "The Two Worlds," in association with the Directors of that journal. There was a very large attendance, though there was a Federation Propaganda Meeting held at the Hilton Street Rooms on the same night, which was also made into a memorial meeting. The hall was very tastefully decorated with flowers, mottoes, banners, etc. Mr. J. J. Morse had been specially requested to preside, and came from Glasgow to do so. The speakers were Mesdames Wallis and Green, and Messrs. Tetlow, Johnson, Howell, and Chiswell. Each bore testimony to their appreciation of the life and character of the arisen fellow labourer. Mr. Chiswell bore touching testimony to the complete reconciliation that had long since taken place between Mrs. Britten and himself, regarding the unhappy differences that had arisen between herself and the directors

of "The Two Worlds," when she severed her connection with that paper. His frank statement of the incidents being heartily acknowledged by the audience. Mr. Morse gave a long historical resume of Mrs. Britten's life work, derived in the main from his nearly thirty years acquaintance with her. Two resolutions were unanimously passed by the meeting, one in sympathy with Mrs. Wilkinson, the other eulogistic of Mrs. Britten's career.

It is understood that Mrs. Britten has left ample materials for a full and comprehensive biography, and it is to be earnestly hoped that this will find its way into competent hands for early publication. Undoubtedly it will be not only intensely interesting, but an invaluable historical record as well.

The foregoing is merely an unpretentious sketch of a life that was in all ways a remarkable one. It does not pretend to be in any way complete, though it is approximately correct as far as it goes. It is simply the tribute of one who

knew her, esteemed her, and is proud to have been a fellow-worker with her. And it is further offered as a tribute to one who by assisting in the compilation of our *Lyceum Manual*, and by her interest in our Lyceum work, is entitled to occupy a place in the hearts and memories of all Lyceum workers, present and to come. In honouring her, we honour ourselves.

J. J. M.

The block used in this article was kindly loaned by Mr. T. O. Todd, for which he has our thanks.—Eds.

LO, HERE AM I.

Dedication on being restored to health.

"**L**O, HERE am I," eager to do Thy will,
 Whate'er that will maybe, to come or go
 With olden energy, although more slow,
 Since forced so long to suffer and be still.
 Ready am I, for—be it good or ill
 The rest enforced on me—the cause is gone
 And e'en as Samuel (God's beloved one)
 So would I haste to do my Father's will.
 "Lo, here am I" and Thy command I wait
 Eager to do my task ere 'tis too late.
 O, why should one of us our duties shirk
 Since evening comes when none of us can work.
 Grant that we all—Lyceumists—each daughter
 and each son
 Alike may gain and hear Thy glad "well-done."

Written October 7th, 1899,
 in Lyceum for our
 Lyceumists.

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON.

[Specially contributed to the Lyceum Banner.]

LORD OF HIMSELF.

BY ANNIE E. FITTON.

CHAPTER XI.

GUY bore the journey better than had been anticipated, and was in raptures with Blackcombe, as their destination was romantically named. It was little more than a village, just rising into the dignity of a watering place and appreciated only by those who care less for fashion and frivolity than for the quiet pleasures which a fine sea and a rocky coast line afford. Bands and street performers were conspicuous by their absence, but the sea made music for Ralph and Guy, and to lie on the sloping shore, with a long stretch of yellow sands gleaming to right and left until covered by the advancing tide, was a rare pleasure to the invalid boy after his long spell of confinement.

He could walk a little with the aid of a stick and Ralph's strong arm, but for long excursions they drove in a low phaeton, or Ralph would propel him in his wheeled chair, or better still, they would hire a boat, and Ralph, to whom the exercise was a novel delight, and one in which a little practice soon made him proficient, would row to the rocks which jutted out at the furthest curve of the bay. Here was a tiny cove, fringed with sea-weed, and the home of lovely sea-anemones. In the background the tall cliffs were honeycombed with dark recesses, some of which penetrated a considerable distance below the grassy slopes. One cavern in particular, called by the natives "The Sea-gull's home" possessed somewhat of a history, though not a very reputable one, in the days when smugglers set the custom-house officials at defiance, and French silks and French brandy found their way into the country through many an unauthorised channel, to the secret satisfaction of those who profited by the lawless trade, the sea-gulls were the silent witnesses of many a curious scene. The cavern boasted several winding passages, communicating with the main entrance, also, what was of greater importance, an outlet landwards, too well concealed for any save the initiated to profit by its existence. But a traitor in the

camp betrayed a secret so long and profitably preserved. The revenue men were masters of the situation, and the smuggling trade in Blackcombe had perforce to be abandoned, and the sea-gulls left undisturbed in their rocky retreat.

At high-tide the water filled in the entrance to the cave, and more than one unwary visitor had been imprisoned some hours in its dark recesses. During the summer months it was a pleasant and a safe excursion and a favourite with Guy, who, though unable to explore the rock as he longed to do, could saunter along the strips of firm sand or lie on the shingly beach in some sunny corner whither Ralph's careful hands had carried him. Mrs. Cardwell rarely accompanied them; she cared little for boating and Ralph's presence was so uncongenial to her that it was a relief to the brothers when she refused to join them.

In spite of her cherished prejudices, she was compelled to admit to herself that with Ralph her boy was in safe hands. She could not be blind to the watchful care and untiring devotion lavished upon him, but it touched no chord of sympathy or gratitude in her heart, she accepted it as a right. Guy was suffering through Ralph's fault, it was only fitting he should reduce that suffering by any means in his power.

"Mother makes me feel so wild sometimes," exclaimed the boy on one occasion as he reclined on the beach and amused himself by flinging pebbles into a quiet pool; "She might think you were born to wait upon me. I take your services pretty much as a matter of course, I know," laughed the boy, "but at least I appreciate them, and I'm grateful too, old fellow, but the mater—it's a blooming shame, that's all!" "Nonsense, to think I always expect to be thanked for what I do," said Ralph.

"Well for you you don't; its precious little thanks you'd get from some folks."

"My dear fellow, don't you think you are a trifle disrespectful to the Mater, little boys, you know—"

"Little boys indeed!" interrupted Guy, "don't preach, Ralph, it's not your line."

Ralph laughed, "I believe you are about right there. Doris and Oliver are coming next week," he added by way of changing the subject.

"How jolly! it seems an age since we saw them, though it is only a fortnight really." "I shall not see much of them," said Ralph, "My time will be up soon now."

"Oh, bother, can't you get leave of absence for another week or two?"

"I'm afraid not, I am perfectly agreeable of course, but father will object I fancy."

"Take French leave then."

"Much good that would do," replied Ralph, with a shrug; "No, you will have to dispense with my valuable services for a time. Mind you take care of yourself and get strong."

"Don't I wish I could! Ralph, do you think I shall ever be like other fellows?"

It was with difficulty Ralph replied to the wistful question; "Why not? you are stronger already, you walked ever so much better this morning, but you must have patience, it won't come all at once."

"Don't you think I have been patient, Ralph? I have tried to be."

"And succeeded, dear old boy, you have been a standing reproach to me, and when I think that I was the cause of it all I feel fit to hang myself."

"Oh, hanging's too good for such as you," laughed the boy.

The smile with which this sally was received was but a forced one, for the boy's question had stirred up a host of fears which were never wholly laid to rest, and as he looked forward into the future and saw the brother he loved a possible invalid, handicapped by an infirmity his own violence had induced, he was conscious of a sickening sense of remorse and humiliation.

But Guy's thoughts had run into a more wholesome channel. "What is the time, Ralph, my internal sensations suggest dinner." Ralph looked at his watch, "You are right, old fellow; I am glad to find you possess such an accurate time-keeper."

"Oh, this air would make anyone hungry," said Guy, as he limped along, supported on one side by Ralph's strong arm.

The house where they were staying was attached to a small farm which had failed for some years to recoup its owner for the trouble and outlay expended upon it.

A run of bad seasons with other losses had suggested to the occupier, his wife, and daughters the advisability of supplementing a precarious income by letting some of their spare rooms to visitors, who usually came again and again, thus showing their appreciation of the home-like comforts of Deene Farm, combined with the pure and invigorating atmosphere of Blackcombe and its surroundings.

To dwellers in a town, it was a delightful change, and to Guy, the bustle and the homely work which went on around him was a constant source of interest and pleasure.

Ralph returned home after three weeks holiday, but the younger boy and his mother stayed on through the long summer days, each week bringing an increase of strength to Guy, who almost lived in the open and to whom the sea-breezes and warm golden sunshine seemed to impart new vitality and increased vigour. No settled time was fixed for their return. "Stay as long as the fine weather lasts," was the family doctor's advice, and as the autumn proved an exceptionally fine one, they made the most of their opportunities, and lingered on until oak, beech, and elm had changed their green robes for golden ones, the hedges become brilliant with hips and haws and festoons of crimson and yellow briony, while the orchards were rich in heavily-laden fruit trees, and the inhabitants of Blackcombe pronounced the closing season to have been "very good."

It had been arranged that Ralph should rejoin Mrs. Cardwell and Guy the last week of their stay and escort them home, and when the weather at last showed signs of a coming change, he joined them towards the middle of October, and was delighted with the improvement in Guy.

"Why, old fellow, they won't know you at home!" he exclaimed, holding the boy at arms length to note the change which the summer had wrought, "and you have grown too, and 'expanded wisely' as old Weller would say. How is the bad leg, able to play football yet?"

"Not quite, but there's no telling what I may do before I die of old age. I've thrown up the crutch Ralph, and do you know I was very nearly making firewood of the old stick, but just in time, I bethought me I was not out of the wood yet, and must not be too independent. I have to use this still."

Ralph glanced at the stick and stifled a sigh as he said lightly, "So I see, but if you go on as you have done you will discard that in time."

"Or in eternity," said the boy as he limped along the road from the little station to the Farm; "but I'm not going to croak now. I am so glad to see you, dear old fellow," he continued, clinging to his brother's arm affectionately.

Ralph made no verbal response, but very loving were the dark eyes that met the boy's uplifted ones.

"How is the mother?" he asked presently as they neared the farm.

"Oh, she is all right, none the happier for expecting you," laughed Guy.

"Did she object to my coming?" asked Ralph.

"Of course; thought if you came the day before we returned it would be soon enough, but I said a bargain was a bargain, and as you were not exactly a paid courier we could not, in decency, treat you as such."

"Did you really say that, you forward boy?" said Ralph with an irrepressible laugh.

"Of course I did, and gained my point as usual. I'm not afraid of the mater if you are."

"Am I? You see she loves you and hates me, that makes all the difference."

"Some folks have such wretched taste, never know a good article when they see it," said the boy with a gravity which the laughing eyes rather contradicted.

"What an old flatterer you are, Guy."

"On my honour, no! But here we are; I hope tea is ready."

Ralph hoped so too, his long journey had made him hungry. Mrs. Cardwell met them at the door. Her greeting to Ralph was as usual, cool and formal. Try as he would not to feel disappointed, Ralph could not banish the craving for a warmer reception. He was naturally affectionate in spite of his reserve, with a not unnatural longing for appreciation, and conscious of a sincere desire to atone for his faults, he was repelled and discouraged by her coldness and distrust. Where was the use of trying to do right when his efforts met with so little appreciation. Was he always to go on like this—always to feel more an alien than a son in his home? Thus thrown back upon himself, what wonder that he showed to such poor advantage? He was never at his best when with his step-mother; the constraint in her produced in him a corresponding effect, and as any stray remark he might venture met with cool criticism or with contemptuous disapproval, he generally relapsed into silence, which, according to Mrs. Cardwell's generous interpretation was mere sullenness. At times a hot feeling of resentment would flush his cheek and darken his eyes, and such a dislike to the woman who embittered his life would fill his mind, that he almost shuddered at its intensity, for he knew himself sufficiently well to know that he must fight against the feeling, or it might, with his passionate nature, lead him into acts from the thought of which he turned with horror and self-contempt. Something of this hatred crept into his mind this evening of his return to Blackcombe and robbed it of its brightness. Chafed beyond endurance by the cool disapproval of Mrs. Cardwell's reception, and irritated with himself for what he called his absurd touchiness, longing to rise above it yet wholly unable to do so, he was rather dull company for Guy, who, quick to note Ralph's moods, exerted himself to disperse the domestic storm which seemed impending.

But as the evening wore slowly away the cloud on Ralph's brow deepened. Mrs. Cardwell's bitter speeches flowed more freely than usual, and at last Ralph, with a curt good-night, quitted the room and the house, to try, as he had often done before, to walk off his irritation. The booming of the tide in the little bay drew him irresistibly, for there was something in the dark heaving waters that seemed to harmonize with his own unrest.

(To be continued.)

MY VISIT TO A CHINESE THEATRE.

(Specially Contributed.)

BY H. RODEN RUMFORD.

ONE reads so many accounts of Chinese theatricals, yet I think that my short remarks will be somewhat different to any you have previously heard or read. At the same time I hesitate, for I am afraid they will be rather disappointing. My friend, (an English gentleman, born in the East, Hong-Kong) a Chinese interpreter, and myself, took chairs to the theatre here, arriving some little time after the theatre had been opened. The outside was lit up with a variety of dingy Chinese lanterns, and the doors were surrounded by half-dressed, dirty, and evil-smelling coolies. We passed in to the "pay-box," which was a counter ten feet in length, with enormous poles from counter to ceiling about four inches in diameter and about three inches apart, and which, in every way, put you in mind of an English scaffolding. Behind this sat three Chinamen, the box-office manager and his clerks, all naked to the waist, and perspiring terribly. Our interpreter payed a dollar each for my friend and myself, and twenty cents for himself. We turned to the right of the theatre and passed up a dirty passage. We noted one European policeman at the entrance and a good big strapping Scotsman of whom all the Chinese seemed terribly afraid, he saluted us and seemed a little surprised to see us there. I was about to speak to him when our interpreter told me they were waiting to take us to our seats, and I then perceived three bamboo stools being carried in front of us; we followed the men carrying these, and the people made way for us to pass through their midst until we arrived on the stage. The stools were then placed in front on the stage, a little to the right, so that the actors frequently knocked up against us. Having arrived late, of course the performance was in progress, but heedless of this fact our guides took us on to the stage, and placed us where, had it been an English stage, we should have been about two yards to the right of the conductor of the orchestra, and almost on the footlights. As it in was, the orchestra was at the back of the stage, and the only lights in the theatre were two iron five-light gas jets, the same as can be seen in any school-room. As we sat down I noticed a Sikh policeman on the side of the stage, and he touched his turban, and came and stood by us, making the performers who were in front of us move aside in order that we might get a good view of the principle actors. I offered the sikh a cigar, but he said he was not allowed to smoke on duty and refused it. I think we created a good impression with him, for he set himself up as our bodyguard, and any coolies that came near us were hustled back with his stick, this was a great relief to me, seeing that we were the only two Europeans in the house, with perhaps about 3,000 Chinese, and we were in front of them all.

The theatre was crowded to suffocation, men and women huddled together sweltering, and the odour from them very bad indeed. No one but those who have been in the East know how objectionably the Chinese coolie smells. The poorer man wears a sort of waterproof cloth, made up into loose coat and trousers, these never get washed, and after wearing them a time in this terribly warm climate, the effect is beyond the comprehension of anyone who has not lived in the East.

One part of the theatre was reserved for women only, this part was what we should, in England, call the upper boxes, the centre part only was reserved, but there seemed very few

up there, the majority preferring to be amongst the stronger sex.

We had the good fortune to witness the best Chinese actors, amongst whom were some of the most famous, viz. : Lau Kwong, Sin Fa Tai, Sun Kwong Chai, Choi Sun Pue, Su Sang Leung, and She Chai Lai. The play, as far as I could gather from our interpreter, was to the effect that seven kings wanted to capture a certain castle or fort, and that this fort was held by a very honourable officer. The seven kings deputed a certain warrior to go to this castle and take it. At this juncture the famous Choi Sun Pue came on to the stage representing the 'richshaw, a species of carriage, that was to take the kings' warrior to the castle. The 'richshaw was represented by Mr. Choi Sun Pue holding two flags with wheels painted on, between which flags the kings' warrior with a lot of ceremony, which lasted half-an-hour, got between and was "driven" or in other words walked off in! Just fancy an English actor taking half-an-hour to get into a carriage on the stage. Well! the warrior got to the castle. No scenery is allowed on the Chinese stage, so you imagine you get to the castle, because you see two men with their faces painted in a most grotesque style, looking very fierce, and carrying wooden swords. The warrior offers these men bribes, and offers drink, but just as he goes to put the cup to his lips a coolie comes forward with some gun powder on a shovel and puts a match to it, and the valient warrior jumps around with his wooden sword aloft apparently swearing terribly in Chinese.

As the performance was going on, at the instigation of our interpreter and the Sikh policeman, we walked right across the stage into the dressing-room.

The "dressing-room" is beyond my power of description. All the actors make-up at the same table, and use the same materials. The table was a wooden bench, as to four or five tubs of water on it, and two sticks of rouge and one of white paint—the dressers were hung up all round the room. I must say that the dresses, although very much the same, are very elaborate, being embroidered with gold and beautifully worked.

The orchestra is terrible, it is like so many men hitting tin cans and trays, and one has two sticks and hits what sounds like an earthenware pot.

The audience appeared to enjoy the play, but never made any outward sign. Nearly every one of them was drinking cold tea, which was taken round by a coolie in a large copper kettle; this they seemed to enjoy very much, in fact, the place was so warm that I could have drunk anything.

I forgot to mention that the stage seemed to be very old in several places the floor had given way, and was bound by bamboo and rattan, while in the centre of the stage were several pieces of grass matting in order to hide these defects from the gaze of the audience.

The men who acted the part of women were admirably made-up, so well indeed, that I would not believe they were men until I saw one divest himself of his stage clothes. The place got so warm and the smell became so suffocating to us Europeans, that we had to retire in the course of about two hours, only having seen one act and part of another, but when you consider that it takes an actor half-an-hour to get into a 'richshaw you will understand how slowly the action moves in a Chinese play.

Hong Kong, August 8th, 1899.

"Before I give my consent to my daughter's marriage to you, young man, I want to know what your prospects for the future are." "I am trying to settle that question now, sir."

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.

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The Lyceum Banner.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

OUR MONTHLY CHAT.

Emma Hardinge Britten. Amid every outward sign of sympathetic respect the mortal remains of Emma Hardinge Britten were interred in the Harpurhey Cemetery, Manchester, on Saturday, October 8th, 1899. A cemetery is a bad place for any kind of demonstration, the space is so limited. Still all that could be done was done, not only to ensure a fitting sepulture of the discarded body, but also to find satisfactory accommodation for the multitude in attendance. It was solely due to the difficulty of finding room among the graves that the children were somewhat incommoded. Could it have been so arranged that the remains could have been removed to the Co-operative Hall, and the funeral exercises held there, much inconvenience might have been avoided, though it is questionable if the great company could have been contained in even that spacious hall. A word of praise is due to our friend, Mr. A. W. Orr, for valuable, but unostentatious services rendered to the family in the arrangements that were made. We miss our arisen worker, none is there to fill the place she occupied, but, the workers now left and hereafter to arise, will, without doubt, carry on to even greater success the work that our sister commenced in the years gone by. The BANNER unites with all its contemporaries in paying a full meed of praise and appreciation to the departed, and in sincere sympathy to the faithful sister still remaining with us.

Next Month. Owing to the unprecedented pressure on our space, quite a number of matters are left over until next month. But the contents of this number are so interesting and valuable that all will find full value is again presented. Next month we shall have some important announcements to make regarding the course of the BANNER for 1900, and other things as well.

QUARTERLY VISITATION OF THE EXECUTIVE TO BIRMINGHAM.

THE Executive of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union paid its quarterly visit to the Bloomsbury Lyceum, Birmingham, in response to a cordial invitation from that body, on Sunday, October 22nd, and though several unavoidable circumstances militated against the usual success associated with such visits, yet, on the whole, much good was done. The report of the proceedings supplied by our Union Secretary will be found on another page.

The weather bureau turned on the worst of its samples for the occasion, for the fog was simply phenomenal! The members of the Executive met on the Saturday night for business, there being present, Mr. J. J. Morse, president, London; Mr. John Venables, past president, Walsall; Mrs. M. H. Naylor, Middlesborough; Mr. Albert Wilkinson, Nelson; Mr. S. S. Chiswell, Liverpool; and Mr. Alfred Kitson, secretary, Dewsbury. The reports of the secretary of the past quarter's work, the report of the sub-committee regarding the question of a closer union between Lyceums and Societies, were duly presented and discussed. The last named committee being instructed to continue their labours. A report of the "Daisy Dimple" Home scheme could not be considered, as the report had got lost in transit, Mr. Todd having sent it round to the members of the Executive for their preliminary consideration. The matter was therefore compulsorily deferred until the next meeting. After the routine business was disposed of, the invitations from Bury, and Armley, (Leeds), for the Executive meetings in February and April, 1900, were duly and cordially accepted. Then, on the motion of Mr. John Venables, past president, a warmly eulogistic motion of condolence with Mrs. M. Wilkinson, and recognition of the able services to the cause in general, and Lyceum work in particular, rendered by Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten, was unanimously passed and ordered to be spread upon the Minutes, and a copy directed to be sent to Mrs. Wilkinson the sister of our arisen friend and co-worker, this being the first meeting of the Executive of the Union since the translation of our dear friend.

It was a matter of deep regret to all present that the state of Mr. Thomas Olman Todd's health prevented his risking the journey in consequence of the terrible state of the weather. This unfortunate fact, and also the deeply regretted inability of Mr. Chiswell, and our president, to remain for the Sunday services, prevented our Birmingham friends deriving full benefit from the Executive's visit. The imperative demands of business on the part of Mr. Chiswell, and the duty of meeting his engagement in Liverpool, on the part of our president, compelling both gentlemen to make a midnight journey to carry out their engagements. The Executive are under many obligations to their Bloomsbury friends for attentions and hospitality, and especially to Mr. Brian Hodson, who was indefatigable in seeing to the comfort of the visitors.

Our Editor's address at the Britten Memorial Meeting in Manchester contained the most complete resume of Mrs. Britten's life and work that has yet been given. It is a pity the reporter present was not able to present it in his account of the proceedings.

Mrs. SPLINTERS: "Bill's gal do be turnin' a medium. She be hearin' voices in the upper air, they tell me."

Mr. HODCARRIER: "I hear thim every day myself. Sometimes they says "Mortar!" and sometimes "Bricks!"

THE BRITISH SPIRITUALISTS' LYCEUM UNION.

THE Executive Committee paid the Birmingham Lyceums a visit on the 21st October. The three Lyceums met at Bloomsbury, uniting to make the occasion a memorable one. A united programme was gone through with credit to all. Mr. Brian Hodson conducting. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental solos, vocal duets, selections by the choir, recitations, and selections from the *Lyceum Manual*. The flags gave a pretty effect to the marching. Miss Harrison, of Birmingham Lyceum, put their members through the "Swiss Drill," which elicited loud applause, and Mr. Morris of Smethwick, put their children through the Union's exercises in good style, to the delight of all. All participated in the "chain march," to which the Executive were invited to enable all to shake them by the hand. This was quite an exercise in itself.

Mr. J. Venables, past president, presided in the afternoon session which was devoted to the consideration of District Council work, and its constitution.

The past president presided over the evening meeting in his able and genial manner. In a few well selected words he explained the reason of the absence of the president, Mr. J. J. Morse, and Mr. S. S. Chiswell, both of whom had to leave by a late train the previous evening, and Mr. T. O. Todd was too unwell to undertake the long journey. He then addressed the meeting on the object of the Executive's visit and pointed out how two children had been the means of ushering the movement known as modern Spiritualism; and dwelt on the importance of our children being taught the truths of Spiritualism; that it was on the children the future of Spiritualism mainly depended.

Mr. A. Wilkinson testified to the good Spiritualism had done for him, and how he loved the children's cause. So did Mrs. Mary H. Naylor, who also gave clairvoyance in a clear and convincing manner. It was marvellous how these two spoke, labouring as they were, under severe attacks of hoarseness. Mr. Kitson also addressed the meeting.

A. KITSON, Sec.

THE LIVERPOOL LYCEUM AND MRS. BRITTEN.

ON SUNDAY morning, October 15th, 1899, at a full meeting of the officers and members of the above Lyceum, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of all present. Mrs. Britten was a long time visitor to Liverpool, and always manifested a kindly interest in its work. The following is the resolution:

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs. S. S. Chiswell, seconded by Mr. W. H. Dibble, "That the members of the Liverpool Children's Progressive Lyceum No. 1, in session assembled on the 15th October, 1899, at Daulby Hall, 14, Daulby Street, desire to give expression to their deep feelings of sympathy with Mrs. Wilkinson, the beloved sister of Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten, in her hour of bereavement, and to assure her of their high appreciation of the splendid labours of Mrs. Britten on behalf of the Children's Movement, of the affection and esteem in which she is held by all, and of their earnest desire to live in accordance with the "Spiritual Commandments," and the "Ten Laws of Right," as given by the spirits through Mrs. Britten, and contained in the *Lyceum Manual*."

SUSPENDED.—We learn with regret that the appearance of *The Torch* was discontinued with the issue dated October 21st.

ITEMETTES.

EMMA Hardinge Britten.

A NOBLE woman, a whole-souled worker.

A VERITABLE Triton among the minnows.

No one will presume to wear thy golden shoes.

PEERLESS as a speaker in her prime, a worker even to her last.

CAST in noble mould she was a leader by nature, a prophetess and an apostle by angel appointment and natural fitness.

THE tribute of an old worker, uttered at Manchester, though unreported, is reproduced in part in this issue.

THE Spiritual press did itself honour in paying its various tributes of appreciation and esteem to the worker who had helped to build our cause in the days of its beginnings.

A LADY friend of our sister said "she was a royal woman, her very faults were royal ones," and so it was. But she forgave as tenderly as woman can, when regrets were expressed. If it is "blessed" to forgive, it is even more so to admit an error.

BOOTLE has established relations with the parent society. A good example.

KEIGHLEY favours us with an increase of thirty per cent. in their usual order. Thank you. Next, please?

DARWEN rises from three dozens to four dozens per month. This Lyceum has always been a good supporter.

SHEFFIELD, Hollis Hall, restarted, opens with two dozens. They hope to increase soon. Every order helps us.

A. KERSHAW, Bury.—We never send any of our parcels to the "luggage department," all go per parcel post. You must have confounded us with some other journal.

FROM London to Manchester to the interment, then on to Glasgow in the evening, is a fair day's work, say 430 miles. Back to Manchester on the Monday, presiding at the mass meeting on Tuesday, and the next day to Dundee, arriving at 7-30 p.m., and on the platform at eight o'clock, say 489 more miles, then down to Glasgow next day, and back to London, say another 500 miles, is a fair amount of travelling for ten days, as in all it is about 1420 miles, this, independent of lecturing and participating in the various exercises incident on the departure of Mrs. Britten, will show that your Editor is not very lazy!

MRS. CADWALLADER and Mr. B. B. Hill duly arrived home quite safely. A genial note from them assured us they cherish the warmest recollections of all the kindnesses bestowed upon them while amongst us all.

MR. H. A. KERSEY was in town recently on private business. He was looking remarkably well.

Who said the Liverpool, Daulby Hall, Lyceum, was dying? When recently present the president of the Union found seventy members and officers in attendance, and an undiminished interest throughout the proceedings.

BLACKPOOL SPIRITUAL CHURCH.—At a meeting of the Lyceum Committee on the 11th ult., the following resolution was passed:—"That we endeavour to raise £2 per year towards the Lyceum Home maintenance fund.—JOHN ROBERTS, Lyceum Secretary.

"RIGHT up-to-date, and filled with interesting matter. The Editors deserve the best thanks of the movement," is what Editor Will Phillips says in *The Two Worlds*, about our October number. We are pleased to honestly say the same of our bright Manchester contemporary.

ON Sunday last, Oct. 29th, our President conducted the Lyceum session at Bootle. There was a full attendance and a fine harmonious feeling.

DEAR MR. MORSE.—The lines I sent you on Sunday, "Lo, here am I," were, unknown to myself, given to me by one of Mrs. Britten's guides—she sent me word at the Salford developing circle last night so I thought you had better know. The message was of good-will to the Church of which we were both members and then that I had got a new inspirer—one of her guides—and one if not more would be constantly with me. I am so glad. Yours very sincerely,

KATE TAYLOR ROBINSON.

MR. J. J. MORSE'S APPOINTMENTS FOR NOVEMBER.

LONDON, Cavendish Rooms, Sunday, 5th; CARDIFF, St. John's Hall, Sunday and Monday, 12th and 13th; LANGPORT, Wednesday and Thursday, 15th and 16th; BRIDGWATER, probably Friday, 17th; MERTHYR, Sunday and Monday, 19th and 20th; BIRMINGHAM, Masonic Hall, Sunday, 26th.

Lyceum Essay.

"NO MAN CAN LABOUR FOR HIMSELF WITHOUT LABOURING AT THE SAME TIME FOR ALL OTHERS.—*W. H. Longfellow.*

By ERNEST KEELING.

The following Paper, based on the opening lines of G.C. Recitation, No. 121, *Lyceum Manual*, was read at the Liverpool Lyceum, Daulby Hall, on Sunday, October 22nd, 1899.

"NO MAN can labour for himself, without labouring at the same time for all others."

It would be impossible for me to deal fully with such a broad subject as the above, in the short time at my disposal. I will therefore briefly summarise my ideas, and lay them before you for consideration.

After thoughtful deliberation I am convinced that in the essence it is perfectly true. The subject must therefore be squarely and practically faced. It was suggested last Sunday that man laboured for money. This may appear to be the case, but it is not really so; for man's main object in obtaining money is that he may procure for himself sustenance. Sustenance means life; and life, real healthy life, means the happy enjoyment of God's gift to man. The healthy and happy man makes everybody with whom he comes in contact have lighter hearts and happier minds, and they go on their way smiling, and making others feel happy. Thus in one instance we find that one man by *rightful and honest* labour for himself is to all intents and purposes labouring for all others.

But how about the man who is for ever out of temper; is he labouring for others? Our text says NO man can labour for himself, &c. He labours, day after day, always with a grumble and a growl; it would seem as though it were impossible for it to be said that *he* was labouring *even for one* other. But is he not unconsciously showing to all who have communication with him, how disagreeable one may unknowingly become, and thus spurring them on to try to be kind and sympathetic to others. Methinks you will agree with me that he *is*, although quite unintentionally, working for others.

Let us leave everyday cases and take a look at some prominent person. The first one that comes to my mind is that world-famed inventor, Edison.

It is said, and I believe truly, that when he thinks he is on the right road to perfecting some new idea, that he will work on and on with scarcely any interruption for days and nights in succession. His great hurry and perseverance is not primarily that he may benefit mankind, but that he may obtain the object which he has in view, and set his mind at ease upon that particular point. It would therefore appear that his labour is of a purely selfish nature and for himself alone. Yet it would be hard to discover a more popular inventor or labourer in the whole world, whose population he has so greatly benefited.

Take another instance, the inventor of the "X" Rays, so-called for want of a proper name. This was discovered quite accidentally by a man who was labouring secretly with quite another object in view. The accidental result of his labour promises to benefit the human race in a manner which is at present incomprehensible.

Just one other instance, Watt, who sitting before the fire saw the lid of the kettle bobbing up and down with the pressure of the steam. He at once thought that he would like to control steam, so that it might lighten his labour at the mines. This he successfully accomplished with the result that other inventions quickly followed which have undoubtedly greatly benefited mankind in general.

Many others could be mentioned but time will not permit. The subject is a very large one and cannot be settled one way or the other by such a gathering as we have this morning. We can, however, settle *for ourselves* whether there is any truth in the text or not, and in so doing will I trust, gain experience and knowledge which will enable us to go on in *our* different ways, just one little bit more able to labour *for ourselves*, and at the same time *for all others*.

The Outlook.

LYCEUM NOTES AND COMMENTS.—No. LXVII.

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

HOLLIS Hall, Sheffield has re-opened their Lyceum, under new management. They are making rapid progress. They have also re-joined the Union. Lancaster Lyceum, also, has joined us. We accord them a hearty welcome. In unity there is strength.

We should like to see the south Yorkshire Lyceums form themselves into a District Council. It would prove highly beneficial to them. There are Hollis Hall, Langsett Road, Parkgate, and Rotherham Lyceum all within easy reach of each other. I shall be pleased to enter into correspondence with any of them with a view to forming a South Yorkshire District Council.

While I am always pleased to be of assistance to Lyceum secretaries, I do not think there is any need for them to send payment for their LYCEUM BANNERS to me to forward to our genial Editor. Such practices are liable to lead to confusion. It is far better to send your letters containing reports, and payments for the BANNER direct to the London office.

The following is the list of the Executive Committee's visits this side of the Lyceum Conference:—Keighley, December 17th; Bury, February 11th, 1900; and Armley, April 15th.

I again desire to inform all Lyceumists that the price of *Spiritual Songster* is 3/- to those in the Union, and 3/6 to all others. Postage, 4d. per copy extra.

The price of the jubilee medals are: bronze ones 5/-; white ones 1/- each; cases for the same 1/- each. All who wish to preserve one of these medals as a memento of the FIRST JUBILEE, should order of the secretary at once, as but a very limited number are for sale.

The sub-committee of the S.N.F. and the B.S.L.U. appointed to deal with the vexed question of the relationship between Societies and Lyceums, met at Liverpool on September 16th. All the members were present except Mr. Todd, who was unwell. Good business was done towards placing the matter on a firm foundation. We trust their efforts will be crowned with success at their next meeting.

The demise of our esteemed friend and adviser, Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten, has stirred the Spiritual movement from centre to circumference. We grieve at our physical loss; and rejoice at her spiritual gain. She has now entered into that divine life it has been her life's mission to reveal to the children of earth. It was by her wise counsel that Mr. H. A. Kersey and myself were brought together, which led to the compiling and publishing of the *Lyceum Manual*. And she contributed the first portion towards its compilation. Up to that time the Lyceum cause was languishing for a Manual. She was always a lover of the children's cause, and an eloquent pleader for them. Her name will ever be held in loving memory.



Our Daisies' Page.

Edited by Daisy Dimple.

MY DEAR DAISIES.—No doubt you will all be thinking that Daisy will have lots of things to tell you after the three months holiday she has had, for there has not been any Daisy page in the last two numbers of *The Banner*, but it was not altogether my fault there was no Daisy page; there are so many other things to go into *The Banner* every month, that it is only fair that other writers should have a share of the space, so as Daisy does not wish to be thought a greedy girl she stood aside.

Yes! I have lots of things I could tell you, and if we only had a Daisy Banner, with nothing else but Daisy pages, I might tell you a good part of the things you like to hear about.

I want to tell you so much about the Lyceum Home that I really don't know where to begin and where to leave off, which reminds me of some of the speakers who come to our Hall. When they used to come at first to give addresses they scarcely knew how to begin, but after a few times the trouble was to know where to leave off. Well, we will leave the Lyceum Home until matters are ripe for printing in the Daisy page.

* * *

I was delighted with Last Month's *Banner*, such splendid tales and reports, and such a beautiful Golden Group. I just wish I could pay them a visit sometimes, and enjoy their sociable gatherings. I think they would let me go in if I told them who I was. It was very kind of Alfred Playford to move such a sympathetic motion about Mr. Todd's illness, and for Master Johnny to second it, (Johnny has not written me for a long while,) and I sure Mr. Todd would think kindly of them all when he read about it, but would not his countenance fall when he read that the next item of the Group was that recitation by little Rose Blaydon, entitled "When papa's sick." I tell you I did laugh, fit to choke, when I saw that our kind, genial, loving, sweet-tempered, pains-taking Editor had put his foot in it, so to speak. The best of it is that it would not fit Mr. Todd's case at all, because when he is ill he cannot be kept at home, unless they hide his clothes.

* * *

Then I turned to the Riddlers' Corner, and thought I would try to solve the puzzles. I got them all out, and I think the answers I sent were correct, for I got such a sweet little surprise packet with a surprise packet inside of it, and a smaller and sweeter surprise packet inside again. Thank you, Mr. Bunn, and if you don't mind I will give the smallest packet to the "Lyceum Home." The middle packet will hold ——— to use when ——— come off during calisthenics.

* * *

There is one puzzle which Daisy has not been able to solve, and perhaps some of her elder readers can help her, it has not been in *The Banner*. The other day when I was peeping in the looking-glass I began to study, and could not make out how it was that whilst everything is reversed from left to right, and from right to left, yet things are not reversed from top to bottom or bottom to top. If your right eye becomes the left in the glass, and your left ear becomes the right, why does not your chin become your forehead? There must be a reason, and I wonder what it is?

* * *

I got such a surprise a few days ago. When I got down to breakfast, mother said a gentleman has written to her for my portrait, but she had not one to send, and as so many kind friends had sent theirs to me, mother thought I had better have my portrait taken.

Oh! that will be jolly, I thought to myself. I do hope they will be good ones. Then I felt there must be a time in life when we have some small share of vanity, and that I could have mine now.

As it was a fine day mother said we were to go after breakfast, and that she had arranged with the photographer that I was to be dressed simply, because pretty girls looked best in simple dress, whilst ugly ones had to wear gaudy finery to hide their ugliness. (More vanity). "Then, mother," I said, "I'll wear my night-dress, that's simple enough." Mother said I was to wear my pink dress, with the short sleeves, red sash, and Gainsborough hat with red bow, so I was very soon ready.

What a nice man the photographer was, so very, very civil, so obliging, and so anxious to have a "nice picture" as he called it, as though I was going to have some thousands of photographs taken. Then when he was all ready he said that as I was a "literary character," (just think) I had better have a roll of paper in my hand, so in that style I had my picture taken; but he told me to look out of a window whilst he took the photograph so as to get a side view, but just as he was taking off the cap, I turned my eyes to see what he was doing, but it was too late to turn them back again.

* * *

When the portraits came, there was a number of small ones and a very large one, such a beauty! Bob says I look a proper rogue with my eyes turned out; but mother says it is just handsome, and she is the best judge. (More vanity). The large one has got a beautiful frame on it, and is to hang in the parlour. Everybody who sees it says it is a splendid likeness and a charming picture. (Well, if it is more vanity, I cannot help it, I am only telling you the truth.)

So with best love, I am still your loving friend,

Daisy Dimple.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Sunday, October the 8th, our conductor announced the passing on into spirit life of Mrs. E. H. Britten. Songs, solos, recitations, etc., were selected as most suitable including a pathetic rendering of "Ring the bell softly," by our guardian. A few remarks were passed by members including H. A. Kersey's, who most pleasantly spoke of the interment which took place the previous day at Manchester. He also showed most plainly that the world was all the better for such a soul having worked within our midst. It was unanimously decided by the Lyceum:—"That we hold a grand memorial service on the first available Sunday, subject to the consent of our society. Mrs. Britten was an honoured patron of our Lyceum. —G.M.M., Hon. Sec.

The Monthly Record.

LYCEUM REPORTS.

BIRMINGHAM, Masonic Hall.—On Sunday, October 1st, we held our quarterly Open Session at the Masonic Hall. Unfortunately it was a very wet day, and many of the children were prevented from attending, but we had a good audience. Recitations were given by Louisa Hands, Annie Hands, and Marion Knibb. Miss Harrison conducted the marching and drill; Miss Davis was pianist, and M. T. Hands chairman. In addition to the former items which were appreciated by the audience, we had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Walter Howell, who gave a short, bright, and instructive address to the children. Among the audience were several visitors to whom the Lyceum method was new. After the Session they came and expressed their appreciation of what they had witnessed; and were surprised at the manner in which the children went through their programme, each one striving to do his or her best to make the meeting a success. We are making a steady progress, the average attendance this quarter has been the highest yet, the children thoroughly enjoy it, and when they are able to bring a fresh member they seem quite delighted.—C.D.

BOOTLE.—Our Lyceum held its Anniversary Services on Sunday, October 15th, when they very creditably rendered the Service of Song, "Spirit Return," by Mrs. L. A. Griffin. The Readings were capitally rendered by Miss Joe Han, whilst the solo parts, "The Better Land" and "Mother come home," were sung by Miss Hughes and Miss Millie Clark respectively with marked ability. Two of our very junior Lyceumists, Hilda Irving and Jenny Clarke, deserve every praise for their efforts in singing. The Service of Song was followed by a dialogue entitled, "The Lyceum," and this was presented in a telling manner by Miss Agnes Owen and Miss Clara Norton; the latter also favoured us with a solo, entitled, "The Gift," her singing of which met with marked approval. The meeting was brought to a conclusion with the reading of a portion of Mr. Alfred Kitson's "Outlines of Spiritualism," by our Conductor, Mr. Thomson, who also gave the opening invocation and the closing benediction, officiating in this capacity at our Sunday services for the first time. The duties of Chairman devolved upon our Assistant Conductor, Mr. H. Cheetham, who acquitted himself as only a good chairman can do. For a Lyceum service we broke the record in attendance, the hall being well filled, and the collection was appreciably in advance of anything hitherto taken at a Lyceum service.

We have made an advance in the consolidation of the Lyceum with the Society, as at the request of the Leaders of the Lyceum, and on the recommendation of the Committee of the Society, the members of the Society at their quarterly meeting on Wednesday last elected our Conductor and Secretary as members of the Society Committee, and the President and Secretary of the Society as Members of the Lyceum Committee. This election was retrospective as the officials afore-named will, unless otherwise resolved, in all cases be members of the respective Committees from year to year. This will in no wise interfere with the independent working of the Lyceum, as, apart from the election of our Conductor they elect all their own officials, and the financial status of the Lyceum will remain independent of the Society as hitherto. We hope by this interchange of representatives to further the work of the Lyceum and Society, and also to

maintain the harmonious relations existing between the parent and child.—P.

BURY.—Election of officers. The annual election of officers took place at Bury on October 15th, our retiring conductor, Mr. Golding in the chair. The following officers were elected:—Secretary, Mr. Kershaw, re-elected; conductor, Mr. Birkett; guardians, Miss M. Kershaw and Mr. Howarth. The following were elected as representing the Lyceum portion of the committee:—Miss Kershaw, Mr. Crompton and Mr. Towler. Delegates, Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Towler. State of Lyceum, progressive; having more to choose the officers from. Bury Lyceum Football Club versus the Bury Baptist Sunday School, the Lyceum losing by 6 goals to 4 goals after a splendid game.—M. KERSHAW, Secretary.

GATESHEAD.—The first annual meeting and election of officers of the above Lyceum was held on Sunday, September 24th, when the secretary's report was read and adopted which was very satisfactory. After which the election of officers took place with the following results:—Conductor, Mr. J. Dixon, assistant conductor, Mr. P. Herd, guardian, Miss M. Finlay, secretary, Mr. J. W. Secker, captain of guards, Mr. G. Hetherington, musical director, Miss E. Hunter. A vote of thanks to our late secretary (Mr. Connolly) for his past services brought our Lyceum session to a close.—J. W. SECKER.

MANCHESTER, Collyhurst.—Sunday, September 24th, Open Session. Lyceumists occupying the whole day. Solos by Ethel Waters, Emily Lawrence, Bertha Turner, and Mrs. Jones; trio by Mr. Miss and Master Humes. Recitations by Florry, Francis, Arthur, and Hughie Arundale. Stirring addresses were given by Mr. Crutchley, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Tinker, of Higher Broughton. Mr. Arundale, our conductor, in the chair at each session. Marching and calisthenics well conducted by our leader, Mr. T. Taylor. On the Monday following, a concert was held, Mr. Arundale presiding. The entertainment was very successful. The following gave their services—the brothers and sister Donnelly, young Leno, and Master Alf Daniels. Recitations by Florry, Francis, Arthur, and Hughie Arundale. Songs by Ethel Waters, Emily Lawrence, Sarah Lawrence, Bertha Turner, Violet Crutchley, and Master Tom Anderson. A dance was given by Miss Lottie Steele. Cornet solo by Arthur Scholefield. Great praise is due to all who contributed, as also to Mr. Meadowcroft, our organist, who is ever willing to assist us. The next entertainment will be on the first Monday in December. The proceeds were in aid of the cleaning fund. We have commenced a Band of Hope which bids fair to become a great success. The next meeting will be held on the 3rd of November.—A. LAWRENCE, Sec.

MANCHESTER, Higher Broughton.—This society held its half-yearly meeting on October 2nd, when the following officers were appointed:—Mr. Smith, conductor; Miss Rotherham, musical director; Miss Pollitt, guardian. Miss Garner was appointed leader of calisthenics and marching, also delegate for Lyceum. I may say that we have 72 members on the register. Our recitation for Sunday are on an average of about 9 reciters, for which we give prizes. The second anniversary of our Lyceum was held on October 15th. The usual session was at 10-30. In the afternoon an open session was attended by many parents and friends, and a large number of scholars who went through the routine in smart and efficient style. In the evening the impressive service of song, "An Angel in Disguise," was

admirably rendered before a crowded audience. Mr. Tinker, assistant conductor, presided at night, and Mr. Brummit the society organist, played the instrumental accompaniments. Miss Rotherham, R.A.M., musical director, trained the singers. Our Lyceum was also represented at the funeral of the late Mrs. Britten, and was rather disappointed that a little more consideration was not extended to the children, instead of having to push them anywhere, I think a little space might have been allotted out to them, after making an application for them to attend.—Mr. CRUISE. [Please write on one side of the paper only in future. Also note the omission of the initials to nearly all the names of officers mentioned in your report, including your own.—Eds.]

MANCHESTER, Longsight and West Gorton.—On Sunday, October 8th, we had a good session, when the following officers for the next half-year were elected—Mr. Wright, conductor; Mrs. Wright, assistant conductor; Miss S. Archer, treasurer; Mr. W. H. Lawson, hon. secretary; Mr. G. Britland, musical director. We hope to keep on progressing.—W. H. LAWSON.

MANCHESTER, Tipping Street.—Our conductor (Mr. Braham) has been devoting part of our Sunday mornings to making us proficient in calisthenics, owing to the making of several fresh members, in view of our open session for the benefit of the Lyceum, to be held six weeks hence. Progressing very favourably, we expect to be perfect by the time.—GEORGE VERNON, 73, Myttou Street, Hulme.

SHEFFIELD, Hollis Hall.—Our Lyceum which has now been open 5 weeks, has met with good success. We have 44 members on our register, and we are duly enrolled in the Lyceum Union. We hope our number will still increase, and encouragement given to both teachers and scholars and enable us to raise a strong Lyceum to prove a blessing to the society.—W. E. BENNETT, Sec.

STOCKPORT, October 22nd.—By request of a few residents of Cheadle, some three miles from Stockport, our Lyceum held a session on the village green. The object was the introduction of Spiritualism with a view to establishing a society. Well-offered by the conductor, Mr. Thomas Edwards, and leaders, Messrs. J. Marsden, F. Springate, the Misses L. Marston, E. Bromley, and E. A. Medcalf, our young people did good propaganda work. A very large gathering of onlookers was present. Some little opposition in the form of jeering made conditions somewhat unfavourable for sensitive persons, but a sense of duty, and the influence of spirit co-workers, sustained us till the end, and enabled us to prepare the soil for the next phase of operation to be shortly undertaken by others. Mr. A. Causey invoked the higher influences, and Mr. Hall concisely explained the object of our visit, the leading features and aim of Spiritualism and Lyceum work and training. Our baggage required for the service and the commissariat department filled two carts, and we footed it in and out of town. At the close our young champions held their own with orthodox objectors armed as usual with their Bibles and antiquated ideas of what Spiritualism is and is not.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES.

HUDDERSFIELD, Brook Street.—On Sunday, October 8th, 1899, the above Lyceum held their harvest festival. There was an open session of the Lyceum in the morning, at which Mr. E. W. Wallis, the speaker for the day, was present. Recitations were given by the following members of the Lyceum:—Blanche Beaumont, Percy Beaumont, Sarah Jane Dyson; piano solo, Beatrice Smith; reading, Mr. Rogers. After the marching and calisthenics had been gone through,

Mr. Wallis addressed the Lyceum and said how pleased he was to see our Lyceum go through its work so well, especially the marching which was performed with military precision, and the calisthenics accompanied by music. The attendance was excellent and every one present enjoyed the session. On the following day (Monday), a fruit banquet and social was held. Songs, solos, recitations, games, were the order of the evening and a very pleasant time was spent.—HARRY L. WESTERBY.

DARWEN.—On September 3rd, our harvest festival was held. We had an open session in the morning, when about 100 Lyceumists took part in marching, reading, and calisthenics. In the afternoon and evening, two eloquent addresses were given by Mr. W. Johnson, of Hyde. Altogether everything passed off quite satisfactory. Collections amounted to £11 8s. On Monday, a fruit banquet was held, when a very enjoyable evening was spent. Great praise is due to the committee for the very able manner in which everything was carried out.—W. PEARCE, Sec. [The foregoing report did not reach us until the issue for October was in the press. Consequently it could not appear last month. Please write on one side of the paper only.—Eds.]

The Riddler's Corner.

EDITED BY J. HARRY BUNN.

DEAR RIDDLERS.—The successful solvers of last month's riddles are—W. Dean, C. O. Tober, and last but not least, our bright little friend, Daisy Dimple. Correct answers to October riddles as follows:—

Mr. Cooke's contributions:

Logogriph: *Pear* (pea, ear, reap). Cryptogram: CIVAL.
Prize Puzzle: New South Wales.

It will interest you to know that, with the riddles appearing in this issue, Mr. John Cooke of Rishton, has contributed a complete set of puzzles this year. These are in strict accordance with the new system of riddle making as given in my lessons to you last year in the pages of this journal. Mr. Cooke carefully studied my clear instructions, and with perseverance and natural ability, has become an expert constructor of poetical gems of wit and wisdom. His latest creations are as follows:—

TRANSPOSITION.

A place that is noted for dramatic display,
Transposed I'm a tax we don't like to pay.

LOGOGRIPH.

My whole is much used by children at school;
Beheaded an action much against rule;
Behead again and then transpose you give
The reason why we all walk, run, and live.

DELETION.

A series of steps by which we ascend;
Delete a letter you have worlds without end.

I give the following prize puzzle as an illustration of a very simple yet pretty form of riddle making:—

SYLLABIC CHARADE.*

My first is a modest country maid;
My second is a simple wayside stone;
My whole, if you these two have weighed,
Is on the River Medway you will own.

Three small prizes as usual to the first three solvers of all the riddles. Send early, don't be shy, and win a prize of quality.

J. HARRY BUNN.
41, Watlington Street, Reading-on-Thames.

The "Banner's" Letter Box.

ABOUT THE OUTLINE LESSONS.

DEAR EDITORS.—In your October issue you ask the readers of the BANNER to give their opinions with reference to the Outline Lesson Plan. We, here in Walsall, much regretted to find you had ceased to give these Lessons, as we thought them a great help to Lyceums, especially to those who had newly taken up the Lyceum work, and who are accustomed to give Invocations and also to formulate lessons to speak to the children and I would be very pleased to see them appear again in your valuable little paper.

Fraternally yours, JOHN VENABLES.
Hydes Villa, Foden Road, Walsall.

DEAR EDITORS.—In reply to your suggestion in the October "Monthly Chat," I would like very much to see you commence the Leader Column again, as I think it to be a very instructive part of the BANNER; and if used by all the Conductors and Teachers it would make our Lyceums more interesting, and contribute to them all working together every Session with one accord. It would also help the Teachers to prepare a good lesson for each Sunday; and also be a great help to the Guardian of Groups who would be able to examine every Group on the Sunday's subject.

Hoping you will have more correspondence on this subject, and be able to carry it out. I am yours fraternally,
J. W. SECKER, Sec. Gateshead Lyceum.

DEAR EDITORS.—In response to your invitation in the Leader Column, as Conductor of the Leeds Lyceum, I should like to see the plan to appear again in the BANNER. There may be many reasons for this, but I think that it enables them to teach either Groups or the Lyceum with more ease and confidence than at any such time. I mentioned this question at our Liberty Group a fortnight ago, and gave them time in which to think it over, and then say whether they would like to see the Plan in the BANNER again being put in. In conclusion allow me to say that I am very pleased to see the BANNER, and that I cannot, as a Conductor of a Lyceum, and also as an individual, adequately express the deep obligation that I feel towards you for the services you have so lovingly given, and trust that you may long be spared to continue the good work for many years to come. Fraternal in the cause,
SAM ARWOOD.
68, Fenton Street, Leeds.

DEAR EDITORS.—Regarding your query as to what part of the BANNER we like best. My opinion is, let it be left in the hands of the Editors' to do what they think best in preparing the monthly issue. If you allow your readers to advise you, you will be in the position of the old man in the fable, who you may remember lost through trying to please everyone. Don't spoil your smart little journal by accepting too much advice as to its management.

Faithfully yours,
THOMAS DOWARDS.
Stockport.

LIVERPOOL WANTS THE OUTLINES.—At the Session held on Sunday, Oct. 22nd, the Lyceum passed a unanimous vote in favour of asking the Editors of the BANNER to resume the publication of the Lesson Outlines, as they were deemed most helpful to Lyceum workers.

DISTRICT VISITORS' REPORTS.

LEEDS DISTRICT.

NORMANTON.—June 18th I visited Normanton, where the Lyceum was newly opened. Progressing very nicely so far.

LIVERSEDE.—July 9th. Was found in a low state. Large in opening, and poor attendance. A little more life and energy would brighten things up.

MORLEY.—On July 16th I found poor attendance, otherwise the session was good. I tried to inspire them with more enthusiasm.

BATLEY CARR.—On July 30th I visited in the morning and found a poor attendance, otherwise a good and instructive session. I would

suggest that the Union's Secretary pays more attention to his own Lyceum, otherwise the result might prove painful to record.

HECKMONDWIKE.—On August 20th, I visited Heckmondwike and was informed that the Lyceum had been closed for two or three weeks. I have heard since they have re-opened, and are holding two sessions per Sunday instead of one.

LEEDS.—On the Sunday following, I visited Leeds. There was only a moderate attendance, caused by the wretched weather that prevailed. Good interest was manifested during the whole session.

DEWSBURY.—I am pleased to report a slight improvement in the attendance at the Dewsbury Lyceum, but a little more enthusiasm among the adults would be highly beneficial.
J. KIRSON.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.

NOTTINGHAM, GLADSTONE HALL.—Visited May 7th. It gives me much pleasure to report progress in this Lyceum. Credit is due to the officers who work so hard for the children. Marching improved, grouping good, fine recitations, a bright session; delighted to be with them.

BELPER.—Visited August 20th. A grand Lyceum, one of the finest in the movement, a treat to anyone visiting. Good session, bright music and singing, marching and calisthenics excellent, a beautiful pattern to follow. A Lyceum of workers. Press on!

LEICESTER, QUEEN STREET.—Visited September 3rd. A most progressive Lyceum, good attendance, grand session, beautiful order, marching well done.

BIRMINGHAM.—Bloomsbury, Smethwick, and others not visited.
WALSALL.—Visited August 13th. In going to above one is always sure of a grand welcome. I note with pleasure a marked improvement in this Lyceum, the workers are more active than ever. Session well attended, marching good, everyone bent on doing their best.

DERBY, MIDLAND ROAD.—Visited July 30th. This Lyceum has passed through trying times, but still lives and improves.
W. H. LOTE.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.

PENDLETON.—Twenty-two present. Reciting good. This Lyceum requires help, and it could then again be a good one.

HIGHER BROUGHTON.—Progressing nicely.

CHEETHAM.—Only few in numbers, but there is great praise due to Mr. Robert Brown in the way he is conducting them.

HARPUREY.—Not as good as it usually was. Seems to be a falling-off of scholars.

COLLYHURST.—Numbers only moderate compared with what they used to have. Reciting very good.

TIPPING STREET.—Rapidly improving. Great praise is due to the Conductor.

BRADFORD.—Only few in numbers; good order, and good reciting. Progressing very nicely, good numbers.

These are Lyceums which I have visited, though not in my district: LIVERPOOL, DALBY HALL.—This Lyceum is a credit to our movement. I long for the day when all Lyceums are like it. The reception which Mr. Taylor and myself received from the Conductor, Mr. S. S. Chiswell, and the Lyceumists will never be forgotten.

WARRINGTON.—This is only a new Lyceum, but is progressing nicely.

OLDHAM, BARTLAM PLACE.—132 present. This Lyceum is a credit to the Oldham Spiritualists.

LEIGH AND BEDFORD.—This is only a new Lyceum. Doing very nicely.
P. BEWICK.

HALIFAX.—It has been my lot to visit these Lyceums and I must say on the whole there is a great improvement, especially in the Raven Street Lyceum. In most of the Lyceums one great fault is not being punctual to commence. I hope in future all Conductors will take note, and show a good example to the scholars. A little more assistance too, may be given to the Conductors if the other Officers in the Lyceums would help them to demand better behaviour.—S. THORNTON, D.V.

MR. A. WILKINSON,

10, PERCY ST., NELSON, is now booking dates for

LIME-LIGHT EXHIBITIONS

OF ALL KINDS.

The New System of Calisthenics authorised by the B.S.L.U. is now ready and can be produced on the Screen by the aid of the marvellous Nordenograph Machine, showing over 6,000 Photographs in 8 minutes. Must apply early.