

The National Spiritualist College.

Established in July, 1926, by the Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd.,
and the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.



“ THE COLLEGE BOOKLET.”

CONTAINING :

THE COLLEGE CONSTITUTION.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL BRANCHES.

INTERPRETATIONS OF VARIOUS REGULATIONS

BY THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

HINTS ON CONDUCTING LOCAL BRANCHES.



A useful Guide to Church or Lyceum Officials
and
To all interested in our Educational Work.

“ These things shall be. A loftier race
Than e'er the world hath known shall rise :
With flame of Freedom in their souls,
And light of Knowledge in their eyes.”
—JOHN H. SYMONDS.

Chairman of the Governing Board :

Mr. W. G. GUSH, D.N.U., F.N.S.C., 127, BLACKMOORFOOT ROAD,
CROSLAND MOOR, HUDDERSFIELD.

Hon. Secretary : Mr. A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C.,
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13 CLAREMONT ROAD

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FOREWORD.

The National Spiritualist College was founded in July, 1926, and is recognised by The Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd., and The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, as "an Educational Institution legally established as a Body within the Orbit of the Union and an Integral part of its Activities."

The College is being conducted in close co-operation with the National Education Scheme; the College Governing Board being also the Joint Education Committee. But there is no confusion of duty or function. The function of the Joint Committee is to carry on the Advanced Education Scheme and conduct the Grade Examinations (through the S.N.U. Education Committee—which forms a section of the College Board); and the function of the Governing Board is to organise and supervise and encourage the Educational and Class work carried on by the Churches and Lyceums, operating as Local Branches of the College.

The COLLEGE Constitution was adopted by both Unions in 1926; the Local Branch Constitution has since been drawn up as a Guide to all legitimate activities under Article 11 (b) of the College Constitution, and also to enable Churches and Lyceums to organise themselves as Units of the College. Where any question has arisen as to the application of any article or articles, the Emergency Committee of the College Board has given Interpretations which will be found appended to the Constitution affected. Hints and suggestions on organisation, etc., for Local Branch officials and members, and Interpretations of Advanced Education Scheme Regulations which may be of service to students and tutors, have also been included in our little Booklet.

It is hoped that all eligible Churches and Lyceums will adopt it as an item of normal policy to join the College and establish Local Branch activities in vigorous operation—and that those not yet eligible will set up Education Committees on lines similar to those laid down for Branch Committees, and make active membership of the College their educational objective. In ensuring the

success of the College they will be raising the status of the Organised Movement, and thus bringing honour to themselves as members of such a Movement and as pioneers in its educational and progressive efforts.

There is one thing we must remember. The long threatened attack on our position has begun, with the usual accompaniment of misrepresentation and abuse. Our reply to that is not to rush into print to defend our Cause—which is in no need of apology—but to set to work and build up an educated Movement, every member of which will be able to defend his or her belief both scientifically and philosophically. To do this all must study, and it is the duty of all who are zealous educationists to work without ceasing in our individual Districts as missionaries of educational Spiritualism until the absolute necessity of study is realised—and acted upon—by every Body attached to the S.N.U. and B.S.L.U. And when this great work has been accomplished we may rest assured that the Spirit Organisers of our Movement will open up new vistas of progress and give us new opportunities of working for the mental and spiritual advancement of mankind. But we need not waste time looking forward and wondering what tasks the future will bring forth. Let us do the duty that lies nearest us; our next duty will then have become clearer. So will our Movement be raised to the position it was destined to occupy, and so shall each of us be able to say that we have done our utmost to help in the accomplishment of its destiny.

“ Let each man do his best;
Who does the best his circumstance allows
Does well, acts nobly—angels could do no more.”

On behalf of the College Board,

A. T. CONNOR, F.N.S.C., *Secretary.*

W. G. GUSH, D.N.U., F.N.S.C., *Chairman.*

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST COLLEGE.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. NAME.

The name of this College shall be "THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST COLLEGE."

ARTICLE 2. BASIS.

The National Spiritualist College shall, under the auspices of the Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd., and the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, co-ordinate and control all the educational work of the Organised Spiritualist Movement; and may receive into affiliation, or work in co-operation with, any other educational Spiritualist Body.

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTS.

The object of the College shall be to promote the welfare of the educational work of Organised Spiritualism by:—

(a) Working in conjunction and co-operation with (and eventually absorbing or replacing) the Spiritualists' National Union and British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Education Committees.

(b) Laying down Courses of Study in the Religion, History, Science and Philosophy of Spiritualism.

(c) Drawing up Syllabuses from time to time, and prescribing and/or publishing Text-books.

(d) Holding Periodical Examinations, and granting Certificates and/or Diplomas to successful students.

(e) Establishing DISTRICT CENTRES and LOCAL BRANCHES (or SCHOOLS).

(f) Any other educational activities authorised by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at the Spiritualists' National Union and British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Conferences held in the same year.

ARTICLE 4. MANAGEMENT.

(a) The COLLEGE BOARD shall consist of the two Education Committees as appointed respectively by the Annual Conferences of the above Unions.

(b) The GOVERNING BOARD shall consist of six members, three appointed by the Spiritualists' National Union and three appointed by the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, from and through the members of their respective Education Committees.

(c) The College Board, in its administration of the work of the College, shall be free from interference and dictation by either Union; but shall have no power to initiate educational policy, unless with the previously obtained consent of the Annual Conferences (meeting in the Whitsuntide and July of the same year).

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Membership of the College shall be open to all Affiliated Churches and Lyceums, which have at least TEN members taking the Examination Course in one or both of the National Education Schemes conducted by or through the College; and to District Councils (or District Groups) and Lyceum District Councils FIFTY PER CENT. of whose affiliated bodies are eligible for membership of the College.

(b) Churches and Lyceums in membership may call themselves "TheBranch of the National Spiritualist College."

District Councils (or Groups) in membership may call themselves "TheDistrict Centre of the National Spiritualist College."

Where there are two or more Councils or Groups in a District, these shall be registered (and numbered) in strict order of priority of affiliation with the College. *E.g.*, "The Leeds (No. 1) District Centre," "The Leeds (No. 2) District Centre, etc.

ALWAYS PROVIDED that members of every Church or Lyceum affiliated with its National Body shall be entitled to enter for the Annual Examinations, on payment of the stipulated Examination Fees, whether the said Church

or Lyceum is a member of the College or not; and such students shall be awarded the various College Degrees, if they attain the necessary educational standard and make the necessary application to the Secretary of the College.

This provision applies also to Subscribing Members of the Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd.

ARTICLE 6. BUSINESS.

(a) *For administrative and executive purposes*, the COLLEGE Board shall divide itself into its (Spiritualists' National Union and British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union) constituent parts, each of which, as an Education Committee, shall administer that section of the Joint Education Scheme sponsored by the Union by which the Committee was appointed; that is to say, the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Committee shall administer the ASSOCIATE Section (Oral Grade to Grade V.) and the Spiritualists' National Union Committee shall administer the GRADUATE Section (Intermediate to Final Grade).

(b) *The several Education Committees* shall meet at such times and places as they may deem necessary for the proper transaction of their administrative and executive business; and a report of the work done shall be forwarded as soon as possible to the College Secretary. These reports, together with any suggestions that may be received from either Union, or from any Affiliated Body, shall be fully considered by the Governing Board, and the consequent discussion, decision and/or recommendation recorded in full in the Minutes of the meeting at which the discussion takes place.

(c) The administrative work of the College (as such) shall be deputed to the GOVERNING Board, who shall also issue the DIPLOMAS of the Associate and Graduate Degrees, and any others that the College may decide to award. The Governing Board shall meet at such times and places as may be arranged, to consider and transact the business of the College; and shall have power to make all necessary rules and regulations for the conduct of the business when such are not provided for in the College Constitution.

(d) The Governing Board shall function as the Joint Education Committee of the Spiritualists' National Union and British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union, and shall (in consultation and agreement with the two Education Committees) have power to publish, or to arrange with other bodies for the publication of such Text-books as may be deemed necessary for the success of the educational work of the College. Also, with the consent of the two said Committees, it may issue a combined "*National Spiritualist College Results List*," the cost thereof to be apportioned between the two Unions as may be previously agreed.

(e) The Governing Board shall not, under any circumstances, interfere with the Departmental work of the Education Committees, which (while they continue to exist and function) are as such responsible each to its own Annual Conference and to that alone. (See Article 3 (a).)

ARTICLE 7. OFFICERS.

(a) Each Education Committee shall elect or appoint such Officers as it may deem necessary or expedient.

(b) At its first meeting after the Annual Conferences in each year, the Governing Board shall elect its Officers, who shall hold office (if remaining members of the Board) until the corresponding meeting in the following year. Vacancies occurring through retirement or any other cause shall be filled as decided by the COLLEGE Board.

The Officers shall be a Chairman and a Secretary (elected annually from and by the members of the GOVERNING Board) and a Trustee-Treasurer, as laid down in Article 9. These shall be (also) the Officers of the National Spiritualist College.

(c) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which he is present, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him. In the event of his absence, a chairman shall be appointed from among the members present.

(d) The Secretary shall receive and attend to all correspondence, take and record the Minutes of all meetings of the Board, and perform such other duties as

the Board may assign to him.

He shall receive all moneys in the name of the College, pay such small accounts as he may arrange for with the Treasurer, to whom he shall remit the balance monthly or quarterly (as may be arranged), less necessary and authorised expenses and an agreed sum for emergency and current expenditure.

(e) All additional duties assigned to the Chairman and/or Secretary shall be recorded in full detail in the Minutes of the meeting at which the additional duties are assigned.

(f) The College Treasurer (*see* Article 9) shall receive all College moneys, less actual authorised expenses, as laid down in Section (d), from the Secretary, pay all bills over £..... for goods or work authorised by the College Board, and deposit the surplus in such bank as may be selected by the College Trustees. He shall prepare an Annual Financial Statement, which (together with the Auditors' Report, and a report of the work of the College) shall be forwarded by the College Secretary to the Spiritualists' National Union and British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union General Secretaries, for publication in the Official Spiritualist Press and presentation to their respective Annual Conferences.

The Treasurer, as such, need not be a member of the Governing Board.

ARTICLE 8. FINANCE.

The Finances of the College shall be derived from :—

(a) Membership subscriptions from Churches and Lyceums, as fixed from time to time by the College Board.

(b) Contributions, donations, bequests and/or endowments, etc.

(c) Publication of Text-books (*see* Article 6, Section (d)).

(d) Any other method approved by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at the Spiritualists' National Union and British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Conferences held in the same year.

ARTICLE 9. TRUSTEES.

(a) There shall be three Trustees : one a Trustee (on the panel) of the Spiritualists' National Union ; one a Trustee of the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union (who is not on the Spiritualists' National Union panel) ; and one who is a Trustee of both Unions (that is, who is on the panel of the Spiritualists' National Union and also one of the Six Trustees elected by the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union). This last Trustee shall act as Treasurer to the College, under the conditions laid down in Article 7, Sections (d) and (f).

The remaining two Trustees shall act as Auditors.

(b) The duties, powers and liabilities of the COLLEGE Trustees, and the conditions governing their appointment, services and dismissal, shall be as laid down in the College Trust Deed and in the College Constitution—and which must not contravene the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Spiritualists' National Union, Limited.

ARTICLE 10. AUDITORS.

The two Trustees who represent respectively the Spiritualists' National Union and the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union shall audit the accounts and books of the College, and shall present a written report to the General Secretaries of the two Unions, which (together with the Financial Statement and the College Report) shall be published in the LYCEUM BANNER for May and NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST for June, and submitted for publication in other organs of the general Spiritualist Press.

ARTICLE 11. AUXILIARY BODIES.

(a) DISTRICT CENTRES may submit Schemes for Educational work (such as Classes, Lectures, Study Courses, etc.) in connection with the College ; and these, if and when approved by the Governing Board, shall be administered by the District Centre concerned.

(b) LOCAL BRANCHES shall establish educational classes, and may also arrange with other Branches in the same locality for Combined Classes, or for Courses of Lectures (or Lessons) on the College curriculum. All

such arrangements must be submitted to the District Centre concerned (or, in case of dispute, to the Governing Board) for approval, before being put into operation.

(c) District Centres and Local Branches shall render to the College Secretary quarterly Reports of the work done or being done.

ARTICLE 12. REPRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCES.

(a) At the Spiritualists' National Union Conference, the College shall be represented by a British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union member (or Officer) of the Governing Board.

(b) At the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Conference, the College shall be represented by a Spiritualists' National Union member (or Officer) of the Governing Board.

ARTICLE 13. COLLEGE DIPLOMA.

(a) Each Education Committee shall issue CERTIFICATES to its successful students, according to the Scale laid down in the Schemes which they respectively administer. But these Certificates shall be independent of the DIPLOMAS issued by the COLLEGE, for which application must in all cases be made to the College Secretary.

(b) The DIPLOMAS shall be for the SPIRITUALIST DEGREES of :—

ASSOCIATE of the National Spiritualist College (A.N.S.C.), for students who have passed Grade V. with 70 per cent. marks.

GRADUATE of the National Spiritualist College (G.N.S.C.), for students who have passed the Final Grade with 75 per cent. marks.

DIPLOMIST of the National Spiritualist College (D.N.S.C.), for all Graduates who have (also) obtained the S.N.U. Exponents' Committee's Diploma as a CERTIFIED EXPONENT.

(c) NONE of the above Degrees are HONORARY. But the Degree of FELLOW of the National Spiritualist College (F.N.S.C.) may be conferred on Spiritualists who have

done conspicuous national service for the Educational work of the College or of the Organised Movement—by the Annual Conferences, on the recommendation of the COLLEGE BOARD. The names of those recommended, with the reasons for recommending them, shall be included (and published) in the College Annual Report.

INTERPRETATIONS BY THE COLLEGE BOARD.

Re ARTICLE 5 (a)—LOCAL BRANCHES.

(a) When ten or more candidates have been entered for an examination, and less than ten are able to sit, the Emergency Committee, if satisfied with the reasons given on behalf of the absentees, may consider that the Church or Lyceum concerned has fulfilled the conditions of Article 5 (a) of the College Constitution and is eligible for membership as a Local Branch.

(b) A Church and its Lyceum are TWO bodies, working under two different Constitutions, and will have to apply separately for enrolment. Either can apply without the other. They will (at present) form two Local Branches—but under Article 4 (a) of the Constitution for Local Branches, they can work together if they so desire.

(c) If not less than twenty students from a Church and its Lyceum sit at the annual examinations (in any one year), in one or more of the Grades of the National Education Scheme (*Oral Grade to Final Grade*), and not less than ten of these are Church members as well as Lyceum Members—or *vice versa*—BOTH the Church and the Lyceum are eligible for enrolment as Local Branches of the College.

(d) APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Eligible Churches *must apply* for registration on the official Application Form—which is supplied on request by the COLLEGE REGISTRAR (whose duties are being at present performed by the College Secretary).

MEMBERSHIP FEE. The Registration (or Membership) fee of five shillings is an *annual payment*, and must in all cases be enclosed with the application for enrolment or re-enrolment.

MEMBERSHIP runs from Whitsun to Whitsun, the year of expiration being as shown on the Local Branch Certificate. (Of course, a Church or Lyceum can enrol as soon as it learns of its eligibility—but the membership

would run to Whitsun of the following year.)

ASSOCIATE DIPLOMAS.

No Fees have to be paid by applicants for a Diploma, as the Degree is an honour awarded by the College. Degrees *must be applied for*, on the official Application Form, which will be supplied on request by the COLLEGE SECRETARY.

JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE DECISIONS.

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS BY THE JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL BE OF INTEREST TO ALL STUDENT MEMBERS OF LOCAL BRANCHES :—

1. Holders of the present Spiritualists' National Union Diploma (if it was obtained by examination) are exempt from the Entrance Examination and eligible to proceed at once with the Intermediate Grade of the Graduate (Spiritualists' National Union) Scheme.

2. Lyceumists, 25 years old or over, who have been members of a Lyceum or Lyceums for at least five years—and who are also Church Members—will be allowed to take both the Spiritualists' National Union and the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union Schemes at the same time, if they so desire.

3. Students in the Graduate Course, who obtain 80 per cent. or more in two of the three subjects set for examination in any Grade, but less than the necessary 50 per cent. in the third, shall be allowed to sit again specially for the subject in which they have failed—the conditions of the second sitting being laid down by the Spiritualists' National Union Education Committee.

[So a student who obtains 80 per cent. in (say) the Reading Course and the Philosophy Course, but gets less than 50 per cent. in (say) the Evolution Course, will be allowed to sit again (after an interval for further study) for the Evolution Course; and if he obtains 50 per cent. or more, he will be adjudged to have passed the examination for the Grade concerned.]

DISTRICT CENTRES.

SUGGESTED ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES.

Article 11 of the College Constitution lays down that

(a) District Centres may submit schemes for Educational work (such as Classes, Lectures, Study Courses, etc.), in connection with the College; and these, if and when approved by the Governing Board, shall be administered by the District Centre concerned.

(c) District Centres shall render to the College Secretary quarterly reports of the work done or being done.

ALSO, should Local Branches combine for joint working—

(b) All such arrangements must be submitted to the District Centre concerned (or, in cases of dispute, to the Governing Board) for approval, *before being put into operation.*

The Quarterly Report to the College Secretary shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and forwarded not later than the tenth day of January, April, July and October:

GENERAL REMARKS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

It is in the provision of halls and (if necessary) speakers, and in the helpful supervision of Branch activities, that our District Councils—acting as DISTRICT CENTRES—could render invaluable aid to the cause of Spiritualism. One of the weaknesses of the Spiritualist Movement is the attraction it has for cranks and faddists—each crank being convinced that without his particular fad Spiritualism is and will remain incomplete; and to the District Centres will fall the task of saving the College from these cranks, who never seem to realise that being appointed to a position of trust imposes on them the obligation to “play the game” with those who appointed them! To this end, all Courses of Lectures must be approved by the District Centre (with, of course, the right of appeal to the Governing Board), to ensure that only subjects on the Syllabus shall be taught. The approval by the Board of District arrangements will be necessary as a part of national organisation, so that the Governing Board shall have full knowledge and control of all the activities carried on in the name of the College, which must strive to be in fact, as well as in name, a National Body.

It will have to be left to the District Councils to decide how they will organise themselves to carry out the duties of District Centres. Each will have to decide for itself in accordance with the nature and extent of its District. For instance, North East Lancs., Scotland and Tyneside would develop an organisation different from that of London or Manchester. In some Districts a strong Central Committee—in others a small Central nucleus, with power to co-opt from the Branches—would seem to be the obvious machinery. The main consideration would be the existence of an advisory, supervisory District Body to direct, advise and encourage the Local Bodies. The planning of courses of lectures would be regarded as being (for the present at any rate) of secondary importance, and done at first through the agency of the Branches—until these latter became firmly established, and their work to be regarded as a normal part of Church

and Lyceum activities.

SUGGESTED ORGANISATION.

Each District Council registered as a District Centre shall elect annually a Committee to be known as the N.S.C.....District Central Committee, on one of the following plans, the Council President and Secretary being *ex officio* members :—

(a) In a compact District (such as London or Manchester) the Central Committee shall consist of not less than seven members, of whom at least half shall represent Local Branches. This Committee shall appoint its own Chairman, Secretary and District Advisor (but the Secretary may also act as Advisor).

(b) In a scattered District (such as Scotland or Southern Counties), the District Council shall elect the Chairman, Secretary and District Advisor—(*see* Section (a) above)—as a nucleus of the Central Committee, with power to co-opt a representative of each Local Branch in the District (or Group).

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The Chairman shall perform all the usual duties of the office, and countersign all reports, circulars, etc., issued by the Secretary.

The Secretary shall perform all the usual duties of his office, and shall draw up and forward the quarterly report to the College Secretary—and a copy thereof to the Council or Group Secretary. He may also act as Advisor.

The Advisor shall, if possible, visit each Local Branch in his District, and send to the Central Secretary a report with his opinion of the work being done—not later than seven days after the visit. He shall also, *if called upon*, advise the Branch officials on the proper conducting of class-work, etc. Also, when applied to by the Secretary of a Local Branch, he shall organise the Lectures and Classes of the Branch applying. Such organisation shall be subject to the approval of the Central Committee.

The Committee shall meet as soon as possible after its election, to appoint its officers and formulate plans for

the work of the Winter Sessions, and to instruct the officers on general lines of policy. All subsequent meetings shall be on the summons of the Chairman and Secretary. It shall approve all schemes for lectures or classes drawn up by the Officers; consider the reports of the District Advisor and bring any cases of serious maladministration to the notice of the Governing Board; arrange that lectures or classes do not interfere with the work of any Local Branch; assist Branches to find meeting or class rooms and lecturers or class leaders—and, generally, supervise, direct and advise the Local Branches and encourage them in their efforts.

The Central Committee is a special Committee of the District or Group, and, except in its educational work, is not in any way independent of the Council or its Executive.

The Central Committee may draw up further regulations for its own activities, but these must be approved by the Governing Board.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL BRANCHES.

1. NAME.

This Church (or Lyceum) has been registered as theBranch of the National Spiritualist College, and, for the purposes of the College or the National Joint Education Scheme, shall be so known.

2. OBJECTS.

(a) To provide educational class facilities for students studying for the various Grades of the National Education Scheme.

(b) To engage, where possible or practicable, speakers or lecturers to address the students on the general aspects of any subject being studied in the classes.

(c) To induce members of the Church and/or Lyceum, who are not already interested in the educational side of Spiritualism, to take up one or other of the prescribed Courses of Study.

3. AIM.

To establish within the Church and/or Lyceum, as a normal integral part of its activities, an educational body providing for every member who wishes to study, a sound education in the Religion, History, Science and Philosophy of Spiritualism.

4. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) Each Church and Lyceum Branch shall elect or appoint a Branch Committee, *each such Committee to make full provision for its own Branch's classes and tutors*, and also to arrange for lectures and lecturers—

BUT

In the case where both a Church and its Lyceum are registered as Local Branches, they may, from their respective Branch Committees, appoint a Joint Branch Committee to make proper provision for lectures or

courses of lectures by qualified exponents—and any other activities which can be carried on conjointly.

NOTE.—This Branch Committee is only a Special Committee of the Church or Lyceum, and, except in its educational activities, is not in any way independent of the Church or Lyceum and its General Committee. Its funds and property are Church or Lyceum funds and property—earmarked for a special purpose.

(b) A class or classes, sufficient to cater for all who desire to sit at the examinations under the National Education Scheme, shall be held at least once a week—and lectures at least once a month.

(c) All Associates or Full members of the Church or Lyceum shall be entitled to attend the classes under the provisions of this Constitution (but Branch Committees may make local regulations limiting the dates beyond which new members will not be allowed to join classes preparing for any Grade examination). Also, earnest inquirers recommended by the Church or Lyceum Committee, and approved by the Branch Committee, may be invited to attend occasionally at the classes.

The Lectures should be thrown open to the public.

(d) Members of affiliated Churches or Lyceums in the District which do not provide educational classes, may attend the Branch classes if invited by the Branch Committee concerned.

(e) Where there are more than one Local Branch situated in any local area, clashing of efforts may be avoided by all the Local Branches combining for the purpose of each monthly lecture. The Branch in whose Hall (or locality) any such meeting is held shall make all necessary arrangements, in consultation with the other Branches—OR a Joint Committee, composed of the Chairman and Secretary of each Branch concerned, may be appointed to organise the meetings for any Winter (or other) Session.

In any such combined efforts, each Branch concerned shall pay an equal share of the authorised (or approved) expenses, and take an equal share of any profits.

NOTE.—Article 11 (b) of the College Constitution

lays down that "All such arrangements must be submitted to the District Centre concerned (or in cases of dispute to the Governing Board) for approval, *before being put into operation.*" Where there is no District Centre in being, all schemes must be submitted direct to the Governing Board, whether drawn up by a Local Branch or a combination of Local Branches.

(f) **Each member of the Branch shall be supplied monthly with a copy of "The National Spiritualist" and/or "The Lyceum Banner," in order that (s)he may be kept in touch with the educational work of the Organised Movement. These Journals shall be obtained by the Branch Treasurer, and sold or distributed to the Branch members (as the Branch Committee may see fit).**

5. MANAGEMENT.

(a) The Branch Committee shall consist of not less than seven members *elected annually by and from the Church or Lyceum* concerned—of whom not less than half shall be students in the National Education Scheme—with the President and Secretary of the Church or the Conductor and Secretary of the Lyceum (if not already members of the Committee) as *ex officio* members.

In cases of maladministration by the Branch Committee, *alleged and substantiated by the Branch members or students*, the Committee may be dissolved by the Church or Lyceum, and a new Committee appointed.

(b) The Branch Committee shall appoint from its members the following Officers—a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

(c) Conductors of Church or Lyceum Circles, and Tutors of classes (if not already members of the Committee) may be invited to attend the Committee meetings, with power to speak but not to vote.

6 DUTIES OF OFFICE-HOLDERS.

(a) **THE BRANCH CHAIRMAN** shall preside at all meetings of the Branch at which he is present. In his absence a temporary chairman shall be *appointed by the members present*. He shall countersign all reports, and his signa-

ture to the Minutes of any meeting shall be evidence that they are a true and impartial record of the proceedings. It will be his special duty to *maintain harmonious relations* between all Classes, Groups and Efforts. He shall see that all the educational activities of the Branch are carried on with the greatest possible efficiency and benefit to all concerned, and devote all his energies to prevent or remove friction. He shall be responsible to the Church or Lyceum for the successful working of the Branch.

(b) THE BRANCH SECRETARY shall take the Minutes of meetings; keep a roll of Classes and Students; engage Speakers, etc., selected by the Branch Committee; and prepare and despatch all reports. He shall also *collect the entries of all students taking the Advanced Scheme Examinations* (Entrance Examination to Final Grade) and see that they are forwarded, at the proper time and with the proper fee, to the Spiritualists' National Union Education Secretary. He shall *forward to the College Secretary a quarterly report* of all work done or being done, *not later than the tenth day of January, April, July and October*; and a copy thereof to the Church or Lyceum Secretary, for consideration by the General Committee.

(c) THE BRANCH TREASURER shall receive and disburse all moneys, and render an account (audited by two members of the Branch who do not hold any office in the Branch) to the Annual meetings of the Branch and the Church or Lyceum. *For disbursements he shall act at all times on the instructions of the Branch Committee.* Accounts of One Pound (£1) and over shall not be paid by him until they have been signed by the Branch Chairman and Secretary.

(d) THE BRANCH COMMITTEE shall meet at such times and places as it may deem necessary for the proper transaction of Branch business—but not less often than once in every two months, and never on the evenings set apart for classes or lectures. Its main duties shall be to arrange class nights and provide class-“rooms”; appoint or approve tutors; draw up Syllabuses or plans of work (where the official Plans of the Joint Education

Committee are not considered practicable); arrange series of lectures and select speakers and lecturers; and, in general, put into operation all instructions received from the Branch General Meeting(s).

7. FINANCE.

(a) All Full and Associate members of the Church or Lyceum may become Branch members by requesting the Branch Secretary (in writing) to place their names on the Branch Roll. Each member so enrolled shall pay to the Branch Treasurer a membership subscription of THREE-PENCE per week, or such larger sum as may be agreed to—payment to continue during such time as the educational classes and lectures are being held.

(b) Inquirers invited to attend the classes may be allowed to attend on the same financial terms as Branch members—or special terms may be arranged, at the discretion of the Branch Committee.

(c) The Treasurer shall pay from the Branch funds the expenses of all classes or lectures, and receive all income derived from these efforts. He shall also *pay the Examination Fees of all Branch members entering for the National Education Scheme examinations*, and defray any incidental expenses arising from the holding of these examinations.

(d) Any balance remaining at the end of the financial year may be devoted to providing text-books for any would-be students who are unable to afford them; building up a Branch Library of books providing a wider course of reading on the subjects being studied—or to any purely educational purpose on which the Branch Annual Meeting may decide.

(e) Should the Branch for any reason be dissolved, any cash remaining after all just debts are paid shall be handed to the Church or Lyceum Treasurer, to be held over for future educational work. The Branch Library, if in being, shall be held under the same conditions by the Church or Lyceum Committee.

8. MEETINGS, CLASS WORK, Etc.

(a) The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be held as soon as can be arranged after the announcement of the Examination Results. A Branch General Meeting should be held not less than a fortnight before the opening of each Winter Session, for the discussion of Session Plans, nomination of Classes and Tutors, etc. Other General Meetings may be called, if and when required, by the Branch Committee.

(b) A class or classes shall be held every evening, from the month of till the month of (inclusive). Tutors and students are requested to be in attendance each class night at such time as to allow a prompt start at p.m.

At the first class meeting in each Session, the Branch Committee shall announce its arrangements for the coming period.

(c) At the request of Branch members who do not wish to enter for the examinations, but desire to study some book or books in the Syllabuses, a class shall be established under a competent Leader appointed by the Branch Committee.

9. ELIGIBLE AND NON-ELIGIBLE BODIES.

To be eligible for registration as a Local Branch of the College; a Church or Lyceum

(a) Must be in affiliation and good financial standing with the Spiritualists' National Union, Ltd., or the British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union.

AND

(b) Must have at least TEN members who have studied and entered for the Annual Examinations (in the year in which application is made) in any or all of the Grades of the National Education Scheme (Oral Grade to Final Grade).

Registration is for a year—from Whitsun to Whitsun.

(c) Churches and Lyceums not yet eligible for registration, but anxious to work for the Scheme, may establish " Education Sections " and appoint Education Committees to carry on the foregoing activities. But these Education Committees must not be called Branch Committees until the Church or Lyceum becomes registered as a Local Branch.

SOME HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICIALS.

Some of these hints and suggestions may read like repetitions of the Regulations; but in such cases the importance of the regulation is being emphasised. In most cases an attempt is being made to explain the meaning of, or reason for, the rule laid down.

A MATTER OF PROPAGANDA.

The first effort of the Local Branch should be to *provide facilities for all members studying* for the various Grades of the National Education Scheme (Oral Grade to Final Grade). Many who start studying at the beginning of the winter session give up before the date of the examinations for no other reason than the difficulty of carrying on their studies. It will be the duty of the Local Branch to see that all such difficulties are removed and *every student encouraged to go on* and take the examination. And in order to make the study more interesting by giving the students a general grasp of the educational plan of the Grades, a monthly meeting (in addition to the ordinary class night) should be arranged, for which the Branch Committee would *engage qualified speakers and lecturers* to deal with the general aspects of any subject being studied. On this night all the classes could combine. Another obvious duty of the Branch Committee would be to induce members of the Church and/or Lyceum, not already interested, to take up one or other of the courses of study. To this end it might be found beneficial to invite *tutors of classes and conductors of circles* to attend the Committee meetings, with power to speak but not to vote. In this way a great interest in the aims and work of the Committee would *gradually filter right through the Church or Lyceum*, and thus attract the attention of many who otherwise might not think of studying.

THE CHOICE OF A BRANCH EXECUTIVE.

Too much trouble and care cannot be exercised in choosing the Officers and Committee of the Branch—as on the ability and zeal and sincerity of the Executive will

depend the success or failure of the Branch's work.

The composition of the Branch Committee should not be decided without careful consideration. It must be borne in mind that the aim of the Branch should be to transform the Church or Lyceum into an educational body providing, for every member who wishes to study, a sound education in the Religion, History, Science and Philosophy of Spiritualism. So we suggest a committee elected from Church or Lyceum members—of whom a clear majority should be students—with *the President and Secretary of the Church, or the Conductor and Secretary of the Lyceum* (if not themselves students), as ex-officio members. But each Branch must act as circumstances permit. It need not be a large committee, but *it must be composed of educational enthusiasts*, who will not measure the labour entailed but concentrate on the work to be accomplished. With such a committee, there is no limit to the possible achievements of the Branch.

The Chairman should be a man (or woman) of proved tact and judgment, for not only would he have to preside at business meetings and countersign all reports, etc., but it would be his special duty to maintain harmonious relations between all classes, groups and efforts. He would see that all the educational activities of the Branch are carried on with the greatest possible efficiency and benefit to all concerned, and would devote all his energies to prevent or remove friction.

OUR NATIONAL JOURNALS AND A " COLLEGE BOOKSTALL "(?).

[Article 4 (f).]

Every student should make a special point of reading our two National Journals. Each of them contains matter of interest to all Branch members and students—and the information in them is mainly exclusive to their pages. Besides ordinary Education Notes, all National announcements will be found first in their columns.

With an energetic Treasurer who would throw himself into the work, this supplying of **THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST** and **THE LYCEUM BANNER** may be expanded

to a profitable degree—if the Branch obtained permission from the Church and Lyceum to establish a Bookstall for the sale of these Journals and also of Educational Pamphlets and Handbooks at the Services and Sessions. And the idea might be turned into good propaganda and advertisement if the stall came to be known as “The College Bookstall.” TRY IT.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP—AND SOME POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES.

All Associate or Full Members of the Church or Lyceum are eligible; and earnest inquirers, recommended by the Church or Lyceum and approved by the Branch Committee, could be invited to attend occasionally at the weekly classes and urged to attend the monthly lectures—it being pointed out to these latter that *if they desire to join the classes they must first join the Church or Lyceum*. In this way useful educational propaganda work could be done—and the financial strength of the Branch increased. Also, as an act of grace and true brotherhood, members of other Churches or Lyceums in the district could be allowed to attend the Branch classes on the same terms as Branch members, if accepted by the Branch Committee.

The foregoing applies to cases where only the Church or the Lyceum enrolls as a local Branch. The ideal situation would be that both Church *and* Lyceum should be enrolled. In that case, each could work on its own account, with its own Committee—care being taken that there was no clashing of arrangements for classes or lectures. But it would be much better that a Joint Committee, composed of equal numbers of Church and Lyceum members, should conduct all the educational activities of the two Branches—with the exception that *each Branch would select and appoint its own tutors* and be responsible that its own classes were regularly held. In this way Church and Lyceum would soon be so inter-related that *practical fusion would be automatically and unconsciously brought about*.

Where Churches and Lyceums have no Halls in which

they can meet for mid-week classes without incurring extra expense, the Church could *give one Sunday evening a month to the Branch Committee*, who would recommend a speaker to deal with a specified subject; and the Branch funds could be drawn upon for the hire of a hall or room for the classes. Or this latter difficulty could be surmounted by *various members taking turns* in offering the use of a room in their homes. This is a problem that must in each case be solved locally, and all we can hope is that the few suggestions we have made will be found helpful.

And what of the Districts where three or four Churches are very close together, and may hold their monthly lectures on the same date? Well, let them go a step farther, and *hold their meetings in the same hall, as one joint effort*. The initial expenses would thus be divided, and any consequent profits could be shared. If there were three Branches, and each took a turn at offering its Hall, it would only mean giving up *one night per quarter for the sake of our Movement and its educational progress*. And the general comradeship thus engendered would be well worth the effort. There is no need for rivalry and ruinous competition, or for friction of any kind, just because there are more than one Church or Lyceum in any locality; and the suggestions we have made should make friction impossible.

REASON FOR THE WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION.

The weekly subscription of threepence or more may seem rather large and unnecessary. But we must think of what has to be done with the money. (1) There may be a weekly rent to pay; (2) the Examination Fees of all candidates have to be paid—and in the Advanced Graduate (Spiritualists' National Union) Scheme these are:—

Entrance Examination ...	2/6	2/-
Intermediate Grade ...	5/-	} 2/6
Subsidiary Grade ...	5/-	
Final Grade ...	10/-	

There is also the annual Branch subscription to the College—another 5/—and incidental expenses of the Examinations. And, IF there is any surplus, after these

have been paid, every ambitious and progressive Branch will want a Branch Library, containing at least supplementary books for wider reading on the subjects being studied. If the Winter Session lasts thirty weeks, each Branch member will pay at least 7/6—surely not an exorbitant sum when we consider what has to be done.

TEMPORARY “ EDUCATION COMMITTEES.”

The provisions of Article 9 (c) will help to solve two problems. The first is that of the Church or Lyceum which HAS been a member of the College—but for some reason or other has temporarily dropped below the qualifying standard of ten entrants; and yet does not want to give up its Local Branch work. The second is that of new “ converts ” to Educational work, who want to start off at once on organised College work without having to wait a year or so before they become eligible as Local Branches. In each case, the Church or Lyceum could carry on with one of these “ Education Committees ” until the next examinations provided an opportunity of attaining to the necessary qualification.

The ANNUAL registration ensures that no body can lay claim to being affiliated after its qualification (the termination of which is stated on the Local Branch Certificate issued on enrolment) has expired.

